

2 June, 2013

YOKOHAMA DECLARATION ON DISABILITY 2013

Hand in Hand with a More Inclusive Africa

We, the participants of the Training and Dialogue Program of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on “Mainstreaming of Persons with Disabilities for African Countries (Independent Living Program)”, highly value the contribution to the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process made by all co-organizers. This training program was conducted to assist capacity-building of persons with disabilities and government officials from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, the Republic of South Africa, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe on mainstreaming and empowerment of persons with disabilities in communities, as well as suggesting disability inclusion in TICAD V, which focuses on “Inclusive and Resilient Societies” as an overall theme.

We acknowledge JICA’s contribution on mainstreaming and empowerment of persons with disabilities, through this training program since 2002, in accord with “Human Security” among the fundamental principles of Japan’s aid. Taking advantage of “African Decade of Disabled Persons, 2010-2019,” regional initiatives in the field of disability in Africa have been enhanced. With enactment of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), actions for mainstreaming of persons with disabilities and improvement of their living conditions in communities are also propeled.

We, at the TICAD V side event “Africa-Japan Dialogue on Disability” at JICA Yokohama, Yokohama, Japan, June 2, 2013, organized by JICA and Japan National Assembly of Disabled Peoples’ International (DPI-Japan) and supported by Yokohama City and UNICEF Tokyo Office, adopt this declation, under the concept of “Hand in Hand with a More Inclusive Africa,” to identify the key requirements in further strategic approach in TICAD from the perspective of persons with disabilities.

1. Second African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010 – 2019)

We request all African governments to strengthen the tie with the secretariat of African Decade of Disabled Personss for further implementation of Continental Plan of Action for the African Decade of Disabled Persons. Affirming that the African Union (AU) is the biggest supporter to promote the decade, we also expect the strong support from AU to the secretariat of African Decade of Disabled Persons.

2. Post 2015 Development Agenda

Presenting an opportunity to ensure that the rights, concerns and contributions of persons with disabilities in further development strategy are fully taken into account, please let us urge all the governments involved in TICAD V to include persons with disabilities in the process to lead the High-Level meeting on disability and development in the United Nations General Assembly, which will be held on September 23, 2013, including Regional Consultation in African region and post 2015 development agenda.

3. TICAD Follow-Up Mechanism

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We acknowledge the importance of the Yokohama Declaration and the Action Plan of TICAD V and ask all actors involved in implementation of Action Plan of TICAD V (2013 – 2017) to ensure participation of persons with disabilities in the TICAD Follow-Up mechanism. It is necessary that all actors of TICAD V including AU and Japan government to make TICAD V development process inclusive and accessible.

4. Japan's Approach

Implementation of the CRPD around the world and particularly in Africa, based on the international cooperation (article 32) is essential. Our immediate concern includes women with disabilities (article 6), independent living (IL) (article 19) and inclusive education (article 24). We are, above all, interested in promotion of IL movement as Asia has done with Japanese assistance through the establishment of IL training center. Regarding right to life (article 11) and emergency situations (article 12), we pay particular attention to the tragic mortality rate of persons with disabilities from the earthquake and tsunami in Japan on 11 March 2011, which was twice higher than that of the general public

We herewith express our deepest gratitude to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for its contribution to African development and this training. For inclusive development and achieving global agenda, further implementation of disability inclusive projects is highly expected.

Moving forward, we ask for TICAD to further enhance its efforts to promote disability inclusive development across Africa - so that the benefits can be more widely, more equitably and more sustainably shared amongst all its citizens.

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