

Check against Delivery

## Remarks

By

H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn

Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic

Republic of Ethiopia

At

The Third Africa-India Forum Summit

29 October 2015

New-Delhi

***Excellency Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, President of India***

***Excellency Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India,***

***Excellency Mr. Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe and  
Chairperson of the African Union***

***Excellencies,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

It gives me great pleasure to address the Third Africa-India Forum Summit. I would like to express my profound appreciation to the Government and People of India for their excellent hospitality extended to me and my delegation since our arrival in this historic and beautiful city of New Delhi.

The people of Africa and India have had all round relations for millennia. In recent decades they have fought colonialism and apartheid which further strengthened their relationship. Africa and India have also worked hand in hand to achieve sustainable development. They are now fighting for causes that have taken longer such as poverty eradication, sustainable development, terrorism and achieving a more fair and just world. We believe that what the Summit Forum of India-Africa is doing is therefore take

the longstanding relationship to a higher level so that the people of Africa and India benefit and take their rightful place in the affairs of the world.

***Excellencies,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

It is to be recalled that Ethiopia was honored to host the Second Africa-India Summit Forum in May 2011, in Addis Ababa. The Summit adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration and the Africa-India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation. During that Summit, both sides agreed to build on the outcomes of the First India-Africa Summit Forum and to give additional substance to the partnership and to widen its scope. Africa and India declared to work together to address the global challenges of our times.

During the Addis Ababa Summit a number of initiatives were undertaken by the former Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh. India's initiatives which were aimed to continue to support efforts at infrastructural development, regional integration, capacity building and human resources development in Africa were warmly

welcomed. India also undertook initiatives at the pan African level including an India-Africa Food Processing Cluster, an India-Africa Integrated Textiles Cluster, an India-Africa Center for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and an India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development. These initiatives, demonstrate, in part, India's commitment to support Africa's human resources development and institutions building, thus enabling us to speed up our own development vision and integration. I would like to note with satisfaction that Ethiopia was selected to host the India-Africa Integrated Textiles Cluster and work to implement this project is underway. I am also pleased to note that India's support to our effort at regional integration through the Ethio-Djibouti railway construction is in the tendering process.

***Excellencies,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I am confident that we will further build on the outcomes of the Second Forum Summit and achieve an even stronger results here in Delhi. Ethiopia welcomes the wide ranging and important areas of cooperation contained in the Africa-India Framework for

Strategic Cooperation document. Indeed, the theme of this Summit which is titled, I quote “Partners in Progress: Towards a Dynamic and Transformative Development Agenda” end of quote, says it all. In this connection, I would like to note that for more than a decade Africa has experienced a sustained level of economic growth, greater peace and stability and positive movements on a number of human development indicators. We are committed to sustain these positive developments so that Africa becomes one of the key growth pillars of the World. Similarly, India over the last couple of decades has made commendable progress in all fields. Thus underscoring the aptness of the theme of our Summit-partners in progress.

Since our last Summit, a number of important developments have taken place which would inform and further enhance Africa-India cooperation. We, in Africa, have adopted our Agenda 2063 which is a plan for Africa’s structural transformation with its detailed first 10 year implementation plan. Just last month, the international community adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with a set of new Global Goals, which are seen as universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world.

I wish to mention at this juncture that prior to the adoption of the new Global Goals, Ethiopia had hosted the Third United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development in July, 2015 in Addis Ababa. These are processes which will have a significant bearing on our partnership. In this connection, I would like to note with appreciation the fact that our partners from India have taken full account of Africa's positions and priorities as contained in Agenda 2063. I also note with satisfaction that Africa and India will partner in implementing the new Global Goals.

Nevertheless, more work at the international level lies ahead in the next couple of months which will require our collaboration at the global negotiations of climate change and the completion of the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Agenda. I look forward, therefore, for an equally successful outcome at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held from November 30 to December 11, 2015 in Paris. It is high time that we work in concert to achieve an ambitious and comprehensive outcome in Paris. And the World Trade Organization's 10<sup>th</sup>

Ministerial Conference to be held in Nairobi, in Mid-December this year--the first such Conference taking place in our continent--should deliver on its long overdue mandate of concluding an agreement with development at its core.

***Excellencies,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the people and government of India for the extremely valuable and sustained and all rounded support extended to my country for decades. Ethiopia has registered a double digit annual economic growth over the last twelve years thanks to the clear and participatory development policies and strategies we have followed. In order to sustain this high growth rate we have just launched our Second Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan. We are keen to boost our multifaceted cooperation with India, in particular, through active promotion of trade and investment. We are also keen to learn from the development successes of India.

It is true that Africa and India have had beneficial cooperation for decades. It is equally true that the potential benefit from an

enhanced partnership between India and Africa will be even bigger. It is within this context and having full confidence in the partnership that, I would like to reiterate Ethiopia's readiness to see this partnership flourish. Therefore, I would like to conclude by assuring this august assembly that Ethiopia will spare no effort to realize the huge benefit that will accrue from a strengthened India-Africa partnership.

I thank you