

Resolution on Japan's Development Cooperation in the Lead-up to the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8)

June 8, 2022

Special Committee on Official Development Assistance and Related Matters
as well as Okinawa and Northern Problems, House of Councillors

The global spread of COVID-19 has shown no sign of abating even as we enter the third year of its outbreak. Additionally, Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine shakes the very foundation of the international order based on the rule of law.

Under such circumstances, the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) will be held this August. TICAD is an inclusive and open international conference on the development of Africa and has functioned as a platform for forming a common view among diverse actors and cooperatively dealing with challenges. TICAD 8 will be a turning point to overcome the pandemic and rebuild society toward the subsequent future, and is also positioned as an opportunity for Japan to broadly communicate its determination to fully defend the international order based on the rule of law amid Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Given these factors, in relation to Japan's development cooperation, the government should take appropriate measures as follows, in consideration of the impact of the current situation in Ukraine on energy security and food security.

1. Communicate the significance of international order based on the rule of law through the TICAD process

Russia's aggression against Ukraine constitutes illegal use of force forbidden by the Charter of the United Nations. This March, when two resolutions, including that demanding Russia to cease its use of force, were

adopted in the Emergency Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly, a number of African countries abstained or chose not to vote. Since the Indo-Pacific region is the world's growth center, holding more than half of the world's population, it is important for countries in this region to strengthen their governance and ensure peace and prosperity based on common values and principles such as the Charter of the United Nations and the rule of law. Africa also plays a part in this. Through the TICAD process, by cooperating in the self-reliant growth and development of African countries, Japan should strive to be recognized as an indispensable presence and to further permeate these principles, while at the same time playing a proactive role in rebuilding the international order, including reform of the United Nations.

2. Intensively strengthen Universal Health Coverage and stably secure human resources

The foundation of healthcare in Africa is still vulnerable, and the top priority is the initiative to strengthen a system to provide appropriate health and medical services and information at places closest to people. Since fostering human resources in related fields is important in particular, its efforts should be continued intensively. Additionally, in light of the fact that highly educated human resources flow out to other countries and have not led to the improvement of local medical services as a result, efforts should also be accelerated that give them incentives to stay in and contribute to their local communities. With poverty, famine, and various problems remaining unsolved, in achieving the SDGs based on the principle of human security, Japan should consider promoting assistance more effectively while carefully responding to the needs of local people.

3. Promote private investment for drawing out the potential of Africa

Africa is the largest frontier in the 21st century, with abundant resources, high population growth rates, and enormous economic potential. In drawing out the potential of Africa where further high economic growth is

anticipated and getting it on track to sustainable development, private investment is expected to play a significant role. However, Japanese companies are slow in making investments in Africa, and the actual situation is required to be summarized. Considering that start-ups have been making significant breakthroughs in Africa, Japan should endeavor to create opportunities to encourage young Japanese entrepreneurs to make investments in Africa. The background to this situation where investment is not progressing is deeply related to the fact that human security, which is an important premise, is not being met. Therefore, continued efforts should be made to develop a favorable investment environment, such as for achieving political stabilization, improving public security and public health sanitation, fostering a skilled workforce and human resources who will partner with Japanese companies.

4. Strengthen collaboration with NGOs and entrepreneurs

In development cooperation in Africa, grassroots support to directly benefit the poor is very important. Civil society organizations such as NGOs, meticulously responding to local needs, are one of the major actors in Japan's ODA, together with JICA's Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and others, who take a role to realize the "visibility of Japan." Nowadays, entrepreneurs, especially start-ups that cope with social problems regarding poverty, education, the environment or the like through business, are playing significant roles in tackling social issues and promoting the activities of diverse people while also utilizing digital technologies. Taking these points in full consideration, the government of Japan should position NGOs and entrepreneurs as partners and strengthen collaboration with them.

5. ODA understood among the nation

For Japan, having focused on international cooperation for non-military purposes, promoting diplomacy utilizing ODA is extremely significant. Therefore, it is required to increase the ODA budget. However, in

order to carry out ODA under tight financial conditions, it is necessary for each and every individual to understand its significance. In achieving the internationally-agreed target of increasing ODA to 0.7% of gross national income (GNI), the government of Japan should show the significance of development cooperation and present the effect of Japan's ODA broadly to the people through scientific verification based on data.

We hereby resolve to adopt the measures listed above.