

## **KICK OFF PRESS BRIEFING ON TICAD VI SUMMIT AND CONFERENCE**

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### **1.0 Purpose of the ‘Kick-off’ Briefing**

- The main purpose of this initial briefing, is, first and foremost, to bring on board, the Media fraternity and all other national stakeholders in Kenya, to join hands with the Government, in ensuring that the country once again demonstrates to the global community its capacity to host such important international forums. More fundamentally, we also hope that TICAD VI is an opportunity to demonstrate that Kenya and Africa at large is ready to advance the new global agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

### **2.0 Preparations for TICAD VI**

- In the last several months, the Government of Kenya has been working closely with the other co-organizers, i.e the Government of Japan; the UN; UNDP; World Bank and the African Union Commission), to prepare for TICAD VI. To that extent a TICAD VI Secretariat has now been established and is fully operational under the charge of a Director General and Special Envoy, Ambassador Benson Ogotu;

### **3.0 TICAD VI and its Significance**

- The ‘TICAD Process’ as it is now better known, was initiated back in 1993 by the Government of Japan as a platform for policy dialogue on the broader question of African development. As implicit therein, five (5) other sessions have been held before in Japan (courtesy of the Government of Japan). However, in 2013, consensus was reached for a rotational three-year intervals between summits instead of the previous five years. The Nairobi Summit is therefore the first time the forum is being hosted in Africa and hence in itself, of great historic significance because it will definitively put Africa in the driving seat of its affairs.
- TICAD 6 will also be the biggest Summit held since the approval by the global community, of the post-2015 development agenda now officially known as the Sustainable Development Goals, (or simply, the SDGs);

#### **4.0 Delegates and Attendance**

- The Nairobi Summit will be graced by the distinguished presence of non-other than the Prime Minister of Japan: H.E (Mr) Shinzo Abe and officially opened by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta;
- The Summit and conference is to be attended by a majority of the 54 African Heads of State and Governments, as well as representatives of the global development finance community;
- The event will, for the first time in its history, have an interactive session between Heads of State and representatives of business and the private sector. It will also feature representation from other national and continental stakeholder groups; including from Africa's Civil Society Organisations. There will be numerous side events, symposia; business fora and exhibitions mounted by the Japanese Private sector and other interests.

#### **5.0 Substance and Focus of TICAD VI**

- It is important to emphasise that unlike other high end summits whose value citizens in Africa sometimes question, the 'TICAD process' has been structured to offer greater value because of its focus on sectors and issues that clearly affect a good majority of Africans. For instance, TICAD VI will be monitoring and following on specific progress made around the six critical areas that were earmarked under TICAD V; namely: economic growth; infrastructure development; agriculture and farming; Peace and Security in Africa as well as, questions of social inclusivity;
- It is further hoped that a Nairobi Declaration will specifically commit our leaders to the important developmental agenda that advances economic growth issues; industrialization, resilient health systems as well as social stability for shared prosperity.
- **In conclusion**, it has to be emphasized that a key objective of TICAD is presently to cascade the African ownership of its own vision of growth and development. For this reason, one key player in TICAD VI is the African Union through the African Union Commission who have since 2013, spearheaded the policy and implementation framework now officially known as 'Agenda 2063' following on the decisions and agreements by the African Heads of State in marking the previous fifty years of African unity.
- In brief, Agenda 2063 targets greater continental integration; prosperity and growth; good governance and the rule of law; the commonality of an African purpose through a

shared cultural identity; a people-driven development; peace and security, as well as, positioning Africa as a greater global player. Needless to stress, Kenyans should readily see that these collective aspirations to be discussed at the highest levels of Africa's leadership, also dovetails with the country's own national aspirations already articulated in Kenya's own long-term national policy blueprint: the *Kenya Vision 2030*.

**ENDS**