

Resolution on Japan's Development Cooperation in the Lead-up to the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9)

June 11, 2025

Special Committee on Official Development Assistance and Related Matters
as well as Okinawa and Northern Problems, House of Councillors

The Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9) will be held this August. In the international community, in which division and confrontation have been becoming increasingly serious, TICAD is developing mutual trust through dialogues between Japan and African countries, and serving as the basis for further strengthening a relationship as partners that grow together and evolving the partnership in accordance with the changes of the times.

Given these factors, regarding Japan's development cooperation, the government should take appropriate measures with respect to the following matters.

1. For Japan to be the country of choice as a partner

In the present development cooperation, unlike the previous donor-recipient relationship, it has become important to work in cooperation with partner countries with a view to solving social challenges also shared by Japan. In addition, in order to become the "country of choice as a partner" for Africa, a region with growing presence in the international community, which is facing multi-polarization, division and conflicts, it is important for Japan to discuss the specific contents of cooperation after grasping local needs through dialogues and to make proposals to the partner country in solidarity with diverse actors. To this end, the government of Japan should consider various methods in a flexible way, taking into account the situations of each country.

2. Promotion of highly effective cooperation based on the actual situation of Africa

Although Africa has made a significant economic growth since the

beginning of this century when viewed as a whole, a number of development challenges still remain, such as poverty, hunger, widening disparity, and conflicts and violence that might be obstacles to development, necessitating further cooperation in development also in light of achieving SDGs. To this end, in order to ensure that outcomes from development will be shared throughout individual countries, effective efforts should be advanced based on the in-depth analysis of factors that have impeded the development of Africa, informed by the actual situation of Africa such as the size of informal sectors in economy and agriculture mainly composed of peasants and family farming.

3. Coordination of public funds and private funds based on needs

In light of enormous financing needs to achieve SDGs in the face of global challenges such as climate change and infectious diseases, public funds should be secured in an appropriate way, and in addition, against the backdrop of growing importance of the roles played by private funds from investors and other stakeholders who are willing to solve social challenges, further efforts should be exercised to coordinate public funds and private funds effectively based on the sufficient consideration of whether the cooperation will match the needs of the partner country.

4. Promotion of human resources building as driving force of co-creation

Based on the idea that "nation building begins with human resource building," Japan has committed to capacity building through the TICAD process in such fields as industry, health and medicine, agriculture, justice and public administration, by such programs as ABE Initiative (African Business Education Initiative for Youth) and has contributed to the solution of challenges faced by Africa through the activities of these human resources. As such human resources are expected to contribute to the international community and to act as a bridge between Japan and Africa, thus becoming a driving force for co-creation, continued focus should be placed on human resources building efforts, including developing educational opportunities and fostering youth through collaboration among education and research institutes.

5. Enhancement of support for people engaged in international cooperation, including JICA's Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

People engaged in international cooperation, including JICA's Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers marking its 60th anniversary this year, and non-governmental organizations, have acted to ensure the "visibility of Japanese aid," connected people through mutual trust, and played an important role in bringing development cooperation closer to people in Japan. In addition, their experience gained in challenging environments of developing countries is expected to contribute to the solution of domestic social challenges in Japan. Amid the declining birthrate and diversifying opportunities for overseas activity, in order to secure personnel continuously engaged in cooperation activity, more support is necessary from a long-term perspective, including providing support for their career path after returning to Japan, and assistance for starting businesses in developing countries.

6. Development cooperation supported by the people of Japan

The trust of the international community, which has been cultivated through development cooperation, has become the source of Japan's diplomatic capability. Development cooperation requires broader understanding and support from the people, and development cooperation cannot perform its function to the fullest extent without this support. In addition, for gaining the continuous understanding and support from the people for development cooperation financed by taxes and other public funds, including in combination with private funds, it is essential to ensure the effective formulation of projects that clarify the objectives for cooperation based on the needs of partner countries and to ensure the monitoring of development cooperation activity so that Japan's contribution efforts are not wasted. Last of all, efforts should be continued that would allow each and every individual to reaffirm that development cooperation has contributed to the affluence of the people of partner countries, led to the trust in the people of Japan living as members of the international community, and contributed to the attainment of prosperity.

We hereby resolve to adopt the measures listed above.