

**Statement by H.E.Mr. YAMADA Kenji,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the Opening Ceremony of the 8th Dakar
International Forum on Peace and Security in
Africa
(Dakar, 24 October 2022)**

His Excellency Mr. Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal,
Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,

It is my great honor to have this opportunity to deliver a speech at the opening of the Eighth Dakar International Forum on behalf of the Government of Japan. At the outset, I would like to pay tribute to President Sall and the Senegalese government for holding this forum. I am honored that Japan has continued to support this important forum since its inception.

Japan has been working with Africa since the launch of the TICAD process in 1993. In August this year, Japan organized TICAD 8 in Tunisia, co-chaired by President Sall as the AU Chairperson. At TICAD 8, Japan expressed its commitment to continue to promote the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and community empowerment.

Exogenous shocks, the theme of this Forum, are threatening peace and stability in various regions of Africa, including the Horn of Africa and the Sahel regions. The unity of the international community is essential in its response. The best example of this is the response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The adverse effects of Russia's actions on the international community are far-reaching and serious, and the foundations on which we depend, including the United Nations and international law, are being challenged. In Africa, ensuring food security is an urgent issue, and Japan is committed to providing emergency food assistance as well as support for strengthening food production and fostering human resources in agriculture.

Pandemics and infectious diseases, including COVID-19, continue to be destabilizing factors. At TICAD 8, Japan expressed its full commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in African countries, as well as its willingness to continue and strengthen its efforts to improve access to vaccines and medicines.

Climate change is also an issue that cannot be separated from peace and stability in Africa. Prior to COP27, which will be held in Egypt in November, Japan announced the launch of the "Japan's Green Growth Initiative with Africa" at TICAD 8. As part of this initiative, Japan and Senegal signed a MoC on the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) in August.

To help build resilient African economies and societies that can withstand such "exogenous shocks," Japan will support efforts to strengthen connectivity through infrastructure development and other measures and to promote Africa's regional integration, and will contribute toward peace and security to maintain and strengthen maritime order based on rule of law, as part of the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" initiative. From this perspective, Japan has appointed the Ambassador for the Horn of Africa, in the attempt to maintain peace and security in the region connecting Asia with Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

Excellencies,

Japan will serve as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for two years from next January. Japan will make full use of its experience of twelfth term, and play a greater role in addressing issues related to peace and security in Africa, while listening to the voices of the people of African countries. In addition, there is an urgent need to strengthen the functions of the UN in order to return to the principles of the UN Charter and restore confidence of the UN. In particular, with regard to Security Council Reform, we would like to initiate actions with Africa to achieve it.

Japan is "a partner growing together with Africa". For sustainable development led by Africa itself, a comprehensive approach to peace and stability is indispensable. Let us work on concrete actions to implement the outcomes of TICAD 8 and cooperate for peace and security in Africa.

Thank you very much.