

Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. KONO Taro
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
at the TICAD 7 Ministerial Preparatory Meeting
on August 27, 2019 in Yokohama

H.E. Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt,
Ministers of African countries,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to Yokohama and to this Ministerial Preparatory Meeting for TICAD 7. At the outset, let me thank my Co-chair Minister Shoukry and his team, as well as the TICAD co-organizers, who have worked extremely hard with us toward the success of TICAD 7.

Before beginning my statement, I would like to take this opportunity to express my congratulations on the recent entry into force of the agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA, with 53 signatories. This is a great milestone to create a single market with a population of 1.3 billion and a total GDP of 3.4 trillion USD. Our

business sector looks forward to enhancing their businesses in Africa through AfCFTA. The Government of Japan is fully prepared to support its implementation through effective cooperation projects that enhance connectivity, such as the “One Stop Border Post”.

Excellencies,

The agenda for this Ministerial Preparatory Meeting will focus on the following three topics.

The first item is to confirm the TICAD 7 program, which has been distributed in front of you.

Second, we will consider and endorse the draft “Yokohama Declaration 2019” and draft “Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019”, as agreed upon at the Senior Officials’ Meeting yesterday, to submit the documents to our leaders for adoption at the Closing Session of TICAD 7 on Friday.

We highly appreciate the efforts by the African countries and co-organizers to reach an agreement on the text of the

outcome documents. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all stakeholders for their valuable inputs to make these documents agreeable and meaningful. I request your generous cooperation to successfully present the final draft at the summit meeting.

Our last agenda item is to receive and discuss the report on the progress of concrete actions, presented as the “TICAD 6 Report” in front of you. This report is a part of the TICAD follow-up mechanism, where the TICAD Secretariat is expected to report to TICAD ministerial meetings on a regular basis. This report was drafted by co-organizers and compiles good practices by various stakeholders since TICAD 6 in each sector.

Before concluding my speech, I would like to state that the presence of any entity, which Japan does not recognize as a state, in the TICAD 7, including this Ministerial Meeting and the Summit Meeting, does not affect Japan’s position regarding the status of that entity.

Again, thank you very much for your continuous support for a successful TICAD 7 and I hope that we will have constructive and productive discussions throughout this meeting.

Thank you.