

# **TICAD7 Youth Policy Proposal**

**Date:27.8.2019**

**Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability**



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## Preface

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) was first launched in 1993 in Tokyo, Japan with the aim to promote Africa's development through strengthening strong cooperation and partnership. TICAD7 will be held in August with the theme "Africa and Yokohama, Sharing Passion for Future" with the following 3 pillars:

- 1) Economic structural change and improvement of business environment through innovation and involvement of the private sector
- 2) Building a resilient and strong society
- 3) Establishing peace and stability (stimulating Africa to take their own initiatives)

Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability (JYPS) held 2 forums ahead of the TICAD7 conference to be held in August 28-30th 2019. On August 12th, 2019, the "TICAD7 Youth Summit- Together with Youth from Africa and Japan" was held in Tokyo, Japan. On August 27th, "Involvement of Youth and partnership- Establishing SDGs and Agenda 2063" was held as an official side event during the TICAD7 conference. The Youth Policy Proposal was created through gathering the voices of around 200 African and Japanese individuals through these forums and online platforms. Youth under the age of 30 make up the majority of Africa's age pyramid. Therefore it is essential to consider the sustainable development of Africa along with the voices of Youth, and reflecting them into governmental policies. Youth should be regarded as a valuable stakeholder who will bear the future, whose voices should be taken into account in the decision making process. Therefore, the establishment of such processes that allows for voices of youth from Japan and Africa to be reflected in such policies.

The following Youth Declaration was created through the TICAD7 Youth Summit and other online platforms for adequate representation of African and Japanese youth. Setting the 3 pillars of TICAD7 as its foundation, the Youth Declaration has inputted Youth voices from multiple perspectives and backgrounds. This Youth Declaration will be sent to the Japanese government and TICAD co-hosts, TICAD7 participant countries, as well as international organizations that are involved in African development.

### Pillar 1 Accelerating economic transformation and improving business environment through innovation and private sector engagement

We strongly address the fact that upon undergoing economic development, it is important to address problems concerning work and labor, specifically those that concern the young labor force. Currently, many young people find work in the informal sector, unable to find work with stable employment conditions. However, it is important to note that in Africa, the formal sector makes up a small portion of the labor force, when compared to the informal sector which also acts as the biggest safety net. In order to change this situation, there is a strong need for

increased management of the informal sector, and increased job opportunities in the formal sector.

We believe that these unstable work conditions causes not only the mid/ long term impacts on skills, but also creates an impact on skills education in the next generations. Basic education and educational opportunities that unleash the potential of young people is absolutely necessary in order to halt the negative cycle in which unequal opportunities in education leads to unequal opportunities in work. It is also important to create opportunities for life-long learning outside of company trainings and educational institutions like internships and volunteer opportunities where participants can earn new skills.

We urge policy makers for the implementation of domestic policies that allows for equal opportunities in education and work to be open for youth of all race, sex, religion, and origin.

We also believe in the necessity of mental support systems for youth that have anxiety in being able to find a stable job, and acknowledge the fact that these occur in marginalized communities.

We strongly call on for strict regulation in child labor and labor under atrocious work environments, and also for health-care systems systems that allows workers to file complaints and engage in negotiation for better work conditions.

We regard the importance of taking into consideration the differences in culture and tradition as well as communities when undergoing improvements in business environments.

In order to accelerate the use of E-commerce in African countries, there is a need for increased investment into stable IT infrastructure that 'leaves no one behind' which will lead directly to improved business environments. We also address the need for IT literacy training and access to these IT resources.

By taking the B20 Tokyo Summit Joint Declaration "Society 5.0 for SDGs", the African countries should also work to protect intellectual property. We also recommend the international community to open and provide public data on the development of new goods and materials, as well as services.

We recognize the importance that innovation holds for enabling the private sector to create changes in the economic structure. There is a necessity for a curriculum based on advanced tech education in order to accelerate innovation that would, in turn, promote digitalization. Therefore, it is equally important to provide support systems towards entrepreneurs to allow for the maximum opportunities in business based on innovation.

#### Pillar 2 Deepening sustainable and resilient society

We require the need for improvements in the education system to provide a more effective education for as many people as possible. As for elementary education, though a large number

of children have been provided, the quality of education must be improved. We urge for the improvements in infrastructure and quality of middle school education in regions where attendance rates are significantly low compared to other regions. In order to cultivate more high level individuals, we believe that high school education must be provided for as many youth as possible. For that, there must be adjustments to ensure the improvements in faculty, infrastructure, and administration of these schools.

We suggest the introduction of online classes to make up for the shortage of quality teachers and to reach youth that do not have access to regular school.

We propose the following 6 proposals in order to increase human resources that could have a positive impact on economic development and in response to the higher rates of Information and technology communication education (ICT Education):

- 1) Promote exchange programs on ICT education between developed countries
- 2) Create opportunities where youth can collaborate with big businesses and undergo projects
- 3) Create systems that ensure youth have a spot for work in businesses that use ICT
- 4) Promote ICT youth leadership by creating opportunities where youth can interact with engineers from governments, corporations, international organizations, and from developed countries
- 5) Create educational opportunities to increase the number of youth in Tech
- 6) Have periodic meetings and engaging opportunities that extends beyond country borders

We require the ban of corporal punishment that hurts children both mentally and physically, and the introduction of "Positive Discipline" that promotes applause for children.

We call upon governments to recognize and value the contributions of youth such as active citizenship through volunteering to resilient society and sustainable national development.

According to a UNICEF report, 125 million girls in Africa have married before the age of 18, which is known as a child marriage. Furthermore, 1 in 3 girls have married before the age of 18, and about 1 in 10 girls have married before the age of 15. Child marriage is a violation of children's rights and it negatively impacts their growth and development. Although girls are not the only victim of child marriage, they encounter increased risk of maternal death due to pregnancy and childbirth, are vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation and are more likely to get deprived of educational opportunities. Therefore such malicious practice must be abolished immediately to ensure that human security is protected.

We acknowledge the fact that sexuality education and youth friendly health services are not sufficiently available in Africa. In order to ensure our own well-being and informed decision for our own body and future, reduce sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies

and promote gender equality, we demand access to sustainable youth friendly health services and quality comprehensive sexuality education.

We regard that the impacts of climate change to the whole ecological systems including human beings have increased, and that the vulnerability from climate change, especially in developing countries poses a threat to human security. We require sufficient support toward climate change problems from both mitigation and adaptation. To tackle these issues, we urge for both the creation of mitigation and adaptation measure based on ambitious goals.

We call for the development of resilient infrastructure as one of the most effective ways, and propose formulating city development plans that are enable to resist against serious natural disasters such as hurricanes and landslides in Mozambique. In addition, we believe that appropriate education on disaster prevention should be in practice.

In regards to the medical problems in Africa, we believe that the shift from a medical system that places emphasis on the spread of treatment to a system that practices preventative medication is important. There is a need for a sustainable medical treatment that responds to the aging population and in order for cost-effective interventions such as health promotion, prevention, and treatment to take place, we recognize that a change of way for the primary health care system is essential in Africa.

We recognize that in order to provide more quality medical systems, there must be a better support system for the communities. In order to accurately give these communities the support they need, there is a need to gather and organize data on birth and death rates.

We demand the African governments to organize their fiscal order for the allocation of domestic funds to ensure funding for all the necessary medical care.

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During the second Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2019, preparations and responses for the emergency shed light on the vulnerability of local medical facilities. A more efficient system that allows countries to use emergency support from other countries is needed. Strengthening an independent medical system that does not rely on other countries is essential for the African countries, and we urge for an enhancement of advanced medical education and the promotion of training quality medical personnel. In order to avoid the transfer of infectious disease, there is a need to improve the sanitary systems such as sewage and water systems.

In order to protect human security, we demand every African government to expand on the amelioration of living infrastructure such as medical care, education, and social welfare, to meet the basic needs of the people, particularly children and youth that are vulnerable.

Additionally, we emphasize the importance of investments to implement people-centered development, and to support enabling the provision of public services by the Japanese Government and the international society.

We push for the leaders in African countries, the Japanese government, and the international society to proceed the development in Africa in the form along with the framework of international conferences as well as conferences at the United Nation, that are related to development including Sustainable Development Goals.

### Pillar 3 Strengthening peace and stability

We believe that war, terror, and violence poses as a huge barrier in establishing peace and stability in Africa. In order to bring an end to this state of conflict, we urge TICAD to implement policies for planning dispute resolutions. In order to combat violence, extremism, and terror, and extend beyond to prevent new conflicts and old conflicts from resurfacing, there is a need for increased grassroots initiatives to create more resilient communities. This applies to youth because youth are more inclined to be swayed by extremist activities. There is an immediate need for policies and systems that prevents young people from resorting to such extremist ideologies. It is also important that young people who have been left behind are connected back, and are provided opportunities for involvement such as internships and volunteer opportunities to be involved in mediation and peace building processes.

By taking into consideration that current models for refugee aid taken up by UNHCR, government support organizations, as well as NGOs have failed to decrease the number of refugees, we urge on policy makers to create innovative solutions that extends beyond what already exists. We would also like to see trauma removal and mental care aids towards children and youth to be mandatory.

We think that there is a need to regard the problems in Western Sahara as one that threatens the peace, stability, independence, and human rights of all of Africa. Therefore, we urge TICAD to regard this issue, not as the problem of a single region, but as the problem that all of Africa must face in order to realize peace within Africa.