

## **Urgent Statement**

The Global African Diaspora Coalition are poised to send representatives to the TICAD IV conference in Yokohama next week but have learned that the Japanese government will not allow sufficient accreditation for the African, Japanese and International Civil Society representatives, invited by TICAD co-organisers, to attend.

The Coalition urgently requests the Japanese government to reconsider these damaging limitations on the conference and on any likely outcomes from it. In order for Africa to achieve balanced economic development and spread its benefits to all, as is universally desired, good governance, transparency and accountability is essential. Civil society plays a critical role in this process and any discussion of African development must include its responsible voice.

Yours Sincerely,

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It is most shameful for the Japanese government to treat African civil society this way by in the first place not letting it stand out for itself among others and be accredited as one of the partners of the TICAD process. TICAD itself means Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), no doubt then that since June last year Japanese tax payers money had been used to get African civil society (CS) actively involved in the process by setting up the C-CfA as an organization in Accra, Ghana in June last year as a bonafide, legitimate African CS to be directly involved in the TICAD process. But where is the African connection in the development process espoused by the Japanese through TICAD process?

We, who were involved in the C-CfA process feel hurt to see our efforts going to the dogs by our representatives not been allowed to enter the TICAD conference. We feel and hope that the Japanese government will change their position and allow our representatives including of course at least 2 representatives of the Diaspora into the conference as a sign of respect for the people and non state actor organizations of, in and from Africa and people of African descent who are scattered all over the world due not necessarily as a result of their fault but circumstances brought to bear on the by history.

We are watching the Japanese as Africans for any future engagement. The world is also watching.

Best Regards and a wish for a successful conference with all the invited African and diaspora representatives accredited.

Falla Ensa-N'Dayma  
Sierra Leone.le