

**Statement by H.E. Mr. SHIMMI Jun,
Representative of the Government of Japan for
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Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for TICAD
At the Third Edition of Aswan Forum
(22 June, 2022)**

It is my great honour to have this opportunity to deliver a video message at the Third Edition of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development on behalf of the Government of Japan.

A wide range of challenges such as COVID-19 pandemic, rising food and energy prices caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine and climate change are threatening Africa's stability. It is just timely to address the theme of this forum, "Africa in an Era of Cascading Risks and Climate Vulnerability: Pathways for a Peaceful, Resilient, and Sustainable Continent" .

Japan has been taking part in this forum since its first edition and putting great value on this forum. One of the objectives of this forum is supporting African-led efforts towards peace and stability in Africa, and it is exactly in line with Japan's efforts through the TICAD process.

I would like to talk about three points today based on the theme of this forum.

First of all, let me highlight the importance of tackling climate change issues and addressing conflict prevention and peace building.

Egypt will host COP27, the 27th Climate Change Conference, in November this year. Japan would like to pay tribute to Egypt for its leadership in the sectors of climate change as well as peace and stability in the region.

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges affecting peace and stability in Africa. To realize sustainable peace, it is essential to tackle climate change issues, as well as address conflict prevention and peace building, and to enhance resilience of the region.

Japan is making efforts to address climate change, which at the same time contributes to regional stability, such as capacity building projects for sustainable forest conservation in the Congo Basin, including Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Japan is also supporting Africa's own capacity building in the field of conflict prevention and peace building. Japan has provided a total of approximately 112 million dollars, including a total of approximately 13 million dollars for CCCPA of Egypt, and dispatched 63 training instructors for peacekeeping training centres in 15 countries in Africa.

Japan decided to provide about 6.3 million US dollars this year to support the stabilization of the Liptako Gourma area in the Sahel region. Furthermore, in order to support AU's initiative in the field of peace and security, we have been contributing to AU Peace Fund since 1996, contributing to conflict prevention and conflict resolution in Africa.

Secondly, I would like to emphasize African-led efforts to build sustainable and stable democratic institutions.

Japan highly appreciates African-led efforts to build sustainable and stable democratic institutions which was discussed at *The African Union Extraordinary Summit on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes in Africa* in Malabo at the end of last month. We renewed our recognition that the rules and principles of virtuous governance are fundamental to maintain and enhance peace and stability in Africa and in the international community.

Japan has been supporting Africa to address the root causes of conflicts under the principle of *New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa*, NAPSA. Japan will continue to support African-led initiatives to address unconstitutional changes of governments and to consolidate democracy, through supporting transparent and fair elections, as well as building institutions and strengthening governance.

Last but not least, food crisis is a pressing issue especially in Africa.

We are deeply concerned about the adverse effects of soaring food and energy prices on African development caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Food crisis is an imminent challenge which could be a factor of regional instability.

Japan has been providing short term emergency food assistances and mid-long term

assistance such as support for agricultural production capacity.

While the international community is facing various the challenges, Japan would like to reiterate the importance of a free and open international order based on the rule of law. Japan will continue to work with African countries under the vision of *Free and Open Indo-Pacific* (FOIP), announced at TICADVI, in order to realize peace and prosperity in the Asia–Africa region and in the world.

Japan will hold TICAD8 in Tunisia this August. Japan is determined to continue contributing to peace and stability in Africa through TICAD8.

Thank you for your kind attention.