

**Voices 2008**  
**Recommendations from African and Japanese Civil**  
**Society to TICAD IV**

**3 March, 2008**



## Preamble

The civil societies of Africa and Japan have organised and participated in several dialogues concomitant to the evolution of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).<sup>1</sup>

The outcomes of these discussions and input have been summarised as “The Voices of African and Japanese Civil Society for Submission to TICAD IV.” This document underlines some priorities in line with the themes identified for TICAD IV. During the preparation of this document and updating of the text presented at the Civil Society TICAD, additional input was collected from civil society organisations (CSOs).

Whereas much of Africa has recently been experiencing positive economic growth, it is also recognised that this encouraging development has yet to be translated into benefits for the vast majority of the impoverished people in Africa.

We note that:

- African people and society continue to bear the burden of poverty resulting from trade injustices, social inequalities and debt;
- African people and society still experience the challenges of political instability, insufficient or inappropriate governance, conflict, environmental degradation and climate change as well as marginalisation of groups such as women, children, indigenous peoples, differently-abled persons<sup>2</sup> and people living with HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria; and
- The institutional capacity of CSOs on the continent continues to be inadequate.

Despite the tremendous steps taken, and while we remain convinced of the efficacy of working together in the spirit of solidarity, equality, mutual accountability and responsibility, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) faces serious challenges. We are determined to redress this state of affairs.

We respectfully, therefore, present our concrete suggestions and actionable recommendations to the TICAD and its stakeholders with a plea to quickly move from mere policy proposals and pronouncements to further action-based policies substantiated by genuine and equal partnerships amongst all relevant stakeholders.

We advocate:

- ◆ People-driven approaches for community empowerment and ownership;
- ◆ Capacity enhancement for CSOs and African governance at all levels; and
- ◆ Genuine recognition and participation of CSOs in policy and development processes.

<sup>1</sup> These discussions started with the JICA-supported Africa-Asia NGO Networking Workshop in Nairobi (September 17 -18 2007). This was followed by the workshop in Tokyo (October 24 - 26 2007), Civil TICAD Symposium held in Tokyo (October 27 2007), TICAD Regional Preparatory Meetings in Lusaka (October 30-31 2007) and in Tunis (November 21 - 22 2007). In total, about 65 African and 50 Japanese Civil Society Organisations (CSOs, hereafter) took part in these dialogues.

<sup>2</sup> At the Nairobi Workshop, the Civil Society participants agreed to use this term for describing people with disabilities in this Voices document.

We request that:

- 1- TICAD should be action oriented;
- 2- TICAD should acknowledge existing commitments, including national, regional, and continental action plans endorsed by African governments;
- 3- TICAD should work with CSOs to bring the voices of the people into the process, and deliver the TICAD commitment to the people, the target group that it intends to support;
- 4- TICAD should advocate the establishment of a CSO Support Fund; and
- 5- TICAD should adopt the TICAD Watch Process as a follow-up mechanism with the active participation of CSOs.

We believe the challenges of the MDGs and of other issues and dynamics affecting development can only be tackled by an integrated engagement of a wider range of stakeholders, including various levels of governance, the private sector and civil society.

The position of African and Japanese civil society on the three pillars and four cooperation areas of TICAD IV<sup>3</sup> is organised as follows:

1. Boosting economic growth
2. Ensuring human security
  - 2.1. Achieving MDGs
  - 2.2. Consolidation of peace and democracy
3. Protection of the environment and adaptation to climate change
4. Establishing TICAD Watch Process

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<sup>3</sup> The Japanese government prioritized three pillars and four areas of cooperation towards TICAD IV. They are namely; 1. Boosting Economic Growth; 2. Ensuring “Human Security”; and 3. Addressing Environmental Issues/Climate Change. Under the pillar of “Human Security,” there are 2 areas of cooperation: Achieving MDGs and Consolidation of Peace. The last two issues with “Economic Growth” and “Environment Issues/Climate Change” consist of four areas of cooperation.

# 1. Boosting Economic Growth

## (1) Overview

The continuing positive economic growth of Africa is a result of both external and internal factors, some of which are outlined below:

### Internal factors:

- Emerging democracies;
- Improving peace and security;
- Expanding institutional capacity;
- Prudent economic policies; and
- Existence of large reserves of primary materials needed to fuel economic growth e.g. uranium, coal, copper, diamonds, gold and oil.

### External factors:

- Official Development Assistance (ODA) support;
- Private-led investments; and
- New raw material interests triggering increased capital inflow.

To date, in many African countries, economic growth, on its own, does not contribute to achieving the MDGs. The recent Kenyan crisis shows that economic growth that reinforces and deepens inequality causes social unrest.

### African economic growth should meet the challenge of the following issues:

- Growth has neither been pro-people nor pro-poor;
- Recent growth has tended to promote gender and income disparities among both urban and rural communities;
- Economic growth has not been matched by human development;
- Growth is slowed by unfavourable international trade instruments such as farm subsidies and other tariff and non-tariff barriers, particularly among the advanced northern economies, that render African goods and services uncompetitive;
- Increasing climate variability and change is impacting Africa disproportionately to other world regions while the continent concomitantly suffers a paucity of adaptive capacity and resources, a situation that has dire implications for food and agricultural export production; and
- Africa has long endured corruption and political instability, constraining economic growth by endangering long-term capital accumulation.

## (2) How TICAD should address these issues

Economic, social, political and environmental sustainability are interlinked. Therefore, “Boosting Economic Growth” should not be considered independently of “Consolidation of Peace and Democracy” or “Human Development” or “Environmental Protection/Climate Change”.

We especially consider that economic growth and development must, of necessity:

- be visible in people’s livelihoods; and

- promote participation of whole communities including women and men.

The benefits accruing from economic growth should be distributed equitably amongst women and men, girls and boys, in order to avert the social instability and crises that have plagued many African countries in the post-independence era.

The following four issues therefore require attention:

- delivering basic capabilities that are fundamental to poverty reduction;
- ensuring that infrastructure development responds to both social/livelihood needs as well as broad economic considerations;
- developing people's productive skills and capacities through for example, technology transfer; and
- addressing social distortions, including gender inequalities.

In order to promote sensible and sustainable economic growth and development, it is also vital to:

- ensure fair trade to Africa and African producers; and
- increase untied ODA.

Globally, ODA has progressively diminished as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) over the last two decades. Also, ODA continues to be driven more by donor agendas and interests and less by real concerns such as social welfare concerns expressed by African governments and people.

While many countries in Africa have been struggling to release themselves from debt bondage and whereas ODA is expected to play a significant role, it has, instead, been mainly delivered in the form of loans. Paradoxically, such ODA is reversing the gains of debt relief that followed the Gleneagles G8 summit. Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) are slowly falling back into the debt burden.

TICAD needs to more directly address the twin issues of poverty reduction and reduction of inequalities in Africa.

### **(3) Recommendations**

#### **A. The donor community should:**

- provide clear milestones towards increasing ODA to 0.7% of GNI by 2015;
- ensure that ODA responds to the spirit and intent of the Paris Declaration;
- make concerted efforts to fight corruption;
- respond to African concerns such as elimination of subsidies and dumping of cheap products raised in the stalled Doha talks;
- support African entrepreneurship, enterprise development and capital accumulation;
- ease/streamline migration and tax restrictions so as to enhance the capacity of Africans in the diaspora to freely remit funds back into Africa;
- increase funding to CSOs in order to strengthen their role in national and international policy agenda setting, in addition to ensuring transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of aid; and

- increase funding to the agricultural sector.

**In particular, the Japanese government should:**

- increase the proportion of Japanese ODA apportioned to grants;
- establish preferential trading conditions for African producers and traders;
- increase Japanese assistance for the empowerment of rural communities; and
- particularly support the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) continental initiative adopted by African countries to enhance the performance of African agriculture.

**B. African governments and regional organisations should:**

- expedite growth of regional economic integration and the role of supra-national bodies such as COMESA, SADC and ECOWAS in order to promote and strengthen intra-Africa trade by complimentary enhancement and by easing cross border movement of people and goods;
- extend incentives to local investors;
- translate global, regional and national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment into practice;
- increase funding to institutions that promote enterprise through micro-credit and savings among the deprived people; and
- invest in pro-poor rural infrastructure.

## 2. Ensuring Human Security

### (1) Overview Human Security = Basic Human Rights + Dignity

The United Nations and Japanese governments define human security as “a perspective to strengthen efforts to cope with threats to human lives, livelihoods, and dignity”, and promote this concept.

In Africa, however, the concept is not widely acknowledged, although it emerged partly from the African experience where basic needs of people are not fulfilled and rights of people are violated in the name of protecting state security. From African and Japanese civil society’s point of view, human security should be the basis of state security. Many African people, however, suffer from human insecurity associated with fear as well as unfulfilled basic rights and needs. Their insecurity stems, for example, from lack of secure political environment, poverty and gender inequality, income disparity, and ethnic/tribal animosities. In order to attain human security, people should be put at the centre of development.

We understand that human security is closely linked to economic growth, sustainable environments and robust human development. Thus, we are concerned that majority of African countries are faced with:

- economic insecurity associated with growing levels of under- and unemployment;
- food insecurity associated with environmental degradation, poor distribution and low purchasing power;
- health insecurity resulting in low life expectancy and high mortality rates;
- environmental insecurity and increasing climate change;
- personal insecurity associated with internal and cross-border conflict, high rates of crime, and domestic violence and inadequate protection from police and judiciaries;
- community insecurity as African values and cultures are eroded and minority ethnic groups are threatened;
- political insecurity where people’s basic human rights are abused with worsening systematic torture, abuse and despotism; and
- social insecurity associated with growing inequality between and among societies.

### (2) How TICAD should address this issue

TICAD should put people and human dignity at the centre of development. In order to attain human security, a rights-based approach with community-centred development interventions should be adopted in order for people to realise their human as well as economic and social rights. In addition, all stakeholders must ensure human dignity as well as basic human rights, for example, to food, clean water, education, health, housing, and mobility. We must address gender imbalances, and especially respect minorities, including differently-abled people, the elderly, children and other vulnerable groups throughout the process of development.

### (3) Recommendations

#### A. The donor community should:

- involve civil society in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating projects contributing to human security for all categories of people at grassroots;

- not impose conditionality that harms people, but ensure accountability; and
- give aid to governments who consult their civil society.

**In particular, the Japanese government should:**

- give priority to human dignity; and
- work through CSOs that are close to the community.

**B. African governments and regional organisations should:**

- enhance development and implementation of pro-poor policies;
- address and meet the needs of vulnerable population groups in particular;
- stabilise political situation; and
- develop and implement policy and legal instruments to protect and promote the rights and dignity of people.

## 2.1. Achieving MDGs

### (1) Overview

The UN Millennium Declaration was adopted in 2000 by heads of state and governments with the aspiration of making poverty history. Eight MDGs were identified and agreed as concrete targets for the eradication of poverty by 2015. These specific targets were focussed on outcomes in education, health, gender equality, HIV/AIDS, the environment and enabling macroeconomic development.

Eight years after adoption of the goals, however, a UN study on Africa and the MDGs reveals that Africa is the continent furthest away from achieving the MDGs. Many African countries are trying to cope with serious problems in their health and education sectors but there are large gaps in financing of the attainment of these aspirational goals.

Expressions of concern are numerous and often refer to the inefficiency of public expenditure, insufficient access to international markets, the weakness of government aid to social development, and problems of a structural nature.

### (2) How the TICAD should address these issues

The TICAD should focus on the social sectors and gender equality because these form the basis for poverty eradication programs and achievement of MDGs. The MDGs identify the promotion of gender equality as a key element, with specific targets linked to maternal health and child mortality. The spread of HIV/AIDS is associated with violence against women. The disparity between provision of education for girls and boys is perpetuating gender injustice and backwardness. Gender is often treated as a cross-cutting issue in the policy and strategies, which results in lack of specific measures to address problems associated gender inequality.

The TICAD should identify how gender inequality is addressed and what support is being planned to end violence against women, remove educational disparities between boys and girls, support maternal health and fight child mortality. It should also identify what consultations have taken place with advocates of gender justice.

The TICAD can play a significant role, with African partners and various stakeholders including

CSOs, to address the challenges of the MDGs effectively and accelerate action to achieve it. We focus on health, education and water issues for making policy recommendations here.

### **- Health**

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) shows limited progress towards achieving three of the eight MDGs that directly target improvement in the field of health: reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and controlling the spread of infectious diseases. Each year, 9.7 million children under 5 die due to preventable diseases, 536,000 women die due to pregnancy or childbirth related problems, and life expectancy has dropped into the upper 30s in some SSA countries due to the spread of infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS and TB due to weak health systems and serious shortages of health workers.

In the efforts to save lives and improve the health of African people, African countries have already made commitments and strategies such as the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, TB and other related infectious diseases, the Africa Strategy on Child Survival, and the Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalisation of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2006). TICAD should support the development and implementation of effective healthcare in African nations in a manner to harmonise and coordinate with these existing commitments.

Health and poverty are deeply related; thus, efforts need to be made with particular focus on rural areas, especially women and children.

### **- Education**

Basic education is significant in two aspects. First, basic education is a right in itself, as was identified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Therefore, nations and the international community have a duty to ensure basic education for all people. Secondly, education is a necessary means for economic growth and poverty reduction. It is demonstrated in the experience of East Asian countries, including Japan, that universal primary education was a pre-condition for economic growth with relative equality. Moreover, evidence shows that basic education also contributes to poverty reduction.

Today, however, 77 million children of those countries that have reported data are not in school, and 781 million adults are illiterate, of whom about two-thirds are women. In Africa, it is estimated that MDGs Two and Three will not be achieved by 2015 if the rate of improvement in education is not enhanced. Furthermore, a serious gender gap in education accelerates the 'feminisation of poverty' and undermines efforts at poverty reduction, as it hinders women from participating in decision making in the home, community and society.

The international community affirmed that "no government seriously committed to achieving education for all will be thwarted in this lack of resources" in the Dakar Framework. TICAD IV should support the commitment and efforts of African countries to ensure access to education for its people.

## - Water

The Human Development Report 2006 emphasises that violation of the basic human right to clean water and sanitation is destroying human potential on an epic scale<sup>4</sup>. Clean water and sanitation can make or break human development. It also gives substance to other human rights and is a condition for attaining wider human development goals. With respect to Africa, the HDR sums up the situation thus: Sub-Saharan Africa is “*falling further behind and will account for more than half of the global clean water deficit and just under half of the sanitation deficit.*” On current progress, Africa will not meet the goal until the year 2105. Access figures from selected African countries are quite revealing for water and sanitation respectively: Burkina Faso: 61% and 13%; Ghana 75% and 18%; Mali 50% and 46%; Nigeria 48% and 44%; and finally Niger 59% and 18%. If these countries halved the population without access in accordance with MDG targets, there will still be populations that will not have access several years beyond 2015.

Key issues in the sector include, but are not limited to, the following:

- huge service/access gaps exist, compelling deprived communities to rely on unsafe sources with all the disease-related consequences. Most of the deprived are asked to pay far more for basic services such as water than they can afford, reinforcing their poverty;
- deep marginalisation leading to voicelessness of citizens and inequity in service decisions; an accountability gap is thus reflected in sub-standard services, and non-responsiveness of public and private service providers;
- capacity of civil society to engage in the sector is extremely limited. This has contributed to a lack of transparency and accountability hence demand and supply-side weaknesses. Equally, local governments demonstrate limited capacity to plan, target, and sustain service provision for the deprived people; and
- lack of political will and coherent national or sector planning systems is worsened by insufficient, uncoordinated and unpredictable financial flows from central to local governments.

## (3) Recommendations

### A. Recommendations to the donor community

#### - Health

**The donor community should:**

- financially and technically support the efforts of African countries to formulate and implement national health plans and strengthen public health systems to ensure universal access to health services;
- promote “continuum of care” for mothers, the newborn and children, in order to reduce the rate of mortality for children under 5;
- ensure universal access to reproductive health by 2015 in order to improve maternal health;
- achieve universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care by 2010 and give comprehensive support to HIV/AIDS programmes linking with community development;
- commit to the target of halving TB prevalence and mortality in line with the Stop TB

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<sup>4</sup> HDR 2006 page 27

Partnership Global Plan to Stop TB and Global MDR-TB and XDR-TB Response Plan 2007-2008;

- promote linkages between specific diseases and more integrated approaches, such as Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS;
- support capacity building of community health workers and voluntary care givers and sustain active participation of people in the community; and
- guarantee that African countries exercise their due rights legally as well as practically in the TRIPs agreement.

**In particular, the Japanese government should:**

- apply its experience in mother & child health services and efforts to tackle TB, considering the context of African countries;
- reaffirm its commitment to achieve Universal Access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, and scale up its assistance in a more harmonized and integrated manner;
- declare the implementation of the STOP TB Japan Initiative to cut 10% of global TB deaths (160,000 lives a year) and to benefit the world's TB patients;
- strengthen Japan's participation in the Extended Vaccination Programme alongside UNICEF and the America CDC;
- wipe out the remaining poliomyelitis-affected areas that persist in Africa that are putting the rest of humanity in danger; and
- channel aid towards the construction and provision of medium-sized hospitals.

**- Education**

**The donor community, including the Japanese government, should:**

- increase aid for basic education, particularly to low-income countries where per capita education expenditure is low;
- cancel the debt of countries at risk of not achieving MDGs without imposing negative conditionality or reducing the current flow of aid;
- accelerate EFA through the Fast Track Initiative;
- improve predictability of aid delivery by providing long-term support;
- support recurrent expenditure in education as well as capital cost, particularly of FTI endorsed countries;
- improve aid efficiency and ensure that aid reaches those who are most in need, including marginalised populations;
- increase long-term, predictable aid for basic education in conflict-affected fragile states; and
- allocate sufficient funding for adult literacy for the achievement of all the MDGs.

**- Water**

**The donor community should:**

- close the finance gap to meet the water and sanitation MDG targets which stand at \$4 billion a year;
- deepen support for decentralised level initiatives that emphasize local leadership in the governance of water and sanitation services; and
- demonstrate concrete support to African governments and civil society to set up

accountability mechanisms and improve quality of service delivery by all providers for the benefit of deprived communities.

**In particular, the Japanese government should:**

- facilitate the Global Action Plan for sanitation and water to be monitored by a global task force at the 2008 meeting of the G8;
- promote 70% of aid money for sanitation and water to be targeted at the poorest countries; and
- encourage African governments to ensure that water resources are protected and shared equitably.

**B. Recommendation to African governments and regional organisations**

**- Health**

**African governments and regional organisations should:**

- commit particularly to action for Africa, by implementing the 2006 African Union Abuja Call for Accelerated Action Towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria;
- strengthen public health systems in order to ensure access to health services for the deprived, particularly rural populations, women, and children including OVCs;
- achieve the target of allocating 15% of national health budgets to the improvement of health sectors, following the pledge of the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases in 2001; and
- mobilise communities and involve community health personnel in formulating plans and implementing services in rural areas.

**- Education**

**African governments and regional organisations should:**

- involve CSOs working in the field of education to improve the transparency and accountability of aid delivery;
- make further efforts to reduce gender gaps in basic education; and
- execute system reforms, such as the abolition of tuition fees.

**- Water**

**African governments and regional organisations should:**

- double access figures to clean water, increase access to sanitation fourfold (7 million to 28 million), and make sanitation a priority with demonstrated political commitment and corresponding financial allocation; and
- accelerate efforts to support sectoral social accountability mechanisms – participatory planning and budgeting, water expenditure tracking, and to promote citizens' voices and the empowerment of groups marginalised from water and sanitation services.

## 2.2. Consolidation of Peace and Democracy

### (1) Overview

One of the recent developments within Africa was the increasing commitments and roles taken up by the regional bodies, such as AU/NEPAD, in this period of conflict prevention and establishment of lasting peace. Supporting and welcoming this recent development, the international community saw the importance of empowering and building capacity of these regional organisations and initiatives.

While the new trends and positive directions in which many conflicts in the continent are heading are welcome developments, on the other hand, lamentably, some conflicts remain unresolved. New old issues such as cross-border conflicts and election-related conflicts still remain, and additionally, the global environment towards the continent seems to be influenced by the newly emerging discourse of a “war on terror.” The main victims of these conflicts are civilians, particularly women and children.

To solve these violent conflicts, all possible immediate action is required from leaders in the countries in conflict, from regional organisations, and from the international community.

### (2) How TICAD should address this issue

As the Tokyo Declaration of TICAD II addressed, conflicts interrupt African efforts for stabilisation and sustainable development in the continent. Thus, keeping Africa free from violent conflicts is indispensable not only for peace, but also for African development.

Recently, there have been more cases that indicate clear linkages between the problems of development and violent conflicts in Africa. Specific issues are the new social divide, problems of governance and accountability, and the issue of identity-based politics. These root issues are not new in the post-Cold War era of globalisation, but the perceived increasing accumulation of wealth of a limited circle of those who are close to state power, as well as the unchanged deprived status of the vast majority, worsen the situation.

Thus, we consider the following points important:

- Economic growth should be considered along with issues of governance, redress of social disparities, democratisation, and peace, and the same should be applied to private investors;
- Greater investment in prevention by strengthening early warning mechanisms and preventive diplomacy should be made, since solving and reconstructing is much more costly;
- African ownership and empowerment of AU/NEPAD is crucial, as is supporting these institutions financially and their capacity building needs;
- There is, however, rising concern with the political will of some leaders and the ability of these organisations to prevent or solve these problems effectively;
- It is necessary to reconsider current electoral schemes/processes and external support; and
- The required period for post-conflict peace-building is longer than previously perceived by

donors, and donors have to apply long-term and sustainable assistance with special attention to socio-political circumstances such as identity-based politics, social inequality and justice.

### (3) Recommendations

#### ▪ **International donors should:**

- not involve Africa in the “war on terror”;
- be conscious to “Do No Harm” as an important concept within the context of issues in Africa;
- not implement investment, trade and aid that sharpens social inequality and divide;
- encourage new donors to participate in international agreements against bribery/corruption, resource exploitation and others;
- invest more in conflict prevention through utilising early warning systems and preventative diplomacy;
- promote the small arms control agreement;
- support assistance and monitor the conflict-solving ability of African regional organisations with a focus on accountability for people in Africa;
- assist efforts for peace consolidation in the post-conflict countries, not only at national levels but also sustainably at grassroots levels; and
- review and improve involvement and assistance to electoral processes in Africa.

#### **In particular, the Japanese government should:**

- prioritise prevention diplomacy and contribute to lasting peace;
  - recognise and fund grassroots peace initiatives, and the activities of civil society;
  - encourage China to adhere to international guidelines and agreements;
  - make more efforts to enforce non-proliferation of small arms in Africa;
  - proactively commit to the creation and participation of an international framework for resource management instead of focusing on “resource-diplomacy competition”;
  - provide electoral assistances to support receiving governments in conducting “free and fair” elections, and provide legitimacy to election results and transparency of electoral processes by encouraging the conduct of long-term election observation activities;
  - maintain and further commit itself to human resource development for peace-building to make modest contributions to achieve lasting peace in Africa; and
  - fund initiatives of AU/NEPAD for conflict prevention and resolution and peace-building.
- #### ▪ **African governments and regional organisations should:**
- enforce the conflict prevention and resolution capacity of the AU;
  - avoid identity-based politics;
  - establish sound resource management with profits that reach people directly;
  - establish independent electoral commissions;
  - guarantee the free movement of both national and international election observers once invited to observe the electoral process;
  - reconsider the majoritarian (winner-takes-all) approach in elections;
  - promote and operationalise the concept of “Security Sector Reform,” with an emphasis on transparency and democratic control of the security sector, and refrain from using the term

within the context of “war on terror” indicating a sole focus on modernisation of armed forces and gendarmerie;

- secure freedom of the media and activities of civil society; and
- include women and civil society in peace negotiations and planning and implementation and monitoring of peace-building activities.

### 3. Environmental Protection and Climate Change

#### (1) Overview

The environment and environmental change (caused by climate and other, mostly socio-economic processes) are now considered key issues in mediating human development, both in Africa and elsewhere. African agriculture and food security are seriously threatened by increasing climate variability and change. The vulnerability of Africa in terms of the environment is particularly acute due to a very high degree of reliance on the natural environment for subsistence and life support. Rapid environmental change leads to visible damage to ecology, and knowledge, technology, skills and funds for sustainable socio-ecological development are extremely inadequate.

Due to lack of industrialisation producing secondary and tertiary/quaternary industry, the natural environment still act as a backbone resource for survival and subsistence at the household level and as a resource for exports in Africa (with exception of South Africa). Meanwhile, whilst endowed with diverse natural resources, Africa is currently confronted with environmental issues such as:

- depletion of resources in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry due to damage done by socio-economic practices and biophysical processes;
- desertification and aridification of the surface environment, particularly in arid semi-tropical zones;
- air and water pollution, particularly in urban areas;
- rapid growth of urban zones polluting and increasing pressure on environmental resources;
- soil degradation;
- loss of biodiversity;
- vulnerability to naturally occurring disasters such as flood and drought;
- water scarcity; and
- lack of energy to use environmental resources sustainably.

Environmental challenges are caused, among other things by:

- demographic change, particularly population increase and migratory dynamics;
- increased climate variability and change ;
- armed conflicts that consume and destroy natural resources, and moreover create numbers of refugees;
- inappropriate technologies including GMO-GE;
- government policies oriented towards economic growth at any cost leading to loss of self sufficiency in food, which is a key causal factor of underdevelopment in LDCs;
- corruption and illegal practices e.g. logging and destruction of natural flora and fauna in forestry;
- lack of institutional and adaptive capacity among governments and CSOs;
- pressure from developed countries to exploit natural resources; and
- lack of choices in productive activities to support lives and livelihoods.

#### (2) How TICAD should address this issue

- Enhance institutional, financial and technical capacity of governments and CSOs in Africa by:
  - promoting technical skills in areas such as climate dynamics, agricultural practice, and forestry, and environmental management;

- enhancing the field of communications including the management of risk and human resources, as well as management of information and data;
- providing resources and infrastructure for knowledge exchange between Japanese and African civil society on successful practices by Japanese experts in and out of Africa.
- Provide more opportunities for researchers and African NGOs to access knowledge and skills employed in Japan, especially in renewable energy (such as mini-hydro, solar and wind) and climate-proofing technologies for environmental stewardship and better ecological utilisation of resources in agriculture e.g. irrigation, and in fisheries and land management;
- Provide funding and support for African researchers to access higher education opportunities, particularly in environmental management in African institutions capacitated by Japan;
- Increase the processing of raw materials creating added value in Africa, so that the exploitation of primary production can be controlled;
- Investigate and promote efficient management of existing bio-fuel plantations and guard against the destruction of environmental resources by new plantations that reduce biodiversity, damage societal structure and diminish traditional food production for subsistence;
- Provide support for the purification and reclamation of land and water sources polluted by resource extraction such as mining;
- Mitigate African GHG emissions through ecosystem restoration (reforestation, CDM, etc) and investigate how local people protect and conserve forests and other resources;
- Increase adaptable funding in favour of vulnerable groups and responsible CSOs; and
- Provide training and capacity building for identification, assessment and communication of sensitivity and vulnerability to increasing climate change, and capacity building for adaptation.

### (3) Recommendations

#### A. The donor community should:

- make mainstream environmental concerns about trade and investment and address concerns raised by exploitation of GMO-GE technology;
- re-orient ODA in favour of poverty reduction and environmentally sustainable development;
- cancel the debts of the poorest countries and increase ODA aid in various fields.
- plan to achieve the target for GHG emission reductions under the Kyoto Protocol;
- involve other signatories to implement the Kyoto commitment;
- explore feasible global mechanism against climate change, and for mitigation and adaptation beyond the Kyoto protocol which expires in 2012; and
- ensure that resources and training are provided for policy and decision makers in environmental concerns and adaptation to environmental exigencies led by decentralised bodies of authority and institutions supported by government.

#### **In particular, the Japanese government should:**

- extend the provision of funds and create practicable strategies for the Japanese development agency (JICA) and Japanese NGOs to work on programs designed for adaptation to climate change and better practices in agriculture and fisheries and environmental conservation;
- invest more resources in academic and educational opportunities for African researchers and practitioners in environmental management;

- invest more in pure and participative action research into issues related to the environment, both in Japan and Africa;
- make better use of existing academic research carried out by Japanese researchers who have in the past and present been carrying out extensive socio-ecological research. Much of this work remains untouched in academic institutions in Japan; and
- increase fund and technical support for environment conservation.

**African governments and regional organisations should:**

- strengthen national and regional (SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS) policies in favour of poverty reduction and environmental management;
- increase awareness of the environment for its stabilisation through public campaigns;
- make mainstream environmental concerns in all government policies (climate-proofing);
- strengthen government and CSO capacity in environmental management;
- utilise indigenous/traditional knowledge of environment conservation, coping/management strategies, and good practices in climate variability and change, which are not new; and
- enact and implement policies to address GMO-GE concerns.

## 4. Establishing TICAD Watch Process

At TICAD III, implementation of a follow-up mechanism for TICAD was declared by ex-Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, but it has not yet materialised. African and Japanese civil society urges TICAD co-organisers to create this mechanism and to include civil society fully in the following bodies:

- o Secretariat;
- o Committee; and
- o Ministerial meeting as a follow-up meeting.

The above is to take responsibility for efforts with TICAD co-organisers and both African and Japanese governments to make TICAD more action-oriented, effective and inclusive. As an independent social organ, civil society also proposes to create the 'TICAD Watch Process'.

African and Japanese civil society requests all stakeholders to support:

- the constructive engagement of civil society in TICAD and its follow up process;
- capacity building of CSOs; and
- efforts towards maintenance of networking among African CSOs and between African and Asian (including Japanese) CSOs.

### Outline of TICAD Watch Process is as follows:

#### a - Goals:

- Realising a development process that locates African people as active agents.
- Developing an African and Japan CSO Network for promoting African development and follow-up to the TICAD.

#### Specifics Goals are to:

- hold both Japanese and African governments accountable to the commitments made through the TICAD process;
- evaluate the TICAD process in order to feed into the annual report by the Committee planned for establishment, make policy recommendations to reflect the voices of deprived and marginalised people; and
- report the TICAD process to the public and to civil society.

#### b - Purpose:

- Contributing to greater efficiency of TICAD as an instrument for African development.
- Changing Japanese policies and cooperation towards Africa to be more oriented to supporting civil society.

#### c - Activities:

- CAMPAIGN FOR ALL AFRICA; facilitates the participation of civil society in realising the outcome of the TICAD. It will raise awareness among people and communities about the TICAD, and will contribute to collecting and structuring the voices of African people and civil society organisations so that the commitments of the TICAD are well communicated among the people it aspires to support. For this campaign, CSOs will:

- review and sensitise African CSOs to the outcome of TICAD IV;
- assess the level of contributions of African CSOs in the final agreement signed by the leaders in Japan;
- locate and define CSOs' responsibilities and expectations with regard to the priority actions;
- determine working arrangements for optimum contribution on the basis of the priority action plans listed within the framework of the partnership;
- explore and define the role of CSOs in the implementation process vis-a-vis other stakeholders;
- evolve appropriate methods of delivering rapid and concrete results and appropriate strategy for adding value to the process;
- explore financing options for some of the identified priority actions.

- “VEILLE CITOYENNE PERMANENTE”: is Follow-up, Analysis and Interpretation of the realisation of the Yokohama Declaration and Action Plan of TICAD IV. This will be presented as an evaluation emphasising policy recommendations and reflects the voices of the people.

- Periodic publication of ALTERNATIVE REPORTS targeted at the public and civil society organisations on thematic issues that have been covered in the TICAD process.

- NETWORK OF AFRICAN AND JAPANESE NGOs is an institution responsible for the TICAD follow-up. Its objectives are:
  - to develop lobbying and advocacy in order to stimulate public debate in Africa, Japan, and the international arena on development in Africa;
  - to create and facilitate the dynamism of complementary actions of various actors in development in order to motivate societal and political changes;
  - to set up a program of capacity building targeted at African and Japanese civil society for:
    - organisational and management skills;
    - lobbying and advocacy;
    - communication and knowledge of new technology;
    - networking (especially to invite organisations that work in priority areas of the Voices of Africa and Japan Civil Society); and
    - exchange of good practice.

◆ **African NGOs**

**Civic Commission for Africa (C-CfA):**

African Development Programme (ADP), Ghana / Réseau Glegbenu de Social Watch Bénin, Benin / Network Africa Asia (N2A), Cote d'Ivoire / Président de l'Association Pour la Défense des Consommateurs (APDC), Cameroon / Youth Network for MDG, Madagascar / Civil Society Alternative Process of Sierra Leone (CSAP-SL), Sierra Leone / The Botswana Council of NGOs (BOCONGO), Botswana / Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS), Mauritius. / Conseil de ONG d'Appui au Développement (CONGAD), Senegal / Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA), Ethiopia / Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN), Malawi / Conseil de Concertation et d'Appui aux ONG (CCA-ORG), Mali / G-20, Mozambique / Pro-Poor Governance Network, Nigeria / MVIWATA, Tanzania / African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), Zimbabwe / PELUM Association / Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA) / Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) / The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices (IAC) / Global Call Against Poverty (G-CAP) Kenya: Kenya Youth Education & Community Development program / Education for life institute / Center for Reforms Management / Action Aid International Kenya (25 NGOs)

**C-CfA Observer NGOs:**

Hoima Environmental Project (HEP), Uganda / Network for Good Governance (GNNG), Cameroon / Angolan Action for Development (AAD), Angola / Development Initiatives Network (DIN), Nigeria / Niger Association Nigérienne des Scouts de l'Environnement (ANSEN), Niger (6 NGOs)

**NEPAD CSOs Platform:**

ansedi, Algeria / Mwengo, Tanzania / Clear Women, Kenya / Community Aid International, Kenya / Positive Africa, Cameroon & Cote D'Ivoire / Africa Peace, Benin & Togo / Nangosa, South Africa / Fncaph-Unaphac, Cameroon / Foscam, Cameroon / Africa Youth Trust, Kenya / Agropast, Cote D'Ivoire (11 NGOs)

**Other NGO Coalitions:**

**Africa Public Health Alliance & 15% Now Campaign / IPPF Africa Region representing 44 Member Associations / African Council of AIDS Service Organizations (AfriCASO) / the African Civil Society Coalition on AIDS / Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO) / Kenya Debt Relief Network (KENDREN), Kenya**

**Other Independent NGOs:**

Environment Development Action in the Third World (ENDA-TM), Senegal / l'UNAPHAC et de la FACAPH, Cameroon / International Forum for Rural Transport and Development Africa, Kenya / End Water Poverty Campaign – West Africa / ANEW – West Africa / RADDHO / WaterAid West Africa ( 7NGOs)

**African Diaspora Coalition:**

Global African Diaspora Coalition Africa (GLAD)

◆ **Japanese NGOS:**

**TICAD IV NGO Network (TNnet):**

ASHINAGA / ADEO Japan / Community Action Development Organisation / Africa Shumpei Kambe Fellowship / Africa Japan Forum (AJF) / Africa Reconciliation Committee (ARC) / Africa-Rikai Project / AFRIC Africa (Association for Field

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Research Information and Collaboration in Africa) / Our Planet-TV / AIDS orphans support NGO • PLAS / NGO DOJYO / Oxfam Japan / People to People Aid, Japan / CARE International Japan / Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association / Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation / THE DAPAD FOUNDATION / SUPA=Association of Support for people in West Africa / Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) / Space Allies / TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF) / Japan National Assembly of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI-Japan) / Association for Aid and Relief, Japan / Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC) / Foster Parents Plan of Japan (Plan Japan) / RESULTS Japan / Japan Association of NGOs for Agriculture and Rural Development / The Baobab Association ( The Baobab ) / HUNGER FREE WORLD / Peace Winds Japan / Hottokenai, Sekai no Mazushisa / Don't Let It Be: World Poverty -GCAP Japan / Action for Greening Sahel / Yokohama NGO Network / World Clean Project / World Vision Japan (35 NGOs)

**Contact:**

**In Africa: Civic Commission for Africa (C-CfA)**

c/o Réseau Glegbenu de Social Watch Bénin

Mr. Gustave Assah (Chair of C-CfA )

02 BP 937 Cotonou BENIN

Tel: +229-213-20503

E-mail: [chantierjeunes@yahoo.fr](mailto:chantierjeunes@yahoo.fr)

**In Japan: Secretariat of TICAD IV • NGO Network (TNnet)**

**TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF)**

c/o Institute of Asia Pacific Studies, Waseda University Rm 613-6,

7F Soudai nishiwaseda Bldg, Nishiwaseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0051 JAPAN

Tel/FAX: 81-3-5286-8261 E-mail: [office@ticad-csf.net](mailto:office@ticad-csf.net)

<http://www.ticad-csf.net/TNnet/english.htm>