

**STATEMENT OF H.E. AMB. ALAIN AIME NYAMITWE, MINISTER OF
EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**

Third Africa-India Forum Summit

New Delhi, October 27th, 2015

Madam Honorable Minister of External Affairs of India,

Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe
and Co-chairman,

Mr. Deputy-Chairperson of the AU Commission,

Dear colleagues ministers, dear friends

1. I wish to first of all thank the Government and the beautiful People of India for the warm welcome and the excellent facilities put at our disposal since our arrival in this country.
2. Our delegation is happy to participate in this third Africa-India forum Summit, a gathering of high importance in the South-South Cooperation. It is important for Africa because it allows our continent to diversify its partnerships so that it does not rely on a single partner, however important that partner may be. Important also because it goes without saying that in the South, we have a lot in common: shared civilizations, same destiny, same History of colonialism, slavery,..., same plight,

and the same goals of development for our respective peoples and countries.

3. These shared values have been highlighted by the Senior officials whom I want to take this opportunity to congratulate for the wonderful work they did in an excellent spirit of comradeship. Their work was possible because they understand clearly where we come from, where we are and where we are heading to as partners.
4. This great country of India has always featured in the multiple struggles of the great sons and daughters of the African continent. In writing the History of the fight against the ills of colonialism and apartheid, one cannot fail to note the role played by Indians of high caliber like Mahatma Gandhi, those South Africans of Indian descent who fought against apartheid, Prime Minister Nehru's visit to Africa in 1961,....

Co-Chairmen,

5. Our delegation wishes to recognize the contribution of Indian businessmen in the development of Africa. My country, Burundi, has, even before independence, known Indian

businessmen who have contributed immensely in lifting our economic situation.

6. Again, in various areas, Power, transportation, telecoms,...India is present in Africa.
7. Given the active role played by India in the Peacekeeping operations, my delegation is of the view that much can be done if only Africa and India could come together, in implementing their shared goals of a more peaceful world. From Mali to Somalia, from Central African Republic to DRC, India and Africa can do a lot together. I am glad that the External Affairs Minister of India has articulated the readiness of this great country to work closely with Africa in this area, training of Peacekeeping troops being one of the aspects to be covered in this domain.
8. For us to preserve better that Peace we call for, we believe that a number of conditions need to be met: both Africa and India need to form one clear position vis-a-vis the UN Reform, and in particular the Security Council, an organ, which, 70 years after the Second World War is still a preserve of a few. It is possible for the Southern nations to reach a common position. Of course, guarantees need to be given, to ensure that the

permanent seat that some are legitimately seeking, is not used to crush the most vulnerable UN member states, what some are doing in sheer abuse of their role and indeed the violation of the UN Charter. Treachery is the word of the day in that organ.

9. My country will support the Ezulwini consensus in this matter, because we believe it is a balanced position, which, if followed and respected, will ensure an ordered reform of the UN and a dignified entry within the UN SC.

Co-Chairmen,

10. “Partners in Progress towards a dynamic and transformative Development agenda” is the theme of this Summit.

11. My country pledges its readiness to fully contribute in whatever possible capacity to the advancement of the areas of interest for this partnership.

12. With respect to cooperation in Trade, we call on India to play an active role in pursuing a development agenda in the Trade negotiations at the WTO. We thank India for applying

the Duty Free Market Access to LDCs, a group composed in its majority by African countries.

13. Again, with regard to Agriculture and Environment, we look forward to the enhancement of the already existing cooperation in these areas, between the two parties. In view of the forthcoming COP 21 meetings in Paris, it is the hope of this delegation that both sides of this forum come up with a strong position and a clear strategy, which will allow developing countries to reach a fair deal in the legally binding instrument to be negotiated, mostly because developing countries are victims rather than at the origin of the adverse effects of pollution and or climate change.

14. Cooperation in Education and Skills development, Infrastructure, IT, Health..., is also a necessity because those areas speak to the future. The Development that we seek cannot be possible without an improvement in those areas.

In closing, Co-Chairmen,

15. Let me once again rejoice for the holding of this meeting, another testimony that another kind of cooperation is possible.

The Indian Ocean is not that big a divide, after all. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi put it, the Indian Ocean, is a link. Let us all believe our Union will allow a great jump in the Future.

I thank you for your kind attention.