

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

P.O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.:(251-11) 551 38 22 Fax: (251-11) 551 93 21

PROPOSAL ON "IMPROVED WOMEN SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS SIDE EVENT DURING THE TICAD VI SUMMIT IN KENYA

Concept Note

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) VI will be convened from August 27-29, 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya and for the first time in Africa. TICAD is co-organized by the government of Japan, the African Union and several international development organizations. Guided by the principles of African “ownership” and international partnership, this global event provides an open platform for high level policy dialogue and a renewal of commitments to address pressing development challenges affecting the continent.

Building on commitments made to gender equality and women’s empowerment in the TICAD-V Declaration and specific actions outlined in the Yokohama Action Plan (2013-2017), on August 26, 2016 on the margins of the TICAD-VI, the AU through the Directorate of Women, Gender and Development and the Government of Japan will implement a side event with the following objectives:

- Launching of the Japan-Africa Business Women Exchange Program; and
- Resource mobilization for the Fund for African Women

The Japan-Africa Business Women Exchange Program is an initiative of the Government of Japan aimed at creating the following benefits for African women and young girls: business networks and relationships, skills and entrepreneurial capacity development and access to finance. The program has been progressively rolled-out as part of Japan’s bilateral assistance in a few AU Member States and the TICAD-VI will mark the launching at continental level. To this effect, the AUC will mobilize African business women in maritime, construction, logistics, ITC, mining, agriculture/agro-processing and private finance to showcase their work in these very competitive industries, explore potential areas of partnership with the Japanese counterparts and develop networks. The Government of Japan will also mobilize business women from the same sectors who will share their experiences in building their enterprises and recommend opportunities for collaboration.

The Fund for African Women was launched in 2010 by the AU Assembly as the operational vehicle for the African Women’s Decade. The Fund is financed through an assessed annual 1% Member State contribution and provides grants to sponsor projects led by Civil Society Organizations

(CSOs), Regional Economic Communities and relevant government institutions. To date the Fund has reached over 52 beneficiaries totaling \$734.600. This side event therefore provides an opportunity to increase knowledge of the results achieved by the Fund for African Women and enlist goodwill and buy-in from potential continental and international donors. This will be done through presenting the achievements of the Fund and sharing information on upcoming projects. Japan International Cooperation Assistance (JICA) will be invited to their experience in implementing a successful grass-roots projects and proposing ways for future collaboration with the AUC with respect to the Fund.

Format:

It will consist of the following:

- Presentations by panelists followed by a moderated question and answer session
- Networking during a light lunch session
- Distribution of information leaflets to participants

AUC will secure the services of two professional moderators and simultaneous translation will be provided in three AUC official languages.

Anticipated results:

- The Japan-Africa Business Women Exchange Program is launched at continental level;
- Plan of action for actions within TICAD-VI are defined;
- Expressions of interest in support of the Fund for African Women are secured;
- At least one network is created between Japanese and African women owned firms

Participants

AU Ambassadors attending TICAD-VI

Industries: maritime, construction, logistics, ITC, mining, agriculture, agro-processing and private finance (From Japan and Africa)

Members of Japanese delegation attending TICAD-VI

AU Ministers of Gender: Malawi, Sudan and Ethiopia

Diaspora: Africans in Japan

AUC: BCP, DCP, DEA, DREA, DTI, HRST, AU Academy, SG, DIC, PMCD, PSD

RECs: Directors of Gender

Kenya: Business women association

Civil Society Organizations

Partners