



Japan and UNDP  
Advancing Africa's  
Development with  
New Partners



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

## Message from the UNDP Administrator



As a proud founding co-organizer of TICAD, UNDP wishes to express its highest appreciation to the Government of Japan for its unwavering commitment to economic and human development in Africa. Japan's immense contributions to the TICAD process reflects UNDP's foundational belief that sustainable development can only happen with the full participation of a range of partners, including donor and recipient countries, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and civil society.

All these stakeholders must be involved if development initiatives have any hope of flourishing. For example, under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we have witnessed the private sector's ability to take on a broader, more integrated, and concrete role in achieving the SDGs' vision of a low carbon, climate resilient, peaceful, and socially inclusive world.

In Africa, each of the SDGs, along with the African Union's Agenda 2063, offer a wealth of business and investment opportunities in agriculture, education, health, energy infrastructure, manufacturing, and smart cities. UNDP is responding in kind to this new and transformative approach to global development. For example, our 36 Accelerator Labs in Africa will in the very near future enable experimental ideas and the rapid iteration of successful ones, reflecting the need to reimagine how we approach development in the 21st century. Another UNDP flagship initiative is the SDG impact which aims to provide investors, businesses and others with unified standards, tools, and services required to authenticate their contributions to achieving the SDGs and to identify SDG investment opportunities in emerging economies and developing countries.

UNDP is committed to working with African governments, the Government of Japan, the private sector, and other partners to realize a new and more inclusive African development agenda. The establishment of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) means TICAD7 is happening at an opportune time, and no doubt that this will provide us with insights on how we can collectively address the remaining challenges and emerging opportunities to propel sustainable growth in Africa.

**Achim Steiner**  
UNDP Administrator

## Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

The Government of Japan has been working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) over the years in assisting developing countries. In particular, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is a

flagship initiative that exemplifies the partnership between Japan and UNDP in supporting Africa. Launched in 1993 by the initiative of the Government of Japan, TICAD has grown into one of the largest international conferences on African

development, which is co-organized by Japan, UNDP, the United Nations, the World Bank and the African Union Commission (AUC). The seventh summit of TICAD will be held in August 2019 in Yokohama.

TICAD, now established as a global forum for discussion on African development through its long history, focuses on the socio-economic development of Africa through not only aid but also private sector investment in light of the continent's robust economic growth since the mid-2000s. The summit meeting had been held every five years in Japan until TICAD V in 2013, and starting with TICAD VI in Nairobi, Kenya in 2016, it is now being held every three years, alternating between Japan and Africa in light of the heightened ownership of African countries.

More than 11,000 people participated in TICAD VI, including the representatives of 53 African countries, development partners, Asian countries, international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society including NGOs. The Japanese delegation accompanying Prime Minister Abe included representatives from a total of 77 entities including private corporations and universities. Through these figures, we can get a sense of an evolving trend towards the development of Africa through business.

In particular, UNDP will launch a partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) to accelerate support for private-sector development that contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa on the occasion of TICAD7. The partnership of the three parties also aims to strongly support Japanese companies' expansion in Africa and Africa's innovation and entrepreneurship. We strongly hope that the collaboration will connect the strong local network and expertise of UNDP throughout the continent and the framework of support for private companies to invest in Africa implemented by the Government of Japan through JICA and JETRO, which will lead Africa to utilize



the technologies and services Japanese companies have for the socio-economic development of Africa.

In Japan, the Japan Business Council for Africa, co-chaired by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, representatives of the private sector and myself, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs, was launched in June as a permanent platform for public-private dialogue on business in Africa. We renew our commitment to exploring a way to grow together with Africa, recognizing Africa as Japan's key partner having a huge potential, while incorporating the views of international organizations, including UNDP, and regional organizations.

With its expertise on African development accumulated over the years and its extensive networks at the local level, the contribution of UNDP will be crucial for further promoting the partnership between Africa and Japan. The Government of Japan will enhance cooperation with UNDP to strongly contribute to the growth and development of Africa by supporting the achievement of Africa's own initiative, Agenda 2063, as well as the SDGs, which contain international targets to be achieved by 2030.

**Mr KONO Taro**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan

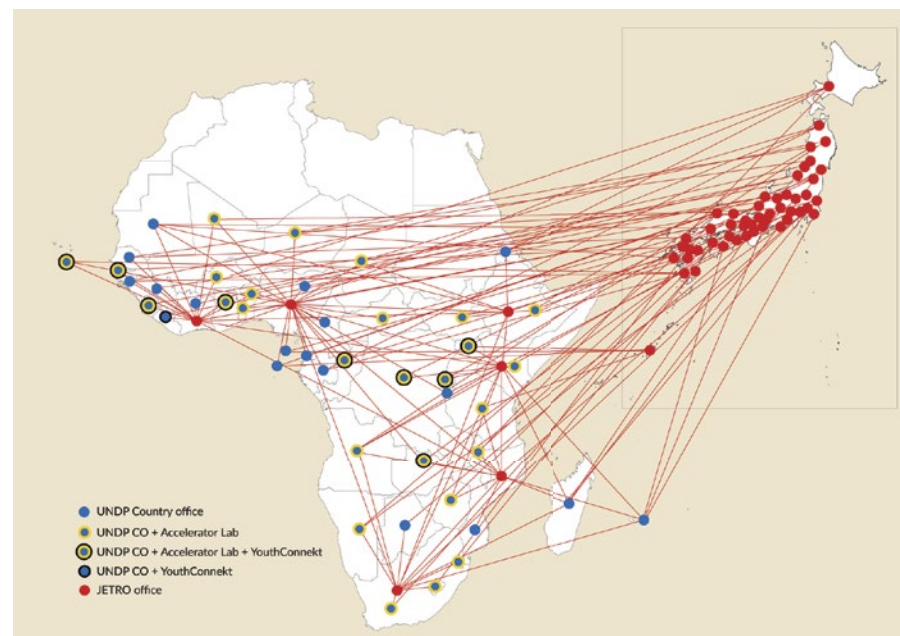


# TICAD 7 and Beyond

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is a multilateral leaders forum on Africa's development. It was first convened in 1993 in Japan. Founded on the principles of Africa's ownership and partnership with the international community, TICAD I was held right after the end of the Cold War to facilitate international cooperation on tackling development challenges facing African countries. The spirit of international partnership is reflected in the composition of TICAD's co-organizers since its inauguration, with the United Nations (UN), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank partnering with the Government of Japan to champion Africa's development. The African Union Commission (AUC) joined TICAD V in 2013 and has since been a strong partner.

In 2018, TICAD marked 25 years of its existence. UNDP and its TICAD partners used this important anniversary to take stock of the enormous economic and social development gains that African countries have made over the

## UNDP helps connects the business communities of Africa and Japan.



past three decades. They also reflected on the critical role played by TICAD in developing international partnerships while also ensuring African ownership of the process.

As a pioneering international forum on Africa's development, TICAD has an established track record of addressing

various issues affecting the continent's growth. While TICAD's unique characteristics as an open and inclusive forum based on the twin principles of Africa's ownership and international partnership have remained constant, issues of focus have evolved over time.

## Leveraging the Role of New Actors

This year, in marking TICAD 7, we focus on the future. UNDP is uniquely prepared to deliver on the forum's promises to African countries, and to ensure TICAD's continuing relevance in a rapidly changing world. Building on its comparative advantage as a field-based development agency, UNDP supports the development priorities of Member States, most of which are also priorities under TICAD, and all of these require new dynamic partnership models for scaling up.

The competitive nature of the global market has led to an urgent need to create a conducive business environment in Africa, especially as the

volatility of global primary commodity prices in recent years has added fiscal strains on many countries and their debt sustainability.

Since TICAD VI, Japan has been taking concrete steps to promote partnerships and investments by the private sector, which is playing an increasingly key role in ensuring sustainable economic growth in Africa. For example, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) now has a partnership with nine investment/business organizations in Africa (see map), while the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) has provided financial support for about 150 feasible studies and pilot cases to enable Japanese corporations to test business models (mainly small and medium-sized enterprises) in Africa.

Echoing the Japanese effort in promoting partnerships by the private sector, UNDP has also contributed to private sector development in Africa. For example, the African Union Commission and UNDP are engaging the private sector to support the Africa Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre (AFIM), which promotes inclusive growth, job creation and food security through inclusive business practices and regional economic integration. To date, over 11,000 small-holder farmers and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) have been supported through interventions in six regional agro-food value chains.

UNDP also partnered with a range of public and private stakeholders in Ethiopia to establish the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX), which provides a single marketplace for coffee, the country's main export. By eliminating middle actors, the ECX has brought integrity, security, and



Malawi's booth at TICAD 6 in Nairobi in 2016.



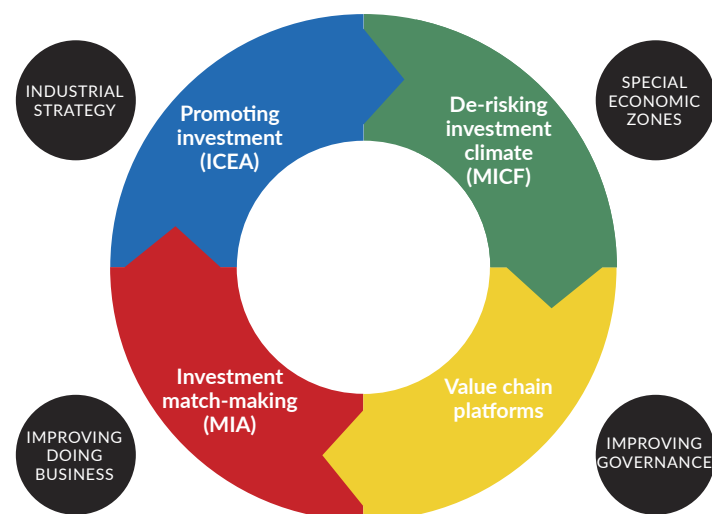
Making new connections at the Japan Africa Business Fair in 2018 during the TICAD Ministerial Meeting.

efficiency to the agricultural sector, and improved the lives and livelihoods of farmers. The ECX is now fully functional and nationally owned, with an estimated revenue of over \$1 billion.

TICAD 7 will witness the launch of a new, tripartite partnership among UNDP, JICA, and JETRO to contribute to sustainable growth and development in Africa through partnerships with Japanese and African private companies. The three organizations will

draw on their existing partnerships and connections to encourage Japanese companies to align their core business activities with the SDGs in African countries and to boost innovation and start-ups in Africa by connecting the private sector to the unmet SDGs. The new initiative will do this by providing seamless support to all stages of business development, including information collection, analysis, piloting, securing human resources, market development, and business expansion.

## How UNDP helps investment in Africa





# Engaging with Africa's Youth

As the continent with the most youthful population, Africa faces an urgent need to help its young people develop the skills they need to secure lasting employment. Since 2013, the Africa Business Education (ABE) Initiative for Youth—launched during TICAD V and continued at TICAD VI—has enabled more than 1,200 students in African countries to receive Master's degrees at Japanese universities and subsequent internships with Japanese private companies. The students include civil servants, professors, and teachers from higher education institutions and vocational training schools, and young people with an interest or working background in the private sector.

Within the framework of TICAD, the Government of Japan has partnered with UNDP on its YouthConnekt Africa initiative to develop young people's entrepreneurship and leadership skills through workshops and training programmes, leading to jobs creation. YouthConnekt Africa is a joint UNDP

**“Many Japanese companies have already set up shop here in Rwanda because of the ABE Initiative and many of us have already started implementing the knowledge [we] acquired from the Asian country known for advancement in technology.”**

—Charles Mutabazi, an ABE alumnus who currently works for a Rwandan software development company with clients in Japan, as quoted in *The New Times*, 27 January, 2019.

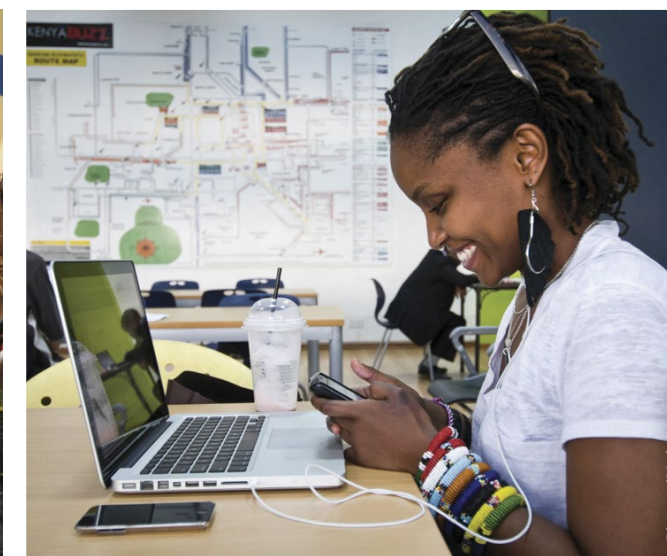
and Government of Rwanda initiative, which started in 2012 in Rwanda. The initiative enables young men and women between 16 to 30 years old to connect with leaders, mentors, and peers, and to gain the skills and resources they need to find jobs and start new businesses. This is done through an integrated approach that touches on all aspects of a young person's life, including entrepreneurship, reproductive and sexual health, and political discourse and involvement. The YouthConnekt initiative has since

expanded to four other countries, including Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Ghana.

UNDP also supports a growing number of young entrepreneurs through its regional youth training schemes that support start-ups with financing, mentoring, and networking opportunities. Building on the YouthConnekt initiative, UNDP is partnering with the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) to promote entrepreneurship



YouthConnekt



YouthConnekt

development in Africa by providing training and financing for young African start-ups and entrepreneurs across the continent. As it continues

to grow through additional partnerships with governments, the African Union, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and private sector

companies, YouthConnekt will expand its impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and AU Agenda 2063.



Photo: Government of Rwanda

Participants at the 2018 YouthConnekt Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, which included speakers and attendees from 90 countries.

## Next Generation UNDP

Last year, UNDP launched a Strategic Plan (2018–2021) designed to be responsive to the wide diversity of countries it serves. Specifically, the Plan focuses on three broad development areas: eradicating poverty; accelerating structural transformations; and building resilience to shocks and crisis.

In 2018, UNDP launched SDG Impact, a new initiative aiming to help channel private investment and capital toward achieving the SDGs, an effort that faces an estimated \$30 trillion shortfall in funding. SDG Impact will provide investors and businesses with much-needed country-level data and SDG investment roadmaps, giving them

the tools they need to tap into the growth and economic opportunities introduced by the global development movement.

Another recent development initiative is the UNDP Accelerator Labs, aiming to catalyze innovative ideas, rapid iteration, and experimentation to address complex development challenges. Together with its core partners, the State of Qatar and the Federal Republic of Germany, 60 labs serving 78 countries—27 of them in Africa—have begun to work with national and global partners to find radically new approaches that fit the complexity of current development challenges. TICAD welcomes this laudable initiative.

### Six Signature Solutions

Signature solutions are integrated responses to development against which UNDP aligns our resources and expertise to make a real impact. Each Solution includes a mix of policy advice, technical assistance, finance, and programmes. We need all of them to achieve the SDGs.



From left: poverty, governance, resilience, environment, energy access, gender equality



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

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