Thank you Your Excellency Mr. Chair,

Excellences,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentleman,

Good morning.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the attendance of the Heads of African States, my colleague Ambassadors and the Executive Director, amongst others, to the TICAD VI held at the end of last month here in Nairobi, for the first time in Africa. It was a great pleasure that the Conference was successfully concluded by adopting the Nairobi Declaration and Implementation Plan which will be contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.

The Executive Director,

In addition to your participation at the Meeting, UN-Habitat and your colleagues also played important roles in a series of the TICAD VI related side-events, for example, as a co-organiser of the Waste Management Forum, and a key-note speaker as a specialist in urban planning studies at the Conference on Quality Infrastructure. TICAD and UN-Habitat share a common goal in aiming sustainable urbanisation in Africa, and therefore, I hope there occurs the greater synergy between the two programmes.

I also appreciate your visit to Tokyo. I have heard that you worked very busy schedule in our capital including your courtesy calls on the Minister for Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, and attendance to the Habitat III National Committee and the Diet Member Caucus for UN-Habitat. It was regrettable that we were not able to welcome you in Fukuoka in
which we host the Regional Office for the Asia-Pacific. So I hope we can find another opportunity of your trip to Japan.

Ladies and Gentleman,

A series of the tough inter-governmental negotiations to finalise the draft outcome document of the Habitat III finished last weekend in New York. The Quito Meeting will be the world assembly to purely discuss the issues relevant to sustainable urban development and housing, along with the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. I also appreciate the effort of the Executive Director as the Secretary-General of this Conference, and surely believe in its success.

Thank you.