Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Ito On the Occasion of the Handover Ceremony for "The Project for Providing Vehicles to Support Food Bank in Khartoum State" on 23rd August, 2017 (11:00 at Office of the Sudanese Food Bank)

H.E. Mr. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Previous First Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Sudan Food Bank

Dr. Nuwar Mohamed Ahmed Elshami, Humanitarian Aid Commissioner-Khartoum State

Mr. Hashim Ali Khair, Chairman of the Sudanese Food Bank

Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Osman, Secretary General of the Sudanese Food Bank

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

It is my great pleasure to be here at the Headquarter Office of Sudanese Food Bank today, to celebrate the handover ceremony for *The Project for Providing Vehicles to Support Food Bank in Khartoum State*, funded by the Government of Japan, under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). First of all, allow me to express my sincere appreciation for the warm welcome you have extended to me and my staffs today.

On the 15th of last November, I and Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Osman, Secretary General of the Sudanese food Bank have exchanged the Grant Contract with the presence of his Excellency, Mr. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, previous First Vice-President of the Republic of the Sudan, who is generously present again among us today. I am

very pleased to actually hand over the two vehicles which are behind us to the Sudanese Food Bank according to the Grant Contract.

I am appreciative of the efforts made by Sudanese Food Bank and all their partners contributing food, who together, operate the Food Bank Project. They are the pioneer organizations in the provision of the stable food distribution services for people in vulnerable situations, including those with disabilities and tuberculosis.

I would like to express my special thanks to "Akadabi Factory" which contributed in making the container box of the non-refrigerated vehicle. This contribution demonstrates the willingness and kindness of the Sudanese people in helping their brothers and sisters.

It is my great pleasure to be given the opportunity to assist such benevolent organizations, through the GGP. The two new Japan made vehicles are customized to deliver both cooked and dry food in a hygienic manner. However, the hand-over of the vehicles itself is not the goal of this project. The real implementation of this project starts today. I would like to emphasize that the success of this project would only be possible through the tremendous efforts by various stakeholders, including SFB and Food Donors as well as all the local communities involved for the proper coordination. I sincerely hope that all the stakeholders would work together hand in hand to realize a successful implementation, so that the vulnerable people can benefit from increased food security.

As I close my remarks, I hope that these two vehicles will be remembered for a long time as a gift from the Japanese people to their friends in Sudan.

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Thank you.