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**TICAD V Ministerial Meeting**

**16-17 March 2013**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Erastus MWENCHA**

**Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission**

Excellency Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Chairperson of the African Union,

Excellency Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan,

Your Excellences Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

AU Commissioners,

Distinguished Representatives of the World Bank, UNDP and UNOSAA,

Excellences, Ambassadors and Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, I have the distinguished honor and pleasure of welcoming all of you to the AU headquarters and to the TICAD V Ministerial Meeting and wish you a pleasant stay in Addis Ababa. The Chairperson would have liked to be in your midst today, but due to circumstances beyond her control, she could not make it. However, she extends her warm greetings to all Delegations participating in this important gathering, being assured

that the outcome of this meeting will go a long way towards enhancing cooperation between Africa and Japan.

Allow me to express deep appreciation of the African Union Commission to H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and the Government for hosting this Ministerial Meeting and for the hospitality availed to our distinguished participants.

In the same vein, let me welcome H.E. Fumio Kishida, Foreign Minister of Japan and pay tribute to the Government of Japan, for spearheading the preparations for this Ministerial Meeting and for its efforts in making the TICAD process a success and for the close collaboration with all co-organizers namely the World Bank, UNDP, UN Office of the Special Advisor for Africa (UNOSAA), and the African Union Commission. The African Diplomatic Corps based in Tokyo have also played a supportive role.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

TICAD V Ministerial Preparatory Meeting is taking place at an auspicious occasion, which is marked by two important milestones namely the celebration of the OAU/AU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the launching of the TICAD process. The two landmark celebrations should afford us an opportunity for stock taking, and for designing prospects for the future.

With regard to TICAD, it is worth recalling that this important partnership forum was established in 1993, with a focus on Africa at a moment when most global processes paid very little attention to the African continent at the end of the cold war. In doing so, the Government of Japan recognized that in this fast globalized world, and for the sake of global harmony, there would not be meaningful and development if problems facing Africa were not addressed as part of the global process in a coherent and strategic manner.

Since then, Japan has continued to show unwavering commitment by consistently meeting their obligations under TICAD. This was vividly demonstrated in 2011 in the aftermath of a destructive earthquake which was followed with a Tsunami, and nuclear accident in Japan,

and yet TICAD was convened within a month of the tragedy. The achievements of past TICAD agreements which are evident across Africa speak highly of the success of the TICAD process. Japan's commitment to the economic development of Africa can be seen in the areas of boosting economic growth, achieving the MDGs, consolidating Peace and Security, Good Governance, as well as tackling challenges arising from Climate Change, Japan's ODA has increased from \$0.9 billion in the period 2003-2007, to \$2.5 billion in 2010.

Excellences, Honorable Ministers

Ladies and Gentlemen

Since the inception of the TICAD process, many changes have taken place. First, the OAU changed into AU; second, the African Union Commission became TICAD Co-organizer; third Africa has been experiencing economic recovery and growth, despite various crises the world economy has gone through.

At this juncture, I wish to highlight the fact that the African Union, in line with the principle of ownership which underpins the TICAD

process, designed a clear policy for the development of the continent through continental flagship programs such as Programme for Infrastructure Development (PIDA), the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). It is our hope that TICAD V will take into account the v 2014-2017 priorities of the African Union.

In our view, these are the pertinent issues which should inform our meeting, at this session, and in particular the draft Yokohama Declaration and Action Plan, to be presented at the June 2013 Yokohama Summit for adoption.

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank the African Diplomatic Corp in Japan for following up on the TICAD preparations and implementation. I would also like to recognize the job well done by our Senior Officials who worked tirelessly to make the TICAD V documents ready for your meeting.

Your Excellency Prime Minister, Honorable Ministers, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, I thank you for your kind attention and wish you fruitful deliberations.