



Concept Note

High-Level Side Event

**"TICAD support for democratic governance in Africa
through effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and Yokohama and
Nairobi Declarations"**

on the margins of

The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development

(TICAD VI)

Organizers:

United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

Government of Kenya

The African Union Commission

The African Peer Review Mechanism

Date: Friday, 26 August 2016

Time: 9:00am to 11:00am

Venue: Aberdares Hall, Kenyatta International Convention Centre

Nairobi, Kenya

1. Introduction

The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 27 to 28 August 2016. TICAD VI will be historic, as it is the first-ever TICAD summit to take place in Africa since the inception of TICAD in 1993. This development, which clearly demonstrates the growing ‘African ownership’ of the TICAD process, has been attracting much attention from both African states and TICAD partners.

TICAD VI is also unique because it is being convened whilst the implementation of commitments made at TICAD V, as contained in the Yokohama Declaration and Action Plan (2013-2017), are still on-going. In this respect, TICAD VI will include a focus on key outstanding issues from TICAD V, as well as outline new commitments to support recent and emerging priorities and challenges for Africa’s development.

It is important to recall that the TICAD V Yokohama Declaration and Action Plan included a pillar on “consolidating peace, stability, democracy and good governance”, which comprised of four sector-specific agendas and six outcome targets. This pillar also consisted of eight African efforts to be supported as focus areas of TICAD V, including strengthening of good governance in Africa, especially by supporting implementation of the National Programs of Actions of the reviewed countries within the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) participating countries. Strengthening democratic governance in Africa through TICAD also provides an opportunity to offer technical support to the African Union (AU) Member States towards the universal ratification, implementation and reporting on various African Shared Values instruments which form the APRM standards and codes, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG).

In building on progress made under this pillar, TICAD VI and its proposed Nairobi Declaration aim to, *inter alia*, further galvanize support for democratic governance in Africa, by focusing on a thematic priority area on “Promoting Social Stability for Shared Prosperity”. This thematic area is intended to address a wide range of democratic governance issues, including peace and security, women and youth empowerment, climate change and strengthening of democratic governance institutions, among others. This will be key in demonstrating TICAD’s complementarity with both Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on ‘Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions’, and Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063 on ‘An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law’, which itself aims to establish and operationalize an African Human Security Index for monitoring progress in this area.

Since the last TICAD V in 2013, an important development on strengthening democratic governance in Africa has been the establishment and operationalization of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and Platform by the AU. TICAD VI will thus seek to evaluate this significant development and explore opportunities for enhancing coordination, cooperation and complementarity with the AGA in strengthening democratic governance in Africa. Japan-Africa partnership through TICAD provides another golden opportunity in support of the synergy and complementarity between AGA and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) for there cannot be sustainable

peace without democracy. In the same vein, without peace and democracy, socio-economic development may remain a distant mirage.

Consistent with this thematic area of TICAD VI, as well as with Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda and Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, this High-Level Side Event on “*TICAD support for democratic governance in Africa through the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Nairobi Declaration*” is being organized to identify concrete democratic governance priority areas for Africa that TICAD partners can support over the next three years of TICAD VI (2016-2019), within the context of implementation of its Nairobi Declaration. In particular, the event will provide a platform for TICAD partners to deliberate on how TICAD VI can support the goals and priority areas on democratic governance in Africa that are contained in the APRM National Plan of Actions, Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, including with respect to strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of AGA and its Platform Members such as the APRM and its processes, as well as the establishment and operationalization of the proposed APRM Index and African Human Security Index and State Reporting Process under the ACDEG.

2. Background

TICAD V Yokohama Declaration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, collectively underscore the importance of democratic governance for advancing Africa’s peace, security, human rights and inclusive socio-economic and sustainable development agendas. Consequently, at the continental level, significant efforts are being made to further strengthen the linkages between the African Governance Architecture (AGA), the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and Africa’s development architecture, which is embodied in the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and APRM. In this respect, Agenda 2063’s First Ten-Year Implementation Plan includes a flagship project on ‘silencing the guns by 2020’, which reflects this nexus in its goal to end all wars, civil and violent conflicts, and gender-based violence as well as prevent genocide, and monitor progress through the establishment and operationalization of an African Human Security Index.

More specifically, Agenda 2063’s First Ten-Year Implementation Plan outlines a set of priorities, which were identified by both African Member States and the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), including on the strengthening of democratic governance and capable institutions, social protection, gender equality, women and youth empowerment, and peace and security. Its Aspiration 3, on ‘An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law, particularly outlines specific goals and priority areas for action; namely on entrenching a culture of democratic elections and values, credible electoral processes, popular participation, human rights, justice and the rule of law; improving the quality of democratic governance in Africa through the APRM; and strengthening capable and strong institutions, legislative and judicial independence, transformative leadership, participatory development and local governance.

Each of these priority areas are accompanied by specific targets, process actions and milestones, which are to be achieved by 2023. These include the full operationalization of the AGA platform, as well as its clusters on democracy, governance, human rights,

constitutionalism and humanitarian assistance at continental, regional and national levels; zero tolerance for unconstitutional changes in government; the domestication, ratification, domestication, implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance by all African Member States, and the accession of the APRM by all AU Member States. It also includes indicative strategies for ensuring the full implementation of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, and the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Administration; enhancing legal aid and access to justice as well as effective management of diversity; tackling corruption and promoting effective natural resource governance.

In spite of these normative provisions, challenges remain at the operational level. For instance, elections in Africa continue to be plagued by the 'winner-takes-all' syndrome. Poor diversity management, social exclusion and the marginalization of key groups of citizens, especially youth, increasingly contribute to exacerbating citizens' vulnerabilities and exploitation by radicalized, terrorist and violent extremist groups. Human rights violations and disregard for the rule of law also remain a major challenge. There is growing inequality despite Africa's economic growth trajectory over the last decade, which is exacerbated by other economic challenges such as illicit financial flows, corruption and poor natural resources management. Other governance challenges such as gender inequality, violence against women and girls, youth unemployment and weak social and environmental protection mechanisms also persist. At institutional levels, key African institutions for the promotion of democratic governance in Africa, such as the APRM, remain grossly underfunded and this constrains their functionality and effectiveness.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 both provide a new impetus for addressing Africa's governance challenges, including through their call for the strengthening of regional structures for democratic governance in Africa, such as the APRM. The development of an APRM Index and African Human Security Index would serve as a vital tool for monitoring progress on a range of pro-people governance measures. This will go a long way in ensuring synergy between AGA, APSA and the African development architecture. TICAD VI should aim to fully support these aspirations, goals, priority areas and targets on democratic governance as contained in these global and continental agendas. The importance of such alignment and support is mutually beneficial for Africa and the TICAD process. Moreover, TICAD itself emphasizes a human security and people-centered approach to development, which has underlined the importance of the nexus between socio-economic development, democratic governance, human rights, and peace and stability, in its work since its inception. TICAD V also included a specific focus on supporting the strengthening institutional capacity development of AGA and its Platform Members such as the APRM and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as enhancing support for electoral processes, the improvement of service delivery and security sector reform.

All of these remain highly relevant to the advancement of democratic governance in Africa. As a strategic partner of Africa, TICAD VI support in these areas will be invaluable for enhancing Africa's own efforts to achieve its democratic governance priorities, as contained in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan.

3. Purpose of the High Level Side Event

This High-Level Side Event is being organized to provide a platform for TICAD VI participants to discuss concrete ways in which TICAD can further enhance support for the promotion of democratic governance in Africa, consistent with priorities outlined in Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan. The Event will highlight Africa's own efforts, challenges, opportunities and initiatives in promoting democratic governance particularly through the AGA and the APRM. It will also showcase and seek to generate support among TICAD partners for Africa's efforts in monitoring good governance in Africa through the proposed APRM Index and the African Human Security Index.

4. Specific Objectives of the High-Level Side Event

- 1) To highlight Africa's own efforts and achievements in promoting democratic governance through the African Governance Architecture, including its Platform Members such as the APRM;
- 2) To identify key governance challenges and issues to be urgently addressed, including in the context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, and the Yokohama and Nairobi Declarations and their Implementation Measures;
- 3) To identify potential and concrete entry points and opportunities for TICAD support in promoting democratic governance in Africa, including strengthening and enhancing the capacity of the African Governance Architecture and its Platform Members such as the APRM processes and the establishment and operationalization of the proposed APRM Index and the African Human Security Index; and
- 4) To chart a way forward for accelerating the ratification, domestication and implementation of key AU shared values instruments on democratic governance, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

5. Format of the meeting

The High-Level Side Event will feature a panel discussion, which will provide insights on specific objectives listed above. This will be followed by interactive discussion.

6. Participants

The event will be attended by African Member States, African regional and sub-regional organizations including the African Union, APRM and RECs, development partners, United Nations system entities, representatives of academic institutions, civil society and the private sector and TICAD co-organizers.