

## **FOURTH TICAD 1V MINISTERIAL FOLLOW- UP MEETING MAY 5-6 2012, MARRAKECH MOROCCO**

*Moving From Agenda Setting to Implementation – The Time Is Now!*

**By Mr Falla Ensa-N'Dayma, Sierra Leone; representing “The Civic Commission of Africa (C-CfA)”**

Your Excellencies, Chairman, Mr. Babacar Cisse, Deputy Assistant Director & Deputy Regional Director for Africa UNDP and Co-Chair Mr. Patrick Hayford, Director UNOSAA; Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

We, members of The Civic Commission of Africa (C-CfA) wish to thank the organizers of the fourth Ministerial Follow up meeting of the TICAD 1V for giving us an opportunity to be a part of this important assembly and to present African Civil Society's views.

As TICAD marks 20 years of existence, C-CfA will like to commend Japan and its partners for the great strides taken and progress achieved through considerable effort for a better Africa. Having been involved with the TICAD since 2005, this is one process that C-CfA can attest to as a success story, and advise all other such processes to borrow a leaf from due to the tangible milestones visible to all.

We note the progress made so far in meeting some of the MDG targets, confirming that setting bold, collective goals, sustained by adequate funding and political commitment in the fight against poverty will yield results. However, we regret that MDG targets that matter most to ordinary, vulnerable citizens, such as MDG 1 on reduction of extreme poverty, MDG 3, 4, 5 on gender equality, child mortality, maternal health and HIV and Aids will not be met. Even those likely to be met such as MDG 2, on universal primary education, face huge challenges across the board on quality and retention especially for girls which is of grave concern.

We commend African Governments for the stable economic growth rate of 5%, even though the impact has failed to trickle down to the most

vulnerable groups such as the poor, women, youth and the disabled; and has failed to translate to jobs especially for the youth. The poor are still deprived of basic amenities like electricity, clean running water, sanitation, basic health services etc. We contend that African governments need to re-focus investment on human security, agriculture, climate change, infrastructure, telecommunications, and energy especially for agro-processing; thereby likely addressing youth unemployment and further economic growth.

We wish to reiterate that quality governance is a key determinant to political and social stability, equitable economic growth, poverty reduction and human security. One lesson from the Yokohama Action Plan is the importance it places on peace and security to the African citizens but this can easily dissipate into vulnerability and fragility in the face of bad governance, poor financial management, citizenship exclusion, and unconstitutional change of government, wars, natural and man-made disasters.

Even though Africa is least polluter, climate change continues to exacerbate inequalities and exert considerable pressure on the efforts to attain the MDGs. We appreciate that Japan has contributed significantly to the Fast-Start Finance, though a closer scrutiny shows that the funds are not additional or new as required under the principles of UNFCCC, but owed funds already committed under ODA. We are concerned with Japan's pull-out from second Commitment Period of Kyoto Protocol and prioritization of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action which is not consistent with the overall African science-based position.

As we move towards TICAD V and the discourse on MDGs and beyond 2015 take momentum, we like to present the following African Civil Society position to the TICAD process:-

1. We support African led initiatives to resolve issues of governance, democracy and transparency policies and processes such as the AU-led APRM processes; and Africa's initiative to address food and fuel price crisis through the 3 main priority areas of agriculture, governance and capacity building;

2. We recognize that meeting the gender based MDG targets on maternal and child health as well as quality, continuing education requires that women are given a greater say in development planning and implementation of policies;
3. We support the consolidation of a common African, endogenous science-based position under the auspices of African Union, AMCEN and African Group of Negotiators on the UNFCCC;
4. We recommend that TICAD V should strengthen the ongoing efforts by African countries to mainstream climate change into national poverty reduction and sustainable development plans and/or strategies.
5. In order to achieve the MDGs in 2015, we recommend the TICAD process to initiate the development of the **urgently needed “new strategies”** for achieving the MDGs in the remaining three years;
6. We affirmatively recommend that the TICAD V process and priority settings should be informed by African Governments and people’s Agendas including the integration of African civil society into the process.

**I thank you ladies and gentlemen for listening to the Civil Society voice.**