

**STATEMENT BY HON. WYCLIFFE AMBETSA OPARANYA,  
EGH, MP, MINISTER FOR PLANNING, NATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND VISION 2030, KENYA , DURING THE 3<sup>RD</sup>  
TICAD MINISTERIAL FOLLOW - UP MEETING - 1<sup>ST</sup> -2<sup>ND</sup> MAY,  
2011, DAKAR, SENEGAL.**

**Chairperson,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
All Protocols Observed,**

At the outset, let me convey the sympathies of my country Kenya to the Japanese Government during these trying moments of Tsunami, earthquakes and the nuclear accident and the after - effects. We are indeed grateful that Japan could afford to keep this meeting as scheduled despite all these happenings. We pray that all will come to pass and the people of Japan resume their normal life.

I would like also to thank the Government and the people of Senegal for the wonderful hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival to this beautiful city of Dakar. Please accept our heart-felt appreciation for the excellent facilities put at our disposal.

**Chairperson,**

For a long time, Africa has been at the cross-roads. According to the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2011, economic recovery in Africa has been solid but below potential in most countries with economic growth averaging about 5.0 per cent for 2010- 2011. The future looks promising but the challenges ahead are formidable.

Africa can still make an about-turn and become an envy continent to many people. The answer lies with us. Africa is a land of many opportunities considering the huge natural resources it has. With good policies and strategies, growth and development will be quickly achieved and alleviate the main problems of poverty, unemployment arising from rapid population growth, adverse climate change effects to food crisis. We cannot certainly do this on our own. We need the support of our development partners.

**Chairperson,**

Kenya is grateful to the support of Japanese Government and many other development partners in the search for earnest development path. Through their support, Kenya is building its infrastructure especially the roads, port and power generation. Japan provides the highest support in the energy sector. Together with other five financiers, they have sponsored one of the biggest power generation projects, **OLKARIA 1 GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT** with a loan facility of JPY 29.516 billion. Japan extended another loan facility in the Olkaria II project to the tune of Yen 12410 billion. Other than alleviating the energy crisis, these projects have generated employment to Kenyans, both skilled and unskilled. In turn, most factories are now able to operate with minimum power interruptions; hence increasing industrial productivity.

In addition, this project aims to bring about stable electrical power supply in the East African Region.

**Chairperson,**

Kenya has also received substantial support for roads development and, agricultural development and food security from other development partners. We are building road network linking Kenya with the rest of Eastern African countries. The Northern Corridor linking Kenya with Uganda, Rwanda and Congo

is in progress as well as parts of the Great North road linking Tanzania with Kenya and Kenya with Ethiopia. The opening of the roads network will spur growth and trade in all the eastern African countries and economic integration in the region.

**Chairperson,**

I am happy to report that under the implementation of the Yokohama Action Plan significant progress has been made in the infrastructure sector.

**Chairperson,**

A large population of Africa is still largely dependent on agriculture for food, exports, and income earnings. Yet, productivity in this sector lags far behind the phenomenal progress made in other regions of the world. Indeed, this is a key sector for targeting in order to raise the overall productivity and build sufficient food security levels for the African economies. This sector has both forward and backward linkages to overall development.

Increased agricultural production will lead to increased exports, more raw materials for agro-processing, more jobs and income, and empowering of the local communities especially women. They are the bulk who remain in the farms when men travel to towns to look for wage employment.

In addition, African Countries should seriously invest in sustainable food, agricultural and rural development policies as well as trade policies that are conducive to fostering food security for all. All nations should embrace the fundamental element of green growth and low carbon development to ensure sustainable development. This is because, the environment being a common

global public good will clearly suffer if we do not ensure a globally coherent, effective and efficient environment governance system. Through such a global partnership developing countries should be supported to access environment friendly technologies, Technologies like renewable energy using wind-power and geothermal as well as efficient technologies at costs that are affordable to small-scale consumers should be supported.

### **Chairperson,**

There are good reasons to assist Africa raise their levels of investment in order to spur growth, development and lower prevailing poverty levels. However, attention needs to be paid to some challenges associated with investments. These include reducing transactions costs for private enterprise, particularly indirect costs; supporting innovation to take advantage of new technological opportunities; and improving skills and institutional capacity to support productivity growth and competitiveness.

Some of the strategies that could be implemented to sort the above problems include a sound investment climate, adequate and reliable infrastructure, exploiting innovation, mainly underlining the role of information technology and skill formation productivity and competitiveness development and, building institutional capacity, targeting supporting capacity of relevant public institutions for protecting property rights.

### **Chairperson,**

Let me complete my submission by underlying the important role of development partners in Africa's quest for a meaningful partnership in stepping up investment in Africa. It is clear that large-scale investments will need to be front-loaded to ensure the achievement of a "big push". This certainly requires extensive and sustained capital investment. Again, there is need to bridge the gap between available and potential official development assistance. I note that inflows of official development assistance

to Africa increased by nearly 4 per cent in real terms in 2010, but remain well below target levels of inflows which fell short on commitments made by the International community by about \$16 billion in 2010.

In conclusion, Africa will need to enhance partnership and sharing of knowledge and experiences with other developing countries. Efforts to also harness South-South and triangular cooperation should be doubled.

Once again let me sincerely thank the Japanese Government for their commitment to assist in the development of the African Continent.

**Thank you all for your attention.**