



The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development  
(TICAD VI)

Concept Note

**TICAD VI Thematic Session 3:  
“Promoting social stability for shared prosperity”**

Co-Organizers:

United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa  
The African Union

Date: Saturday, 27 August 2016

Time: 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Venue: Aberdares Hall, Kenyatta International Conference Centre  
Nairobi, Kenya

## **Background**

It is well recognized that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no durable peace without development. Violent conflict does not only lead to large-scale loss of life and human suffering but also disrupts or even destroys social and economic activity and infrastructure, often plunging a country's people deep into poverty, dependency and possibly renewed conflict. Where there is war, a few will join armed groups, many will flee and others will hide. As a result, children cannot go to school, businesses cannot invest, recruit or produce and farmers stay away from the market while struggling to cultivate their fields. Building prosperity requires, at a minimum, social stability and the confidence, certainty and hope that is associated with it.

Despite the significant progress Africa has made in setting up a comprehensive peace and security architecture and in preventing, mitigating and resolving conflict on the continent, too many conflicts, some of them protracted, continue to impede development in several African countries. More recently, Africa has also experienced a new set of security threats and challenges emanating from transnational organized crime, violent extremism, terrorism and maritime piracy, which have often taken advantage of Africa's porous borders.

While it is critical to further enhance Africa's capacity to manage and respond to crises, including through increased predictable funding for peace operations and mediation efforts, it is widely acknowledged that durable peace is only attainable through tackling the key drivers and root causes which underpin old and new security threats alike and which are the result of complex linkages between peace, security, governance, human rights and development aspects.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan and the TICAD process have all underscored the importance of addressing the peace-governance-development nexus and the root causes of conflicts, which are key elements in achieving social stability. This is reflected in Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda which seeks to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels" and in Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063 which focuses on achieving "a peaceful and secure Africa". In addition, by developing a continental framework to 'Silence the Guns by 2020', as part of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, the African Union further demonstrated its commitment to end all conflicts and wars, including by tackling their root causes. Both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 are transformative and people-centered frameworks of action that set out a wide range of social, political, economic, environmental and development goals, priorities and targets to ensure that no one is left behind. They are also complementary, mutually reinforcing and closely aligned with the priorities of TICAD, including the Yokohama and Nairobi Declarations.

Three key ways to strengthen social stability through addressing the root causes of conflict are to 1) create inclusive and sustainable livelihoods, 2) address climate change for shared prosperity, and 3) sustain peace through reinforcing good governance with strong institutions.

### Promoting social stability through creating inclusive and sustainable livelihood

Creating employment opportunities, especially to youth and women, fosters social stability by providing young people with sustainable livelihoods, making them less vulnerable to radicalization and recruitment into armed groups and providing them with meaningful alternatives to conflict and violent extremism. To increase employment opportunities, especially in countries dependent on commodity exports or extractive industries, it is critical to accelerate the diversification of the economy. In addition, critical enablers such as land reform, infrastructure investments and the expansion of renewable energies are also needed to create a conducive environment for job creation. At the same time, it is important to provide education, vocational and skills training to youth and women to assist them to take full advantage of economic opportunities and thus help the continent benefit from its demographic dividend. The private sector has an important role to play in both the creation of employment opportunities as well as in providing job and skill training opportunities while governments must provide a business climate and legal, political and economic structures that allow companies to flourish and build sustainable industries.

### Effectively addressing climate change for shared prosperity

African countries are disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change, even though they contribute little to global emission rates. Deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and rising sea levels, among others, are negatively affecting the livelihoods of many Africans, making them vulnerable to the economic incentives offered by extremists and conflict entrepreneurs. In Africa's Sahel region, harsh droughts and food insecurity caused serious instability and fueled violent conflicts while in Niger and Algeria terrorist groups, crime syndicates and illegal traffickers often recruit local vulnerable youths. Building sustainable green, blue and ocean economies and ensuring food security through enhanced agricultural production is crucial to prevent the negative effects of climate change from creating social, political and economic instability in Africa.

### Sustaining peace through reinforcing good governance with strong institutions

Good governance, the rule of law, the protection of human rights and effective, inclusive, accountable, transparent and responsive institutions are all at the center of social stability and indeed peace, security and development. With them, a society will see reduced social unrest, corruption, and illicit financial outflows and increased trust in state institutions, economic activity and overall human development. Equal access to justice, for example, reinforces state authority and stabilizes societies while inclusive, fair and transparent elections help strengthen democratic processes, especially in countries emerging from conflict. African leaders have established a number of groundbreaking norms, policies, instruments and initiatives to foster good governance, democracy and the rule of law. These include the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, which form part of the African Governance Architecture (AGA), as well as more recent efforts aimed at establishing an African Human Security Index, in line with the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063.

To entrench good governance on the continent, it is critical to identify concrete ways for TICAD VI to strengthen Africa's own efforts, including through reinforced support to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the establishment and operationalization of the African Human

Security Index. Building human and institutional capacity to strengthen local and national governments, including security institutions, is particularly critical to social stability, as it capacitates countries to better control their borders, thus reducing cross-border trafficking of weapons, drugs and people as well as inhibiting the cross-border movements of terrorist groups and other armed elements.

### **Objective**

The objective of the session is to discuss concrete ways to utilize the TICAD platform to promote and support social stability in Africa, including through the three pillars of 1) creating inclusive and sustainable livelihoods, 2) addressing climate change for shared prosperity, and 3) sustaining peace through reinforcing good governance with strong institutions.

The session will also provide participants, including senior private sector representatives from Africa and Japan, with an opportunity to share their perspectives and highlight past and future contributions to increasing social stability in Africa.

### **Format**

The session will have the following structure:

- Opening remarks of Co-Chairs
- Keynote speech
- High-Level Panel Discussion (with focus on the three pillars)
- Q&A/General Discussion (with interventions from Member States and the African and Japanese private sector)
- Closing remarks by Co-Chairs

### **Guiding Questions**

#### Pillar 1: Promoting social stability through creating inclusive and sustainable livelihood

- What kind of education, vocational and skills training, and empowerment for youth are most effective to provide them with meaningful alternatives to conflict and violent extremism?
- What is needed to promote women's empowerment and gender equality in socioeconomic activities?
- How can the private sector help in the creation of inclusive and sustainable livelihoods?

#### Pillar 2: Effectively addressing climate change for shared prosperity

- How can Africa utilize the COP 22 to mitigate and counter negative effects of climate change?
- What should be done at policy and programme levels to prevent future social instabilities, which are caused by climate change?
- What are the key obstacles in assuring food security in Africa and what should be done by African states and their partners to overcome these challenges?

Pillar 3: Sustaining peace through reinforcing good governance with strong institutions

- What kind of human and institutional capacity-building is necessary to enhance good governance in Africa?
- What are the major challenges to effectively control borders in Africa to prevent the spread of transnational crime, terrorism and violent extremism and what support can TICAD partners provide to overcome these challenges?
- How can TICAD partners effectively support Africa's own initiatives in promoting good governance, human rights and the rule of law, including supporting the APRM and the establishment of the African Human Security Index?

**Outcome**

The highlights of the discussions as well as recommendations will be shared with all participants in Plenary 3 (in the form of a Chair's summary) and will inform the discussions leading to the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration.