



# CIVIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (C-CfA)

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## Urgent Message on the Access Pass of NGOs to TICAD IV

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It is with shocking surprise and resentment that we have come to learn right before initiation of TICAD IV many visitors not only from Africa but also worldwide will not be able to attend the Main Conferences.

It is well acknowledged by the international organizations and the African governments that the civil society plays a vital role as an intermediary between the policy makers and the citizens faced with poverty and various challenges.

We have been appealing for the status of civil society to be acknowledged as the official participants in TICAD, a forum on the African development. However, it is regrettable that we were not acknowledged as the official participants of TICAD IV. Although our status is only as observers, we have travelled from far to Japan in order to offer input as much as possible and to assist in conveying discussion and outcomes of TICAD to Africa.

We are financed by the taxes of the Japanese people, and if we are not allowed to enter the conference rooms and watch conferences on the screens, it would mean wasting not only our time but also vital taxes of the Japanese people. If the institutions officially invited by the Japanese government cannot enter the conference rooms, this would naturally create the feelings of discard to the invitees.

We are inevitably becoming doubtful whether the Japanese government is really aware of the role of the civil society.

If we cannot be present in discussion expressed by the African governments in the conference rooms, how can we be accountable as the representatives of the civil society to our people back in our home countries?

It is regrettable that "Follow-up Mechanism", which is an output document of TICAD IV, does not indicate the role of the civil society. TICAD IV has a theme of "Vibrant Africa". Yet, can TICAD actually make the African people "vibrant" while the civil society, which is closest to the African people, is excluded from the processes?

Please let us confirm that the civil society is not an enemy of the governments. We are members of the society and economic entities. For the TICAD to actualize the real African development, we have to emphasize the need that TICAD accommodates all the people in the society.

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