

# Voices 2008

## Recommendations from African and Japanese Civil Society to TICAD IV

### Executive Summary

13 March, 2008

(The entire "Voices" is at <http://www.ticad-csf/TNnet>)

#### 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 To Action Against Poverty (G-CAP) Kenya (21 NGOs)
- C-CfA Observer NGOs: Hoima Environmental Project (HEP), Uganda / Network for Good Governance (NGGG), 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 (AfrCASO) / the African Civil Society Coalition on AIDS / Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO) / Kenya Debt Relief Network (KENDREN) / Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Africa
- Other Independent NGOs: Environment Development Action in the Third World (ENDA-TM), Senegal / IUNAPHAC 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

#### Japanese NGOS:

- TICAD IV NGO Network (TNnet): ASHINAGA, ADEO Japan, Community Action Development Organisation( CanDo ), Africa Shumpei Kambe Fellowship, Africa Japan Forum, Africa Reconciliation Committee, Africa-Rikai Project, Association for Field Research information and Collaboration in Africa, Our Planet-TV, AIDS orphans support NGO • PLAS, NGO DOJYO, Ehime Global Network, Oxfam Japan, People to People Aid, Japan, CARE International Japan, Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation ( JANIC ) ,THE DAPAD FOUNDATION, Supa=Association of Support for people in West Africa, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP), Committee for Assisting and Promoting Education of the Disabled in Sudan, Space Allies, TICAD Civil Society Forum, Japan National Assembly of Disabled Peoples' International(DPI-Japan), Association for Aid and Relief, JAPAN, Japan Africa Friendship Association, Japan International Volunteer Center( JVC ), Foster Parents Plan of Japan (Plan Japan), RESULT Japan, Japan Association of NGOs for Agriculture and Rural Development ( JANARD ) , The Baobab Association ( The Baobab ) ,HUNGER FREE WORLD, Peace Winds Japan ( PWJ ) , Peacebuilders, HOT AFRICA, FAN3-fan saba-, Hottokenai, Sekai no Mazushisa / Don't Let It Be: World Poverty/GCAP Japan, Action for greening Sahel, Japan Forum for Future Strategic Initiative ( JFFSI ) ,Yokohama NGO Network, World Clean Project, World Vision Japan, Wakachiai Project (43 NGOs)

#### Contacts

##### 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: TICAD IV NGO Network (TNnet) Secretariat: TICAD Civil Society Forum

c/o Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Rm613-6, 1-21-1,  
7F Soudainishiwaseda Bldg., Nishiwaseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0051 Japan  
URL: <http://www.ticad-csf.net/TNnet/english.htm>  
TEL&FAX: +81-3-5286-8261 E-mail: [tnnet\\_info@ticad-csf.net](mailto:tnnet_info@ticad-csf.net) / [office@ticad-csf.net](mailto:office@ticad-csf.net)  
<http://www.ticad-csf/TNnet/>

\* TICAD IV - NGO network, or "TNnet" was established in March 2007 to call on TICAD to officially and actively involve civil society in TICAD IV (May 28-30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Yokohama) and its processes. Members are 43 Japanese NGOs.

\* This "Voices" has been produced by African and Japanese civil society to make specific recommendations to TICAD IV. The original opinions have been collected from Africa. African and Japanese civil society has made unremitting discussions to finalise "Voices". This is the fruit of over 100 African NGOs and 43 Japanese NGOs.

## Preamble

We, the civil society of Africa and Japan, have organised and participated in the series of dialogues in the process toward TICAD IV starting from September 2007. These discussions and the outcomes have been summarised in this document.

Whereas much of Africa has recently been experiencing positive economic growth, vast majority of people in Africa has yet to receive its benefit and continue to bear the burden of poverty resulting from inequality and injustice. Despite the tremendous steps taken, Africa is the continent furthest away from achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In addition to the problems of political stability, conflict, and poor-governance, environmental degradation and climate change are now posing new challenge.

We are determined to address this state of affairs and present our concrete and actionable set of recommendations based on the civil society's point of view, in line with the themes identified by TICAD outlined below.

1. Boosting economic growth
2. Ensuring human security
  - 2-1. Achieving MDGs
  - 2-2. Consolidations of peace and democracy
3. Environmental protection and climate change
4. Establishing TICAD watch process

The above areas are closely inter-related, so the challenges addressed can only be tackled by an integrated approach with genuine partnership of a wider range of stakeholders, including various levels of government, private sectors and civil society. As we recognise that good governance is the key in order to bring positive changes to the life of the African people, we call for the engagement of civil society throughout the process of design, implementation, evaluation and monitoring to attain transparency and accountability in African development.

## 1. Boosting Economic Growth

We hope that in African countries, economic growth could contribute to improve people's livelihood and to achieve MDGs. Rising violence, instability and frustration seen in certain African countries, despite the realisation of economic growth, such as the ones after presidential elections, show that economic growth if not matched with social development would reinforce and deepen inequality which causes social unrest and damages human security.

The following four issues should be given particular focus:

- Enhance human development that are fundamental to poverty reduction;
- Ensure that infrastructure development responds to both social / livelihood needs as well as broad economic considerations;
- Develop people's productive skills and capacities through technology transfer; and
- Address social distortions, including gender inequalities.

Therefore, we make the following recommendations to tackle the issues:

- Make concerted efforts to fight corruption;
- Make efforts in reducing social distortions, including gender inequalities;
- Support CSOs in order to strengthen their role in national and international policy agenda setting and also empower rural communities;
- Ensure transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of aid; and

- Support African entrepreneurship, enterprise development and capital accumulation by preferential trading conditions and promoting micro-credit/savings among the deprived people.

TICAD IV should propose solutions to reduce both poverty and inequality. Especially in agriculture sector which has a large working force and is essential to reduce hunger, a large amount of fund should be invested to secure food security and to reduce poverty. Moreover this fund should contribute to empowering rural communities. Therefore we require rural social institutions such as micro-credit system for the poor and pro-poor infrastructure development.

Also we strongly recommend that the Japanese Government increases the amount of ODA and promotes its untying. The proportion of grants should also be increased

## **2. Human Security**

We, the civil society of Africa and Japan, believe that human security should be the basis of state security. In order to attain human security, human dignity as well as human rights should be ensured. Many African people, however, suffer from various kinds of human insecurity associated with fear and unfulfilled basic rights and needs. Their insecurity stems from unstable political environment, poverty, gender inequality, income disparity, and ethnic / tribal animosities.

We understand that human security is closely linked to economic growth, sustainable environments, and robust human development. TICAD should put rights and dignity of people at the centre of development and their interrelated issues. Basic human rights should be protected and universal access to basic social services, such as education, water, and health care should be ensured through rights-based approach with community-based intervention. In the efforts to promote dignity of all the people, TICAD must address gender inequalities and especially respect minorities, including differently-abled people, the elderly, children and other vulnerable groups.

We present recommendations toward the international donor community, including the Japanese government and African partners. In our recommendations, we put emphasis on pro-poor policy to protect basic human rights; protection of vulnerable population for promotion of their dignity; civil society's involvement to increase accountability as well as to promote effective delivery of services; and political stability and good governance to achieve tangible outcomes from investment.

### **2.1. Achieving MDGs**

In spite of various efforts taken and some progress made as a result recent UN study on Africa and MDGs reveals that, unfortunately, Africa is the continent furthest away from achieving MDGs. Lack of financial resources, both in terms of domestic investment and overseas aid, weak social sector, lack of efficiency, weak political will coupled with structural problems such as poverty and conflict, hinder the massive progress toward MDGs.

Therefore, we request TICAD to:

- Acknowledge that investment in social development and achieving gender equality are key to achieve MDGs, and hence to reduce poverty in Africa; and
- Promote the engagement of civil society as equal partners throughout the process of the efforts to achieve MDGs. This is because we know that only with good governance, transparency and accountability, aid will reach people who need it most.

We make specific recommendations on health, education and water, which Japanese government articulated as areas of priority.

We believe that TICAD should act on the following:

#### [Education]

- Support the commitments and efforts of African countries to ensure Education For All of their population.
  - Cf. This is because the international community affirmed that “no government seriously committed to achieving Education For All will be thwarted in their achievement of EFA goals by lack of resources” in the Dakar framework.

#### [Health]

- Support the development and implementation of effective health care and services in African countries in a manner to harmonise and coordinate them with existing commitments, plans and strategies endorsed by African Union (AU) and respective countries.
  - Cf. Sub-Sahara Africa shows the limited progress toward achieving the three Health MDGs. SSA accounts for almost half of annual death of 9.8 million children due to preventable causes, and the lifetime risk of maternal death in this region is extremely high. Life expectancy has dropped into the upper 30s in some SSA countries due to infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS and TB, weak health system and severe shortage of health workers.

#### [Water]

- Allocate more resources in order to fill the access-gap and to ensure protection, good governance, and equitable supply of water.
  - Cf. The Human Development Report summarizes the situation in the continent as; Sub-Sahara Africa is “falling further behind and will account for more than half of the Global water deficit and just under half of the sanitation deficit”. Key issues include, but not limited to, huge service/access gap, inequality in service decisions, lack of political will and weak capacity of civil society as well as local government that results in the lack of transparency and accountability.

## 2.2. Consolidation of Peace and Democracy

The civil society of Africa and Japan highly appreciates the progress for peace in the continent since TICAD III took place: Commitments have been implemented and the regional bodies in Africa have played an important role for ending many conflicts. On the other hand, we are still concerned about some unsolved conflicts and unsettled peace in post-conflict societies. Old issues such as cross-border conflicts and election-related conflicts still remain. In addition, the setting of international politics towards Africa seems to be strongly 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.

As past TICAD addressed, conflicts interrupt African efforts for stable and sustainable 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. “Do No Harm” policy continues to be essential in international aid and investment to Africa. Solving the issues of governance is also necessary.

Consequently, we request the following points:

- Address and assist economic growth in a broader context: Improving governance, redressing social disparities, promoting democratisation and peace are crucial. The same principles should be applied to private investors.
- Improve governance in order to avoid identity-based politics, secure freedom of the media and

activities of civil society, Encourage sound resource management which bring benefits directly to the people in the society with support from donors;

- Encourage new donors to participate in the international agreements against corruption, resource exploitation and others;
- Secure / support free and fair electoral process in order to avoid centralisation of power to the winner of the election by instituting independent electoral commissions and guaranteed long-term election observation activities;
- Enforce / support conflict prevention, resolution, and peace-building capacity of African regional organisations such as AU / NEPAD;
- Strengthen early warning mechanisms and preventive diplomacy;
- Assist efforts for peace consolidation in the post-conflict countries, not only at national levels but also sustainably at grassroots levels;
- Avoid bringing “war on terror” in Africa; and
- Include women and civil society in peace negotiations and planning – implementing - monitoring processes of peace-building together with funding grassroots peace initiatives.

### **3. Environmental Protection and Climate Change**

The environmental change in Africa is attributed to the global climate change and domestic socio-economic activities. Due to the high reliance on the natural environment for subsistence and life support, vast majority of people in Africa are suffering from poverty much worse than before. Furthermore, the socio-economic phenomena such as urbanisation and conflicts lead to pollution, natural resource depletion or the increasing number of refugees.

Hence, we point out the following to be discussed at the coming TICAD IV:

- Enhance institutional, financial and technical capacity of governments and CSOs in Africa. Promote technical skills in areas of climate change, agriculture, forestry, and environmental management;
- Provide funding and support for African researchers to access knowledge or higher education opportunities, particularly in environmental management;
- Increase the processing and manufacturing in Africa so that the continent should not be exploited and confined only as a supplier of raw materials; and
- Investigate and promote equitable management of bio-fuel plantations and guard against the destruction of environmental resources by new plantations that may reduce biodiversity, damage societal structure and diminish traditional food production for subsistence.

All of the issues addressed in the Voices 2008 are inter-related. However, since we know the fact that the poorest and most vulnerable people are the biggest victims of the climate change, we need to declare the issue of environmental change to be of much importance for poverty reduction.

Therefore, we request the international donor community and African governments for:

- Mainstreaming environmental concerns in all African government policies;
- Re-orienting ODA in favour of poverty reduction and environmentally sustainable development;
- Strengthening regional(SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS), national(government) and grassroots(CSOs) capacity in environmental management in order to realise policies in favour of poverty reduction;
- Planning to achieve the target for GHG emission reductions under the Kyoto Protocol and explore feasible global mechanism for mitigation and adaptation beyond the protocol; and
- Mainstreaming environmental concerns related to trade and investment, and address concerns raised by exploitation of GMO-GE technology.

#### **4. Establishing TICAD Watch Process**

At TICAD III, implementation of a follow-up mechanism for TICAD was declared by the former Prime Minister Mr. Junichiro Koizumi. The civil society of Africa and Japan urges TICAD co-organisers to set up this mechanism, and to realise the full participation of civil society in its secretariat, committees, and ministerial meetings (following-up meeting of TICAD). This is essential in order to make TICAD more action-oriented, effective and inclusive. Civil society also proposes to create the 'TICAD Watch Process' as an independent social institution.

To gain support from all stakeholders for this initiative, TICAD should propose the following points:

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

#### **Goals of TICAD Watch Process are to:**

- Realise a development process that locates African people as active agents.
- Develop an African and Japan CSO Network for promoting African development and for continued process of TICAD.