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OPENING REMARKS BY H.E. SAM K. KUTESA
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE
AFRICAN UNION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**OPENING SESSION OF THE TICAD VI MINISTERIAL
MEETING**
24th AUGUST, 2017
MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

Excellency Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique;

H.E. Mr. Taro Komo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Mr. David Mehdi Hamam Director General, Ag. Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Africa;

Excellency Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Administrator and Director for the Regional Bureau for Africa of the UNDP (TBC);

Mr. Mark Lindell, Country Director for Mozambique and Indian Ocean countries of the World Bank (TBC);

Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Honorable Participants; Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Chairperson of the Executive Council, H.E. Hadja Makalé Camara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, let me begin by expressing our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, the Government and the people of the Republic of Mozambique, for their generous hospitality in hosting us here today. Allow me also to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all of the Co-organizers for the efforts they have put for the success of the TICAD process. We are most grateful and also eager to review, continue, and enhance the progress that has been made through this process.

The TICAD VI Ministerial Follow-Up Meeting is an important meeting because it allows us to review and reflect on the work that has been done, to

acknowledge the key challenges, and to celebrate our successes. In this regard, this is indeed an exciting time, because so much has been accomplished by African Governments, Japan and multiplicity of partners following TICAD V and VI.

At the strategic level, we have been able to improve the flow of communication between key TICAD stakeholders by establishing a regular series of meetings. These Meetings have ensured the success of a greater number of projects to succeed.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Under pillar 1, “Promoting Structural Economic Transformation through Economic Diversification and Industrialization”, significant progress is being made in the public and private sector-led initiatives to improve the quality of infrastructure, develop human resources, attract foreign direct investment, and support the private sector—especially small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)—to create jobs, foster innovation and participate in technology transfers. In addition, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and an increasing number of Member States are embedding continental policies into their regional and national plans. For example ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, and COMESA have played a remarkable role in coordinating the implementation of PIDA Corridors, and IGAD, along with other regional groupings, have been coordinating the Africa Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Recovery and Resilience Project and the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project.

Of course, TICAD has and will continue to be a critical component of this progress. JICA and the African Union will host the Initiative for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa, a very important platform for action. For the first time in the TICAD process, the private sector has been engaged to a higher degree than ever before. This has been driven by efforts to mobilize investments to provide African entrepreneurs with access to more capital for their ventures. There are success stories across the continent, but they are just the beginning.

In Pillar Two, “Promoting Resilient Health Systems for Quality of Life”, The World Bank, JICA, the African Development Bank, and the World Health Organization are supporting African Countries to expand Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC). The Africa Center for Disease Control has been established, and more than twenty (20) African countries have already aligned their national health plans with the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030), the Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030 initiative, and the Maputo Plan of Action (2016-2030)

Under Pillar Three, “Promoting Social Stability for Shared Prosperity”, An African Strategy on Climate Change has been developed; the implementation of the Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Trade and Illegal Exploitation of Africa’s Wild Flora and Fauna has been presented as a way of dealing with biodiversity and conservation challenges; and eight (8) countries have worked together on the Green Wall of the Sahara and Sahel Initiative to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, particularly in the Sahel region. A lot of work has gone into preventing violent extremism, with IGAD and UNDP

working together to develop a strategy that will be implemented in sixteen (16) countries.

We are indeed seeing high-level coordination of activities between the African Union and the RECs, the Japanese Government, the United Nations Agencies, the World Bank and development partners.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We recognize that progress is sometimes slow-moving, but with your continued assistance, through organized endeavors such as the TICAD process, and through private sector cooperation, both Africa and Japan will ultimately be the beneficiaries of the gains and rewards envisaged by the TICAD partnership. We hereby reinforce our commitment to full and fruitful cooperation through the TICAD framework and I look forward to a successful meeting.

I thank you.