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Civil Society: Universal Access by 2010 is key to Human Security

Tokyo International Conference on African Development, brought together over 45 heads of states from Africa to “provide a road map for support of African growth and development under the TICAD process”, with a priority in ensuring human security. Yet, the Yokohama Action Plan fails to recommit and take action, let alone state, a key commitment to ensuring human security: the attainment of Universal Access to prevention, care and treatment for HIV/AIDS by 2010.

As the G8 conference is connected to the TICAD process and its outcomes, we call on the Japanese Government to reevaluate the Yokohama Action Plan, and to take leadership at the G8 Summit:

1. To recommit and provide the necessary support, including finance and technical support to achieve Universal Access by 2010.
2. To contribute the Japanese fair share to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.
3. To ensure that the fight against HIV/AIDS is not limited to strengthening research and prevention, but to treatment, care and support as well. .

Financial and Technical support necessary to achieve Universal Access by 2010

With 80% of the global AIDS burden concentrated in Africa, G8 countries acknowledged the need to scale up in the fight against AIDS by committing to Universal Access by 2010 at the St. Petersburg G8 Summit. Yet, the Yokohama Action Plan fails to address and to fully support, through financial and technical means, the attainment of Universal Access by 2010. Without addressing HIV/AIDS and the key document that provides targets and timelines for the fight HIV/AIDS, Africa will never attain the economic, social and political goals.

Funding the Fund

The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the efforts to scale up efforts to fight AIDS as recognized in the Yokohama Action Plan. Leading to the Japanese Government committing US 560 Million for the coming few years. Although, we applaud the Japanese contribution for the Global Fund, it still falls far short of what Japan should be committing as the world's second largest economy, and based on increasing requests from countries Global Fund funding.

Access to prevention, treatment and care

Although prevention is key to decreasing the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS, in areas of generalized epidemics, such as Sub-Sahara Africa, prevention, treatment and care must all be strengthened. Unless Japan is able to provide an added value to the aspect of prevention, and cooperate and coordinate with national and international partners that work on treatment and care, Japan must go beyond strengthening prevention.

TICAD should have been the first step in showing that Japan will take leadership in securing human security. Yet the failure to address the need to scale up on the fight against HIV/AIDS, and the failure to ensure the support necessary to achieve Universal Access by 2010 has already revealed that Japan has already missed that first step. But Japan can have this opportunity to show its willingness and responsibility to commit to human security through the attainment of Universal Access by 2010 at the G8 Toya-ko Summit.