

【Side event of TICAD7】

High Level Side Event Towards Enhanced Partnership and Solidarity to Support Forcibly Displaced Persons in Africa

On August 29, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UNOSAA), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) jointly organized a high-level side-event at the InterContinental Yokohama Grand to discuss the topic of forcibly displaced persons in Africa. The event drew in a crowd of over 100 participants.

Opening speeches were given by the event's co-organizers; Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka, the President of JICA, Mr. Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Ms. Bience Gawanas, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa. Following the speeches, a panel discussion was held with a wide array of representatives from government, private sector and refugee communities, to discuss opportunities to enhance solidarity and partnership frameworks. More than a third of the world's refugees and internally displaced persons are living in Africa. Given these figures, the panel discussion emphasized that international community must urgently respond to these matters to progress Africa's sustainable development.

In his remarks, Dr. Kitaoka stressed the need to promote a culture of reconciliation and trust to cultivate a sense of national unity, and he highlighted that, in light of Human Security, it is vital to enhance the self-reliance of refugees and internally displaced persons in order to ensure the right of individuals to live in dignity.

For their part, the Honorable Musa Ecweru, Uganda's Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, described and provided examples of his country's stance on inclusivity, and Mr. Allan Maina Waititu, the Director of Special Projects for Kenya's Equity Bank, spoke about the importance of enhancing economic opportunity by improving financial access. Then, Ms. Susan Grace Duku, a refugee from South Sudan residing in Uganda, spoke from her

perspective about the importance of investing in education, promoting self-reliance and introducing government policies to promote inclusivity.

Lastly, H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma, the African Union's Commissioner for Political Affairs, closed the event by stressing the importance of the international community's support for refugees and internally displaced persons. Through her remarks, she once again underscored the need to bring in various stakeholders, like the private sector, to also provide support to refugees and internally displaced persons.

The outcomes of this event have also been outlined in the document below.

<https://www.unhcr.org/jp/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2019/08/TICAD7-Side-Event-Outcome-Documents-190829.pdf>

■ Participants

[Opening Remarks]

- Shinichi Kitaoka, President of JICA
- Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Bience Gawanas, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa (UNOSAA)

[Panel Discussion]

(Panelists)

- Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs, African Union Commission (AUC)
- Musa Ecweru, Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, the Republic of Uganda
- Allan Maina Waititu, Director, Special Projects, Equity Bank, Kenya
- Susan Grace Duku, South Sudanese refugee in Uganda
- Bience Gawanas, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa (UNOSAA)
- Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Atsushi Hanatani, Senior Adviser (Peacebuilding), JICA

(Moderator)

- Shin Nimura, Senior Commentator, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)

[Closing Remarks]

- Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs, African Union Commission (AUC)

[Moderator]

- Sachiko Ishikawa, Senior Advisor, JICA

■ Related links

Organizer speech by Dr. Kitaoka

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/about/president/speech/190829_01.html

■ Photos



Dr. Kitaoka providing opening remarks



Panel discussion



Panel discussion

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