

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

Ministerial Meeting (26-27 March 2022)

Chair's Summary

TICAD Ministerial Meeting was held virtually on 26 and 27 March 2022 in order to prepare for TICAD 8. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and was attended by Ministers and Heads of delegations of African countries, as well as representatives from TICAD co-organizers, namely United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and African Union Commission (AUC).

During the two-day meeting, the participants held intensive discussions under three themes: “Achieving sustainable and inclusive growth with reduced economic inequalities”, “Realizing a sustainable and resilient society based on human security” and “Building sustainable peace and stability through supporting Africa’s own efforts”. This summary represents the Chair's reflections on their views as expressed during the meeting.

The participants acknowledged that the international community needs to work together to address the economic and social impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about in Africa, and encourage a robust, sustainable and inclusive development to achieve build back better. They reaffirmed that the TICAD process has been playing a significant role to this end, aligned with the African vision stated in the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Minister HAYASHI emphasized Japan’s continued support for African-led development in cooperation with international community, with a view to addressing the evolving threats of the era. The participants welcomed the steady progress observed under the TICAD process and the implementation of a wide range of measures, which consequently paved the way to build back better. They renewed their determination to continue collaborating to overcome not only imminent challenges but also longer-term issues made more apparent by the pandemic.

Achieving sustainable and inclusive growth with reduced economic inequalities

The participants reaffirmed that job creation and income growth through investment are critically needed to build back better in the post-COVID-19 era. In this regard, they acknowledged the importance of promoting private investment by focusing on, first, businesses that solve social issues through innovation such as digital transformation, and second, Green Economy, energy transition and Blue Economy.

Furthermore, the participants recognized that business should be underpinned by a free and open international economic system. In this regard, they welcomed the steady progress of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), deepening regional integration, and stressed the importance of supporting this integration. They also stressed the importance of development finance adhering to international rules and standards, such as debt sustainability,

enhanced transparency and mutual accountability, and they urge all major creditors including private ones to follow fair and open lending practices.

In this context, the participants shared the view that TICAD should set out a pathway for African development overcoming COVID-19 challenges and promote the growth of the world with private sector businesses as a driving force for a resilient economy.

Realizing a sustainable and resilient society based on human security

The participants reaffirmed that COVID-19 pandemic shed light on not only immediate and direct health impacts but also other challenges such as malnutrition, food shortage and other conventional health challenges including communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as maternal and child health in African society. They stressed that looking ahead to the post COVID-19 era, it is important to realize a resilient and sustainable society in Africa under the concept of human security, with a view to achieving universal health coverage (UHC).

To this end, the participants confirmed that it is necessary for Africa to strengthen health and medical systems and capacities including countermeasures against COVID-19, taking into account population growth in Africa. In this regard, Japan's effort for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in Africa, including its vaccine provision and financial contribution to COVAX facility, was highly appreciated. They also reiterated the importance of improving quality of education to foster human resources needed to take on African development with ownership, and promoting efforts on environmental issues including climate change, so that African development will be sustainable.

In this context, the participants emphasized that these efforts will be further enhanced by placing importance on human development and quality of growth, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Building sustainable peace and stability through supporting Africa's own efforts

The participants reiterated their continued commitment to building sustainable peace and stability. They recalled the need to address the root causes that hamper peace and stability in Africa. In this regard, they welcomed contributions made by various TICAD partners. Building on these contributions, they committed to further promoting the protection of vulnerable people suffering from conflicts, as well as the active engagement of youth and women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

The participants underscored the need for the consolidation of democracy and good governance under the rule of law as a pressing priority, as well as the imperative for institution and capacity building. They also reaffirmed the importance of galvanizing collaboration in maritime security and maintaining a rules-based maritime order in accordance with the principles of international law, in particular those reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The participants stressed the importance of complying with the UN Charter and international law, and respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity. They also emphasized the importance of undertaking appropriate steps to address humanitarian crises when a number of people are forcibly displaced due to conflicts. In this regard, Japan condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine in the strongest terms possible, noting that any unilateral change of the status quo by force is totally unacceptable. The participants expressed concern about the situation in Ukraine and its impacts and called for the international community to work together.

The participants emphasized that promoting humanitarian-development-peace nexus remains critical, since humanitarian needs associated with conflicts have increased substantially. Furthermore, in order to realize peace and stability in the continent, they recognized the critical role of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities, and underlined the need for the enhanced cooperation at the United Nations.

Finally, the participants shared their determination to continue close cooperation for a successful TICAD 8, which will be held on 27-28 August 2022.

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