

**Statement by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan**

**The Closing remarks for
the TICAD Ministerial Meeting**

(27 March 2022)

Thank you all for the discussions over the past two days. Both Vice Minister Ms. Suzuki and myself were very impressed by the valuable remarks.

On Day 1, we had a discussion on “Economy”.

Many Ministers pointed out the indispensable role of private investment for build back better from the pandemic. It was encouraging that we shared the same views. Japan will continue to make concrete efforts to promote private investment in Africa, including through leveraging digital technology.

Some Ministers also mentioned the need to address debt issues. I would like to reiterate that development finance adhering to international rules and standards is necessary for Africa's sustainable development. We are determined to continue to cooperate with Africa in this regard.

On Day 2, we had a discussion on “Society, and Peace and Stability”.

In order to realize a resilient and sustainable society in Africa, it is important to promote long-term efforts to improve the “quality” of growth, focusing on health, education, and environment sectors. These efforts need to be carried out based on the principle of human security, and should include an investment in “people” that values each and every person. It was confirmed that such recognition is widely shared.

We also take note that many have called for the need to ensure equitable access to vaccines and to strengthen its production capacity. In this regard, some countries expressed their appreciation to Japan’s support on promoting vaccination in Africa including financial contribution to COVAX facility and vaccine donation.

Japan believes that ensuring access to vaccines throughout the world including Africa is key to overcoming the pandemic itself. Japan will continue to support ensuring access to vaccines in Africa through the improvement of cold chain equipment, and also promote a wide range of initiatives in the health sector to accelerate preparations for future health crises.

Some Ministers also pointed out an urgent need to address global issues such as climate change. Japan will support Africa's efforts to address climate change, which is a pressing issue in Africa, while utilizing Japanese technologies.

Noting how COVID-19 adds new factors of instability, many Ministers raised the importance of pursuing efforts on consolidating democracy and promoting the rule of law as well as institution and capacity building. Japan will encourage the protection of vulnerable populations, the promotion of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, as well as the active engagement of youth and women in conflict prevention and resolution.

In addition, some Ministers raised the importance of a sustainable maritime order. A free and open maritime order based on the rule of law benefits the entire world. Japan will continue its efforts to strengthen maritime law enforcement capabilities in Africa.

In today's international situation, it is clear that reform of the UN Security Council is urgently needed. It is strange that, although half of the Security Council's agenda is concerned with Africa, there is no African permanent member in the Council. This is a historical injustice. We are pleased to assume together the responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in a reformed Security Council. I would like to reiterate that Japan clearly supports the Common African Position.

Finally, I am honored to take this opportunity to present the TICAD 8 logo here.

This logo was elaborately designed by Tunisia, the TICAD 8 host country, and it will be further introduced by His Excellency Mr. Jerandi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad of the Republic of Tunisia shortly after.

We would like to make good use of this logo in various outreach opportunities to build momentum for TICAD 8.

I have also summarized the key points of the discussions over the past two days in the Chair's Summary, which will be shared with you following the Meeting.

Based on the issues raised in this meeting, we will deepen our discussions, and we look forward to making a successful TICAD 8 to be held on August 27-28.