

**1<sup>st</sup> TICAD V Ministerial Meeting**

**Plenary Session 1: “Progress of Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017”**

**Keynote Speech by His Excellency Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister of Foreign Affairs**

May 4, 2014

**(Opening Remarks)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the TICAD co-organizers, I would like once again to express my sincere gratitude to our African and development partners who have announced measures and initiatives as contained in the Implementation Matrix of the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017.

At TICAD V, Japan announced an assistance package for Africa, comprising up to approximately 32 billion dollars, including ODA assistance of 15 billion dollars, in public-private initiatives over the coming five years. Last year, the first year of the coming five years, Japan implemented ODA assistance totaling 3.51 billion dollars, as well as other measures totaling 2.08 billion dollars. The amount of ODA implementation accounts for 25 % of the assistance package over five years, and Japan is thus implementing its promises much faster than expected. In addition, in the area of peace and stability, Japan disbursed 550 million dollars for conflict/disaster countermeasures. Please refer to the Fact Sheet distributed in front of you for further detail. In addition in 2014, Japan will continue to steadily implement its assistance, including the assistance by supplementary budget of 350 million dollars.

Moreover, Japan recently decided to extend the African Development Bank approximately 300 million dollars to assist Africa’s private sector. Japan sincerely hopes that this assistance will help the private sector to further develop as the foundation for Africa’s growth.

Since the initiation of TICAD process, Japan has consistently maintained a principle of delivering its promises to Africa. Japan will continue to strongly support Africa’s growth and steadily implement the assistance it has announced with the public and private sectors

as one in cooperation with civil society.

Now, I would like to invite Ambassador Yoshifumi Okamura to brief you on the content and the monitoring methods of the Implementation Matrix of the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017.

**(Upon conclusion of briefing by Ambassador Okamura)**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to emphasize that this Implementation Matrix can only be realized with robust efforts from Africa itself. The Matrix incorporates specific efforts led by the African Union (AU) into the TICAD process, making it an innovative attempt to efficiently link various measures together.

TICAD V confirmed that private sector-led growth is necessary for Africa's growth. Improving the local investment environment in Africa, and above all establishing a free and secure investment environment, is essential to expand trade and investment by the private sector. Japan will support Africa's efforts through various means, including through development of infrastructure and human resources as well as assistance for legal systems. On Africa's part, we sincerely ask our African partners to strive further to improve the investment environment.

The collective voices of Africa through the TICAD process must be extended to the United Nations, the G20, and other international forums. This session offers us a valuable opportunity to reaffirm at the ministerial level the progress we collectively made in attaining the objectives of TICAD V. We should leverage the outcomes of this ministerial meeting to strengthen collaboration with development partners in Africa, Japan and elsewhere. This will enable us to broadly share the outcome targets of TICAD V throughout the international community and effectively utilize the outcomes.

On behalf of the TICAD co-organizers, I now ask all the distinguished participants here to endorse the Implementation Matrix of the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017, the Narrative Summary of the Matrix, and the Annual Progress Report Guideline, and ask for the cooperation by Africa and the international community as a whole to work hand in hand to steadily implement the measures to achieve the outcome targets of TICAD V.

Thank you.

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