

**Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the 11th Investment Focus Group Meeting on the
SADC Investment Policy Framework, on Monday 19 November 2018**

Mr. Chairperson,
The Officials of the Government of the Republic of Zambia,
The Representatives from SADC Countries,
The Officials of SADC, OECD, NEPAD and Other Organizations,
Other Distinguished Participants,
Distinguished Guests,
Representatives from the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I appreciate this opportunity to participate in the 11th Investment Focus Group Meeting on the SADC Investment Policy Framework.

As only last month Japan hosted a TICAD Ministerial Meeting, this meeting today is very timely.

So I would like to thank OECD and SADC, the co-hosts of this meeting.

As stated by Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan at the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, Japan is fully committed to working shoulder to shoulder with Africa.

We have taken serious approaches, to address the issues of Africa, to achieve its transformations.

We will continue to consider practicable solutions in cooperation with Africa, based on the principles of African ownership and international partnership.

From this perspective, I look forward to the discussions in this meeting today.

(Japan's Support to the OECD-NEPAD Africa Investment Initiative)

Japan believes that for further growth of Africa the private sector development and the improvement of the investment environment are

necessary.

With this belief, and bearing in mind the achievements of TICAD and the necessity of promotion of investment in Africa, Japan proposed the OECD-NEPAD Africa Investment Initiative at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in 2005, and it was adopted.

Since 2006 Japan and South Africa have worked as Co-Chairs, and have continuously supported this initiative.

This initiative promoted cooperation between OECD and Africa through policy advices and capacity development at the regional and country levels. We believe that this initiative contributed to deepening understanding of the OECD policy tools and the relevant international standards, particularly by implementing a unique OECD policy dialogue and peer learning.

This year Japan has been supporting promotion of SADC's sustainable industrialization through the participation in the regional and global value chains and the quality infrastructure investment, by its financial contribution to OECD.

We hope that further progress will be made, building upon the achievements made so far, such as the Proposals on the Global Value Chains (GVCs) formulated from 2016 to 2017.

(NEPAD-OECD Sustainable Investment Programme for Africa, SIPA)

Japan is pleased that the OECD-NEPAD Africa Investment Initiative has developed to constitute the NEPAD-OECD Sustainable Investment Programme for Africa, or SIPA for short, and now SIPA is to be implemented.

We understand that the new SIPA attaches importance to continuous improvement of investment environments in Africa, facilitation of regional and global integration and promotion of inclusiveness.

The following 4 action areas of SIPA are all important for facilitating investments in countries in Africa and supporting their economic development: ① building capacity of investment promotion agencies to target sustainable investment, ② supporting improvement in the business

climate through comprehensive assessments of investment policies at the country level, ③ promoting connectivity through quality infrastructure investments and deepening of SME-MNE linkages, and ④ encouraging the responsible conduct of investors.

(Relationship between SIPA and TICAD)

The objectives and the 4 action areas of the new SIPA and the policies and measures of Japan expressed at the TICAD Ministerial Meeting have many things in common, specifically as follows:

First, the importance of the improvement of the business environment.

In order to attract foreign investments, such policies as promoting bilateral investment agreements and tax agreements, improving access to the information relating to efficient administrative systems including anti-corruption measures, and maintaining a stable macroeconomy accompanied by debt sustainability, are important.

Secondly, the promotion of free trade from the viewpoints of facilitation of regional and global integration.

Japan welcomes such measures for the promotion of trade of and investment in Africa, taken by Africa's own initiatives, as the signing of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the initiatives led by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and the establishment of the single aviation market.

Thirdly, connectivity.

Japan has endeavored to strengthen the physical connectivity, the institutional connectivity and the people-to-people connectivity in Africa, through such means as quality infrastructure development.

Japan has actively financed quality infrastructure development projects, in cooperation with the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) led by AU.

Also, Japan has been providing development cooperation for the infrastructure projects which are intended to increase the connectivity of the

land-locked and coastal countries in Africa to global value chains which include Japan.

In August next year Japan will host TICAD 7, a summit level meeting between Japan and African countries, in Yokohama City.

We sincerely hope that the newly formulated SIPA and TICAD will effectively collaborate to contribute to the development of Africa.

(Conclusion)

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Japan's intention to continue to support the efforts of Africa, in cooperation with OECD, NEPAD, SADC and their members.

From this perspective, I very much look forward to the discussions in this meeting today.

Thank you.