

Statement by Mr. SATO Masahisa,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
at the Special Blue Economy Event on the sidelines of TICAD7
on August 29th, 2019 in Yokohama

First and foremost, I would like to extend, on behalf of the Government of Japan, high appreciation for the great leadership of the Government of the Republic of Kenya and UNDP to host this important event today for promoting Blue Economy. I am confident that we will have productive discussions sharing our experience to concretize our actions for inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy for Africa.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, held in Nairobi last November and co-organized by Kenya, Japan and Canada, which I had the privilege of attending, was a great opportunity for us to promote Blue Economy in the international arena. At that event, the conference confirmed the importance of promoting an action-oriented global strategy that places people and the blue economy

resources at the centre of sustainable development. This will contribute to the realization of the AU Agenda 2063, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

Japan, as one of the leading maritime nations, endowed with rich maritime resources, is determined to help promote Blue Economy with Africa. As Blue Economy comprises both aspects of economic prosperity and maritime security, we are convinced that Blue Economy is perfect in harmony with our vision of “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” announced by Prime Minister Abe at TICAD 6. Based upon this concept that emphasizes the importance of a rule-based free and open maritime order, Japan will continue to contribute not only to enhancing maritime security, but to supporting African countries to enhance connectivity in line with the newly endorsed G20 principles for promoting Quality Infrastructure investment at G20 Osaka summit, to promoting the sustainable use of the marine resources and to addressing marine plastic litter.

Last year, I visited a number of African countries, and gained a deep understanding that Blue Economy is an important theme to promote inclusive and sustainable development for Africa. At the

same time, I felt the need to discuss more about the common challenges to realise this important theme, and to advance our actions to another stage. I look forward to learning from your perspectives and best practices as well as having productive and lively discussions.

Thank you.

(361 words)