

(Provisional Translation)

Statement by H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan  
At the First TICAD V Ministerial Meeting  
Plenary 3: Post-2015 Development Agenda

Thank you, Chairperson.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

As 2015, the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), draws near, discussions towards the formulation of the next development agenda are now full-fledged. The African Union has already formulated the Common African Position (CAP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. For its part, Japan has been actively participating in the discussions. We should take this opportunity to intensively discuss how Africa and Japan can tackle development challenges.

Let me first underline the importance of addressing the unfinished business of the MDGs. In this regard, we are aware that in Africa achievements vary by country, and by sector, and there remains much unfinished business.

I would like to further point out the importance of growth. However, it is also a well-known fact that many people still do not fully enjoy the fruits of growth. We have to achieve development in such a way that addresses the issue of disparities widened in the process of development, moves us toward ever greater equity, and promotes growth that is inclusive of all people. In this regard, I strongly concur with Africa's position regarding inclusive growth as set forth in the first pillar of the CAP.

Japan has insisted that the concept of human security should be a

guiding principle of the post-2015 development agenda. The people-centered approach, to which Africa attaches great importance, is precisely the idea of human security. Under this principle, Japan proposes three elements essential for development: Vitamin I, Vitamin S and Vitamin R, which are essential for development, just as vitamins are essential nutrients for the human body.

Vitamin I is inclusiveness – in other words, “Leave no one behind.” Let us realize a world in which every individual, including children, youth and the elderly, can enjoy the fruits of development by protecting and empowering vulnerable people, correcting inequalities and domestic disparities, and achieving gender equality. From this perspective, goals to be pursued include universal health coverage, Education for All, and universal access to energy.

Vitamin S is sustainability – in other words, “Hand over the Earth to the children.” Let us realize a world in which the achievements of development are not lost and future generations can maintain civilization by integrating the three dimensions of economy, society and environment, thereby achieving sustainable development. Next year we have to agree not only on the new development agenda, but also on a new framework on climate change beyond 2020.

Vitamin R is resilience – in other words, “Build a society resilient to adversity.” Let us realize a society that is resilient to risks such as conflicts, disasters and economic crises through infrastructure development and the empowerment of individuals and communities. In particular, we need to promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction as a cross-cutting issue within development. The Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction is to be held next March in the city of Sendai, Japan, which was greatly affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. We would like to deepen discussions on this aspect with high-level participation from Africa.

These are the three kinds of vitamins essential for development. In addition to these, we must also touch upon enabling environments for development. One of the pillars of the CAP is ‘peace and security.’ From our own experience over the past 70 years, Japan fully understands that peace and security are important for development. This, I am sure, is also the conviction of Africa based on its own experiences.

The means of implementation is also obviously important. Japan will steadily implement its commitment of assistance by private and public means of up to approximately JPY 3.2 trillion (equivalent to USD 32 billion) as expressed at TICAD V. In addition to foreign financial cooperation, however, Africa's ownership, the mobilization of domestic finance, and wide-ranging partnerships which include international organizations, private corporations and NGOs, are also important. In this connection, we note with great interest that one of the pillars of the CAP is science and technology. Japan intends to contribute to Africa's development by utilizing and sharing Japan's knowledge, expertise and technology. For example, Japan established the Joint Crediting Mechanism with Kenya and Ethiopia, which utilizes Japanese technology to assist these countries in reducing their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

With my statement so far, we have renewed our recognition of how close the positions of Africa and Japan are. Please refer to a note on the post-2015 development agenda drafted by Japan at your hand. We face the same direction. Africa and Japan started the TICAD process in 1993. Africa and Japan have shared both the concept and practice of development with the idea of ownership and partnership for over 20 years. Let us take the initiative hand-in-hand for the post-2015 development agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us imagine Africa and the world in 2030 and beyond. Africa must be a more vibrant continent. We have to eradicate extreme poverty in Africa and the rest of the world. Let us take leadership and contribute to the world together toward the formulation of a new development agenda next year. Poverty eradication in the world cannot be achieved without poverty eradication in Africa.

Thank you for your kind attention.