8th TICAD MINISTERIAL MEETING

Remarks by the Director for Conflict Management Directorate
Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security
AU Commission

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On

Building Sustainable Peace and Stability through supporting Africa’s efforts

27 MARCH 2022
Excellencies,

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal and Chair of the AU Executive Council

Honorable African Ministers

Distinguished representatives,

Ladies and gentlemen,

All protocols observed,

The African Union welcomes the convening of the 8th Ministerial Meeting of TICAD at a time of significant developments in Africa and other parts of our global system. The Chairperson of the AU Commission H. E. Moussa Faki Mahamat and the leadership of the Commission commends the Government of Japan for convening this important Ministerial Meeting.

Excellencies, in the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, Member States of the African Union pledged “...to make peace a reality for all of Africa’s citizens and not to bequeath the burden of conflicts to future generations.” This declaration marked the rededication of Africa
towards the attainment of the Pan Africanist Vision of an “integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.”

Against this backdrop, Agenda 2063 was launched to provide a shared framework for the transformation of the Continent with Silencing the Guns as one of the key priorities. Agenda 2063 also forges a path for attaining inclusive growth and sustainable development for Africa.

The effective delivery of Agenda 2063 is, however, confronted with multidimensional governance and security challenges. The governance landscape has recently witnessed a resurgence of military interventions in politics that have led to unconstitutional changes of government in several member states. This has created political uncertainties and truncated democratic stability in the affected countries. Transnational organised crimes have also fuelled conflicts and destabilize communities in Africa. Crucially, climate change and its negative consequences are inducing tensions and violent conflicts in communities.

As part of the measures to address Africa’s security and developmental challenges, TICAD was launched. Since its establishment, TICAD has made some progress in driving African development as encapsulated in Agenda 2063. However, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic have also devastated the developmental gains achieved by TICAD. Notably, the
challenges induced by the pandemic have further exposed institutional fragility and governance fault lines hindering development across the continent. The ripple effects of the pandemic continue to generate social tensions, agitations and protests that undermine social cohesion and stability of states.

Nonetheless, the above development and security challenges presents an opportunity to rethink responses to governance, peace, security and development challenges facing African states.

**Excellencies,** the AU is of the view that rethinking our approaches to development and security should be multidimensional given the multi-layered nature of the challenges on the continent. This means that we need to utilize all our normative and political tools to bridge the peace, security, governance and development divide. Enhancing this nexus provides an integrated approach to resolve, manage and transform existing conflicts in the Continent. Doing so will provide opportunity for short-term respites and set a foundation for long-term development in Africa.

There is also the need to address the root causes of conflicts. This is imperative to transforming existing conflicts, avoiding relapses and setting up a pathway towards attaining peace, security and development. In this regard, the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development framework and its peacebuilding efforts remain essential.
The AU Transitional Justice Policy, the establishment of the PCRD Centre in Cairo, the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI) and other continental frameworks such the African Free Trade Area present opportunities to address the social, political, economic, and infrastructure deficits in conflict-affected states in Africa.

In view of the foregoing, three recommendations are made to build sustainable peace and stability through supporting the realization of TICAD 8 objectives.

**First,** Encourage all concerned actors to situate Covid-19 response and recovery plans within the context of human security, thus redoubling efforts to improve the lives of people and help governments and other institutions to building their capacity to undertake effective stabilization and development interventions within the context of recovery and consolidating community resilience.

**Second,** given the critical need to address the peculiar needs of communities to strengthen the inter-connectedness of the socio-economic recovery aspects, consider a revitalized African Solidarity Initiative as a key coordinating framework to harness technical and in-kind support for the continent’s Covid-19 response and recovery plans, especially in post-conflict settings.

**Third,** encourage Member States to ratify the Inter-African Convention
establishing an African Technical Cooperation Programme. Given that Member States emerging from conflict or crisis have the primary responsibility of guiding peacebuilding and stabilization interventions efforts at national level, they are encouraged to continue leading the efforts in articulating their peacebuilding priorities.

I will conclude by noting that the African Union is of the view that for us to achieve sustainable peace and build resilient societies, multi-level partnerships are crucial. This means fostering a shared understanding of the threats, risks and coordinated responses at all levels; local, national, regional, and international. This is why platforms like TICAD are important. They provide a space for critical stakeholders to share their understanding of the emerging issues, and work together towards delivering as one.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and hope that the 8th TICAD Ministerial meeting will generate recommendations that will contribute to promoting peace, security and development in Africa. The AU stands ready to support implementation of the outcomes of the 8th TICAD Ministerial Meeting.

Thank you for your attention.