



## **Civic Commission of Africa**

March 15, 2016

Civic Commission for Africa



# **Position Paper for TICAD VI Senior Officials Meeting in Djibouti**

## **1. Preamble**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, we appreciate for the Government of Japan for your solidarity to Africa by taking the lead of TICAD initiative, and for the Government of the Republic of Djibouti to host the Senior Officials Meeting with your great hospitality. Also we thank the Co-Organizers of TICAD for setting the official session named “Dialogue with Civil Society Organizations”. TICAD has a long and unique history of civil society inclusion which has been ensured by both the co-organizers and African and Japanese civil society. We hope that this civil society dialogue will make TICAD more open, inclusive and resilient multilateral forum for Africa’s development.

## **2. The priority areas of the forth-coming TICAD VI Conference**

Considering the fact the priority areas for the forth-coming TICAD VI Conference based on Industrialization, health water and sanitation, and social security, the CCfA suggests that:

Acknowledging and appreciating development strides achieved since 2013:

Appreciating what the private sector has achieved this in facilitating Africa’s development:

Worried about the downturn of international price of primary commodities:

Concerned that it is difficult for most African countries to diversify their economies, especially those in extractive sub-sector:

We therefore would like to reiterate what has already been alluded to by those before us and would like to urge African governments to:

### **A) On Industrialisation**

Utilize more Africa’s private sector and lean more towards Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for the transfer of technological and quality infrastructural development for Africa. The benefits of which are countless:

Considering the erosion of financial resources in many African countries due to the unstable export revenues, the burden of sovereign debt repayment, illicit financial outflow from Africa, etc., it is our belief that African country’s should ensure sufficient public revenue generation through adequate taxation for social development.

We also urge African governments to put more effort towards diversifying their economies. This diversification should lean more towards sectors that utilize more of Africa’s natural resources like in tourism and agriculture sub-sectors. This would reduce reliance on sectors which Africa currently has no control over its market prices.

We call on AUC to work with African governments to put in place frameworks that would ensure that the prices of Africa’s raw materials and commodities such as coffee, cocoa, timber etc, be determined by Africans in the same way the price of Toyota is determined by the Japanese; and that value addition on the value chains for market products should be promoted.

That Africa's development and especially infrastructure and technology transfer should deliberately target the youth in order to produce Africa's own future artisans and engineers; that youth be subcontracted to deliver smaller construction and 'add-on' type projects as a way of imparting skills, which should in turn be transferred to future generations. In this way the youth would gain ownership and take charge of supervising, maintaining and capacitating them to monitor and evaluate such projects to learn quality control and standards. This would in turn assist them to know whether Africa is getting value for its money from projects delivered by foreign companies or not.

We also call on the African and Japanese governments to initiate a formal structure that develops a strong link with African Diaspora who are keen on investing in Africa; and that African governments should create an enabling environment that harnesses the return of Africa's high-skilled persons from the diaspora to return to contribute directly to the development of the continent.

African governments should empower the women towards land rights and the right to reasonable loans for investment. In the report entitled "Africa's future is female: ONE Africa" alludes to the fact that women are a driving force behind Africa's economy, running an estimated 48% of small and medium size industries and growing 80% of the food in less than 10% of the land. Paradoxically, these small holders' schemes by women are not taxed because they are at most informal traders.

We call on the AUC through the TICAD process to develop and enforce a framework geared towards ensuring tougher standards and superior quality control measures towards all long-term infrastructure development project undertaken through loan-aid. This is to guard against any African country left paying a huge debt towards a project that collapsed within the first 5 years of existence resulting from sub-standard performance and poor quality material use.

Ensure adherence to transparency, accountability and Good Governance in and that all actors in development respect human rights and ensure environmental sustainability, and be accountable for the social and environmental impacts of their activities, programs and investments

And finally, it is our belief that all sustainable development frameworks should ensure a balance between financing for infrastructure development and financing for social development. It is very important to also consider social responsibility for sustainability of investments. We therefore call on the TICAD process to ensure the promotion of and the involvement of communities in developing social development programs and in monitoring infrastructure projects.

## **B) On Health, Water and Sanitation**

"Agenda 2063" of Africa Union clearly states that sound health and well-being is a priority aspiration. It echoes the position of civil society that "health is human rights". Achieving universal health coverage is the most prioritized overall goal to realize "health for all".

The lesson of Ebola crisis shows that an accountable and high quality public health system is crucial to prevent global health emergency. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) should be truly universal. Communities marginalized or hard to reach, should not be excluded from quality health services. Financial, social, cultural barriers should be removed.

To achieve UHC, it is necessary to create resilient, sustainable and inclusive health system for all. Abuja Declaration to invest 15% of national budget to health should be respected and achieved by all African governments. The Global Fund, GAVI Vaccine Alliance, IPPF and other health-related international organizations should be fully-funded to achieve both UHC and targets set by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including

ending AIDS, TB and Malaria, universal vaccination, universal access to sexual reproductive health and rights, and drastic reduction of infant and maternal mortality by 2030.

The work of civil society to ensure access of quality health to marginalized and hard-to-reach communities should be recognized as a crucial part of the global efforts to achieve UHC. Independent monitoring and advocacy of civil society for accountable and affordable health services for the people should be recognized a crucial part to achieve UHC.

TICAD VI should be a historic moment to achieve universal access to water and sanitation in Africa. TICAD should accelerate Africa's efforts to secure all women's access to sanitation. "Japan Toilet Fund" should be launched in TICAD VI to strengthen collaboration between Japan and Africa. Lack of adequate water, sanitation and hygiene in public healthcare facilities is another big problem in Africa. TICAD should accelerate joint efforts of Africa and Japan to achieve 100% access of safe water and sanitation in public healthcare facilities.

### **C) Social stability**

On issues of social stability, we suggest that:

The African governments/International Community/Partners should build a strong Global Human Security network (economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security).

African governments should de-radicalise the youth, by creating jobs to keep them active. The governments should create enabling and investment-friendly economic environments for the youth. The youth should also be consulted in matters that concern them because any decision taken on behalf of the youth, for the youth and without the youth is against the youth.

Checking violent extremism in general through effective Peace-Building efforts should be prioritised. We are convinced that terrorism and the Boko Haram insurgency in Africa are man-made crises that can be resolved through genuine dialogue which is fundamental in solving human problems. African governments should engage in genuine dialogue with the extremist in order to determine what exactly they want.

To check religious fundamentalism, African Government should establish National Commissions for Religious and Moral Education (NCRME) in terrorist and Boko Haram affected countries to monitor and regulate religious preachings of both Christian, Muslim and traditional preachers throughout the territories. National Commissions for Religious and Moral Education (NCRME), composed of tested independent minds, should be put in place to regulate and monitor extremism. Such national syndicates should provide an African synergy for the control of religious extremism.

All stakeholders of the TICAD process should engage in Effective Security and Intelligence-sharing. Terrorism and Boko Haramism should ignite greater international collaboration and advanced countries should use their advanced technologies for better training in intelligence gathering and sharing among security personnel in affected countries.

African governments should check their porous borders. The boundaries between Nigeria and Niger; Nigeria and Benin, Nigeria and Cameroon; Nigeria-Cameroon-Chad are very porous and dangerous. The conflicts in Libya, Chad, Niger, Sudan, Central African Republic, Somalia, has facilitate the smuggling of weapons in Africa.

Armed manufacturers should stop selling arms to Africa. Most conflicting African countries do not produce arms. Sufficient international cooperation should determine the sources of such weapons in order to cut their supplies and funding.

African governments should guarantee stable internal state structures and practically implement good governance policies to avoid political conflicts.

**D) Agenda 2030, African Union's Agenda 2063 and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Agendas**

With the adoption of Agenda 2030, which espouses the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by the UN Member States in September 2015, different countries are supposed to put in place measures to achieve the goals within the set time. The AU also has a 50-year long-term plan called Agenda 2063 that all Member States subscribe to. Further, different Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa have their own long-term plans to which members in the sub-region are committed to.

We call on the TICAD process to put measures that promote consideration of the SDGs, AU Agenda 2063 and the RECs long-term plans by the African countries and their development partners as key components of African development partnerships. We advocate for support to all national government to ensure alignment of national policies to the new development agendas. In particular we call on development partners intending to work with African countries to use the SDGs and Agenda 2063-based plans as the basis of providing support to development programs and national budgets to African countries in Africa. Four specific areas Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) would like to emphasize: -

1. Holistic approach for financing development- Both traditional (ODA, Domestic Revenue) and new innovation should be pursued to ensure adequate allocation of resources. All the 17 goals on SDGs and the Pillars of Agenda 2063 should find space within national budgeting and implementation plans.
2. Addressing Data accountability needs to facilitate evidenced based advocacy and implementation.
3. National ownership that prioritizes on people centered development to ensure Social, Political and Economic accountability and transparency mechanisms inform all development processes in Africa.
4. Prioritizing on strategic partnerships "Leave No One Behind"-(Government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Private Sector, Philanthropist, Religious organizations', Trade Unions, Media & Academia). All stakeholders are key and critical forces for grassroots implementation of all development agendas. Rules of engagement should be clear especially with the private sector to ensure all interventions prioritize on sustainable growth and human stability and NOT Profit on the expense of the latter.

We call on the TICAD co-sponsors to replicate other development initiatives and structures for Africa, by involving African civil societies and other social networks and structures during the development stage of all TICAD process, during implementation and throughout the monitoring processes. A good example being how Africa tackled and continues to tackle health related challenges, especially HIV and AIDS. Development partners worked through and directly with local NGOs, CBOs and FBOs. This would ensure ownership by African peoples and their communities on development targeted at them.

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