



STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR EDOUARD BIZIMANA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI ON BEHALF OF H.E AMBASSADOR TÉTE ANTÓNIO MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA AND CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE NINTH (9th) TOKYO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, 19 AUGUST 2025

Excellency Iwaya Takeshi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan and co-Chair of this event;

Excellencies, Ministers, dear colleagues;

Honorable Representatives of the Co-Organisers;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

All Protocol Observed.

It is with great honour and sincere satisfaction that, on behalf of the Chair of the Executive Council of the African Union and on my own behalf, I would first like to warmly thank the Japanese Government and People for the hospitality and courtesy with which they have welcomed us to this magnificent city of Yokohama, a historic port open to the world, a symbol of Japanese modernity and a crossroads of cultures and global trade.

As co- Chair of this meeting, I would like to express my gratitude for the dedication and professionalism shown by the Senior Officials and the Secretariat of the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), who, with zeal and devotion, have meticulously prepared the documents that will serve as the basis for our work, namely the draft Yokohama Declaration of TICAD9. Your efforts reflect the spirit of co-creation that animates this Conference and provide the conditions for constructive dialogue at the highest level.

Excellencies,

We are gathered here today at the ministerial level to strengthen the partnership of friendship and cooperation for development that unites Africa and Japan, by creating a space for consensus to receive the briefing on the document that will be submitted for consideration and decision by the Heads of State and Government at the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

In this context, I consider this consultation to be essential for developing the political and strategic content that will guide the deliberations of the high-level segment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme ‘Co-creating Innovative Solutions with Africa’ is fully in line with the logic of equal partnership that underpins TICAD9, in harmony with the three pillars on which cooperation between the African Union and Japan is based, namely the Economy, Society, and Peace and Stability.

These three pillars are key elements for sustainable, inclusive and resilient development, in line with the African Union's **Agenda 2063 “The Africa We Want”** and the **United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

Excellencies,

I am convinced that this meeting will foster synergies between the public and private sectors, promote regional integration and technological innovation, and contribute to the empowerment of young people and women, thereby ensuring that our partnership responds pragmatically to contemporary global challenges.

I call on each of us to work in a spirit of fraternity, openness, and mutual respect to overcome the outstanding issues arising from the meeting of Senior Officials. It is from this foundation of trust that we can build and strengthen existing cooperation, so that it translates into tangible results for our peoples.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our responsibility to our Member States and future generations requires us to have vision, unity and unwavering determination.

I would like to conclude by expressing my hope that this meeting will renew political commitment and joint action for the success of TICAD9 and the sustainable strengthening of the Africa-Japan partnership.

Thank you for your attention.