

TICAD7 High-Level Side Event

“Towards Enhanced Partnership and Solidarity

to Support Forcibly Displaced Persons in Africa”

Outcome Document

29th August 2019

1. On 29 August 2019, representatives from African states, the African Union Commission, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, civil society organizations, the private sector, refugees and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees gathered in Yokohama, Japan on the occasion of the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7).
2. We discussed efforts to enhance partnership and solidarity in support of forcibly displaced persons in Africa through innovative approaches and financing.
3. The meeting was held in connection with the 2019 African Union theme: “The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa”. The year 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. We noted that the African Union theme of the year has helped to bring global and African focus on forced displacements in Africa, aimed at garnering national and international support in dealing with the root causes of displacements and finding durable solutions. Such efforts will require a whole of society approach and collective commitment.
4. There are more than 7 million refugees and 17.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa; the continent hosts nearly one-third of the world’s refugees and 43% of its IDPs. The exemplary solidarity of African countries and communities in hosting refugees and other forcibly displaced persons was therefore acknowledged.
5. We noted that countries in Africa that receive and host refugees make an immense and generous contribution to the collective good from their own resources.
6. We underlined that humanitarian aid alone is not sufficient to resolve forced displacement in Africa. Host countries and communities need more systematic, long-term and sustainable support to assist uprooted individuals and families. The importance of including refugees and IDPs in the national and local development plans of their host countries and communities was stressed. It was also stressed that solutions are needed to help refugees and IDPs return home if or when the time is right, or to build new lives elsewhere.
7. We recognized that it is imperative that countries hosting refugees and IDPs in Africa continue receiving support from the international community, particularly to meet the livelihood, self-reliance, education and health needs of the forcibly displaced, a significant percentage of whom are women and youth. Reference was made to the new IDA regional sub-window for refugees and host communities established by the World Bank, which has been a catalyst for significant additional multilateral and bilateral development funding. Other institutions involved in Africa

were encouraged to initiate similar approaches aimed at the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and supporting host communities.

8. We also recognized that addressing refugees, IDPs and conflict-related displacement and humanitarian issues is indispensable to Africa's sustainable development. We underlined the need for coherent and consolidated action, taking full account of the humanitarian, development and peace nexus and ensuring human security. The effective and meaningful participation of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons in peace processes and conflict resolution must be ensured.
9. We highlighted the importance of preventing forced displacement. Elements of prevention include resilient state-building for sustainable peace, inclusive governance that promotes peace, reconciliation, the rule of law and human rights. Furthermore, building trust between governments and people, as well as between conflict-affected countries and the international community, is critical.
10. We also agreed that the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018, is a framework for more predictable and equitable burden and responsibility sharing. It recognizes that sustainable solutions to refugee situations can only be achieved with international cooperation and the whole-of-society approach. Similarly, a responsibility sharing approach that provides resources to states with high numbers of IDPs should equally be applied to respond to the growing IDP situation in Africa. The Global Refugee Forum to be held in Geneva in December 2019 was recognized in particular as a critical opportunity to build momentum on GCR implementation and to strengthen collective responses to refugee situations.
11. We noted that Africa's efforts to deal with the humanitarian problems on the continent requires concrete action. We therefore acknowledge the decision by the African Union to establish an African Humanitarian Agency as one of the measures Africa is taking to build its own capacity to respond to humanitarian crisis on the continent. Such measures will also require international support as part of building Africa's capacity and resilience.
12. The private sector is key to addressing the challenge of forced displacement. Through various innovative approaches from the private sector, including but not limited to advanced technology, humanitarian and development assistance in Africa has the potential to be made more effective and efficient. Investment in refugee-hosting communities is one area where the private sector has expertise and a crucial role to play. This should be promoted, including with more flexible laws, policies and regulations.
13. It is crucial to show the positive and productive role displaced persons can play if the right support is provided. Refugees and IDPs must be effectively and meaningfully included in host communities and given the opportunity to realise their full potential for their benefit and that of their hosts. Despite being displaced, they can contribute to local economies and communities as well as to local and national development. Investing in refugees' and IDPs' education and livelihoods will also benefit the development of areas to which they will eventually return.
14. Finally, we reiterated the significance of raising awareness about forced displacement among United Nations member states and of changing narratives about forced displacement, as indispensable to realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goal of "Leaving No One Behind" and the African Union Agenda 2063 goal of "harnessing Africa's potential for development".