

Statement to the TICAD Ministerial Conference on Energy and Environment from the Civil Society Forum side event

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the first time in the history of TICAD, civil society organizations held a side event during the TICAD Conference on Energy and Environment for Sustainable Development.

Whilst appreciating this dynamic, the civil society session notes the following.

1. The hitherto exclusion of local voices from TICAD and other development processes.
2. Current ODA has not been sufficiently dedicated to climate proofing in order to reduce the vulnerability of the poor.
3. Measures aimed at conservation and environmental protection have failed, so far, to address the impacts of energy scarcity and environmental degradation on the lives and livelihoods of those who depend on natural resources to meet their daily needs.

The Civil Society Session was planned to make the voices of civil society heard, and the plight of poor people, whose lives and livelihoods are most affected by environmental degradation and lack of access to clean and affordable energy services addressed. In the light of this, the session submits the following.

Inclusion of civil society in the TICAD processes:

To date, TICAD processes have involved government and UN agencies. The meeting strongly advocates for the positioning of community and civil society groups and their representatives in such a way that action to alleviate poverty and build capacity delivers ownership to the people through effective participation, consultation and knowledge exchange.

ODA effectiveness:

African communities are very aware of issues such as climatic variability. However, they express these issues using meanings and values that relate directly to their lives and livelihoods. These are not well integrated into development planning at national and international levels. Therefore, ODA should be responsive to the environmental vulnerability of the poor and should be more closely aligned with the aspirations of NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals.

Development of pro-poor technology:

Government should promote access to energy options which have direct contribution to poverty alleviation at the community level. Some of the options

discussed were pico and micro hydropower generation, wind pumps, and sustainable bio fuels.

In summary, the meeting recommends higher levels of participation of civil society groups to ensure that investments in new technologies are appropriate, understandable, affordable, accessible and, most importantly, cognizant of indigenous knowledge.

