Statement by H.E. Ms. SUZUKI Takako, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan （Provisional Translation） Session 3 of the TICAD Ministerial Meeting

(27 March 2022)

Today, the second day of the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, we will discuss two themes: "Society" and "Peace and Stability". I will be chairing the meeting. Let me start with my remarks on today's themes.

The pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities that the world is currently facing. Under the principle of human security, international solidarity is required more than ever to solve global issues that transcend national borders, such as the spread of infectious diseases and climate change. In light of this, last month, UNDP proposed a new approach to human security, adding "solidarity" as a third pillar alongside "protection" and "empowerment".

With a view to achieving universal health coverage aiming at "leaving no one behind", Japan has been engaged in combatting COVID-19 in Africa by providing vaccines, strengthening vaccination systems, and providing financial support to the COVAX Facility. At the same time, we have been sharing Japan's experience and knowledge on communicating the effectiveness of the vaccine in order to encourage as many people as possible to get vaccinated. Japan is determined to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic by addressing the challenge continuously.

Investing in "people" and solving environmental issues are also crucial for sustainable development. In this regard, Japan has been focusing on human resource development, so that youth and women who will lead the future generation, can play an active role in their respective places in the way they want. Furthermore, Japan emphasizes and supports environmental action, such as measures against climate change including disaster prevention, as well as the conservation of forests, marine environments, and ecosystems.

Without sustainable peace and stability, there can be no further development in Africa. Addressing the root causes of conflict and terrorism, among other concerns, is therefore indispensable for regional stability. Under the concept of "New Approaches to Peace and Stability in Africa", or NAPSA, Japan supports Africa's own efforts and also supports capacity-building among PKO personnel in cooperation with the United

Nations. The consolidation of democracy will bring medium and long-term stability to the region through broad public participation in national and local governance. Japan will support African-led efforts on the consolidation of democracy and the promotion of the rule of law through the implementation of transparent elections, institution building, and strengthened governance.

In order to achieve sustainable peace and stability, it is essential to adhere to the principles on which the international community stands, including the United Nations Charter and basic human rights. Russia's aggression against Ukraine infringes on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, constitutes a serious violation of international law prohibiting the use of force, and shakes the very foundation of the international order, which does not recognize unilateral attempts to change the status quo by use of force. It is absolutely unacceptable that Russia continues to expand its aggression against Ukraine despite strong condemnation from the international community. This is not an issue only for Europe, but for the entire international community, including Africa. It is important for the international community to address the situation in a concerted manner.

Today, we look forward to hearing your inputs on the role of the international community in building resilient and sustainable societies in Africa and on lessons learned for achieving peace and stability in Africa.

Thank you for your attention.