

Tokyo, 30 May 2017

Mr. Jean Mfasoni
Chief of Staff
Bureau of the Chairperson of
the African Union Commission
Addis Ababa

Dear Mr. Mfasoni,

Re: Participants to the TICAD VI Ministerial Meeting

During the TICAD Co-organisers Meeting held in New York on 11 April 2017, African Union Commission (AUC) represented by Dr. Levi Madueke, Head of Partnership Management and Coordination Division of the AUC, attending the meeting from Addis Ababa through teleconferencing, raised that the list of invitees we circulated for the ministerial meeting in Mozambique in August was incomplete and did not list all 55 African Union members including "Western Sahara". While I replied that the number of African "countries" for Japan is 54, namely, 53 African "countries" and Mozambique as the host, we did not discuss the matter any further since the condition of the telecommunication was extremely bad and the voices of the participants from Addis Ababa were mostly inaudible. I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on this matter and explain to the Commission Japan's basic position on the issue.

Firstly, Japan does not recognise "Western Sahara" as a state, either explicitly or tacitly. For this reason, "Western Sahara" has never been invited to past TICAD meetings, be it in Japan or in Africa and regardless of the participant's level of the meeting, during its entire history since 1993. This was also the case with TICAD VI in Nairobi in August 2016, its preparatory ministerial meeting in the Gambia in June 2016, and its preparatory senior officials meeting in Djibouti in March 2016.

Secondly, TICAD is not a Japan-AU bilateral forum. It is a multilateral forum for the international partnership with African countries, led by Japan but co-organised by international organisations, with the

participation from a number of African regional economic communities and other African institutions, international organisations, traditional donors and other partner countries outside Africa, non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations, and the private sector.

Past TICAD practice should be followed and "Western Sahara" will not be invited as an African state to the August ministerial meeting in Mozambique. I would like to ask for your kind understanding and cooperation on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Takeshi Osuga
Ambassador,
Director-General,
African Affairs Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of Japan