

**JOINT STATEMENT ON AFRICA-JAPAN ICT HIGH-LEVEL ROUND TABLE
HELD DURING TICAD7 ON 28 AUGUST 2019
YOKOHAMA, JAPAN**

Introduction

1. We, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of Japan, African countries, development partners, as well as private companies and organizations met in Yokohama, on 28 August 2019, on the occasion of the Africa-Japan ICT HIGH-LEVEL ROUND TABLE in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), on the sidelines of TICAD7.
2. This joint statement brings together the wisdom of people who participated in the roundtable under the co-sponsorship of the MIC and Smart Africa.
3. Japan shared the outcomes of the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Digital Economy, held on 8 and 9 June 2019 in Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, including the notion of the Society 5.0 as a vision of human-centered future society promoted through the digitalization, as well as the discussion and efforts to achieve such a digital society in developing countries and regions. Japan commits itself as the G20 Presidency to further discussions on how to make use of good practices and knowledge, and to set actions into motion to collaborate, cooperate and support efforts for digitalization, including advance progress towards SDGs in developing countries and regions, with a special focus on Africa.
4. We acknowledge that ICT has been an important driver to promote the African Union's Agenda 2063 (Agenda 2063), the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Society 5.0, for a range of social and economic activities and as an engine for economic growth and human prosperity.
5. We share the need to enhance basic education to foster future leaders in Africa, and reaffirm that this needs to continue to be worked on.
6. We believe that digitalization should contribute to improving the quality of life for all people everywhere in Africa, to generate economic growth through innovation and to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.
7. We welcome and affirm to work together, using multi-stakeholder approaches, in order to:
 - Promote access to Broadband Network;
 - Promote the free flow of information;

- Effectively use ICT to address global challenges and opportunities;
- Improve the quality, inter-operativity, and affordability of ICT infrastructure, products and services through investment and fair and transparent policy and legal frameworks that encourage competition;
- Share best practices in the field of cybersecurity.

Course of Action

In order to contribute to achieving both SDGs and Agenda 2063, including promotion of the relationship between Japan and Smart Africa Member States in the area of digital economy, we encourage to the following:

8. We support the vision of Smart Africa to create a single African digital market as well as Smart Africa's priority flagship projects, such as: (i) the Intra-African cross-border connectivity; (ii) the "One Africa Network"; (iii) the Internet accessibility and affordability and (iv) the cross-border interoperable mobile financial service, just to name a few.
9. We affirm central role played by Smart Africa for cooperation between Japan and Africa in the field of ICT to promote Japanese companies' investment and entry into Africa.
10. We affirm the importance of promoting the cooperation between Smart Africa, member states, and Japanese public and private sector to develop technologies and solutions that will contribute to the digital transformation of Africa we encourage strengthening the relationship between Japanese ICT companies and African companies, and startups that use ICT to provide services and solutions such as agriculture, finance, medical care, Smart Cities, Digital Government, and cybersecurity, etc.
11. We promote the use of ICT to enhance education, starting from basic education, in Africa and promote the building of Digital Skills to fuel the Digital Economy in Africa.
12. We recognize the importance of the digitization of terrestrial TV broadcasting in Africa, and promote efforts concerning the migration of terrestrial digital TV systems.
13. We share the importance of quality in ICT infrastructure, which ensures economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost, reliable operation, safety, resilience against natural disasters, and sustainability, aligned with the development needs of African countries.
14. We promote initiatives to build ICT infrastructures and a robust postal network that is resistant to disasters and friendly to environment in Africa, through collaboration with Africa and International Organization (AUC, WBG, ITU, UPU, and others). Especially, Japan encourages initiatives to strengthen the functions of postal network as hubs of various social and economic activities, with effective uses of ICT as necessary, through the activities funded

by Japan's voluntary contributions that have been enhanced to reinforce the role of the world post.

15. We commend the commitment of the World Bank Group (WBG) that pledged USD25B from their own funding for the digital economy transformation in Africa in the next 10 years.
16. We support the efforts of the African Union Commission to develop a digital transformation strategy for Africa to guide a common and coordinated digital agenda for the Continent and to promote and enhance synergies.

We therefore agree to work together to support the socio-economic transformation of Africa by jointly implementing Smart Africa flagship projects, and invite interested partners to join us in this endeavor.

The parties agree to meet before Transform Africa Summit, to be held from 20-23 April in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, in order to identify concrete projects to be implemented to achieve the vision of the creation of a single digital market for Africa. In addition to the MIC and Smart Africa, African countries, international organizations, local governments, private enterprises and related organizations are also invited to actively promote the content contained in this statement in the future.