

Check against Delivery

Remarks

By

H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Foreign Minister of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia

At

The Third Africa-India Forum
Summit

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New-Delhi

Excellency Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Foreign Minister of India,

Excellency Mr. Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of the Executive Council of the African Union,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I would like to express my deep appreciation to the people and Government of India for the warm hospitality accorded to my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of New Delhi. I would also like to commend our senior officials for the work done to facilitate our deliberations for the outcomes of the third Africa-India Forum Summit.

India and Africa have had relations for many centuries. They have spent a good part of the 20th century fighting colonialism and Apartheid. This shared experience of a colonial past and the solidarity forged in fighting it, have been the basis for an all-inclusive relation which is founded on the principles of mutuality, complementarity and a true sense of solidarity. With a view to

elevating their cooperation, both sides have recently embarked on a well-structured cooperation by launching the first India-Africa Summit which was held here in New Delhi, on 8 and 9 April 2008.

As most of you are aware, Ethiopia hosted the Second Africa-India Summit Forum from 20 to 25 May 2011 in Addis Ababa, which was indeed a success. The outcomes of that Summit namely the Addis Ababa Declaration and the Framework for Enhanced Cooperation spelt the areas of cooperation between India and Africa covering a wide range of fields from working together at various multilateral forums to specific sectors of cooperation. And it is also to be recalled that India announced a number of initiatives to support the efforts of African countries in infrastructure development, regional integration, human resources and institution building. These initiatives were complemented by pan African initiatives in various fields.

I am glad to note that India's support to Africa has significantly increased since the launching of the India-Summit Forum. This has been the case in all areas of cooperation such as human resources development, transfer of science and technology,

information and communication technology, education, institution building, infrastructure development, promotion of small and medium sized enterprises, and enhancing agricultural productivity and food security. I should underline that Ethiopia has benefitted from our partnership with India.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the launching of the Africa-India Forum Summit the conditions for strengthening the partnership have been significantly improved. This development together with the historical solidarity between India and Africa will render the partnership strong. I am pleased, in this connection, to note that the outcomes of the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit as contained in the draft Declaration and the Framework for Strategic Cooperation take our partnership to a higher level. Indeed this should be the case because both India and Africa have done well in recent decades. India has been growing steadily for the last couple of decades becoming one of the most vibrant economies of the world and Africa has also been growing at a fast rate for more than a decade. We both have a young

population with huge potential for further growth. It is therefore natural that the content of our new partnership reflect this reality.

India is one of the biggest markets in the world. We are grateful for the provision of quota free duty free market access for export products of the Least Developed Countries. I would like to seize this opportunity to encourage both sides to sensitize businesses of the LDCs and India so that they benefit from the preferential market access extended by India. Trade between Africa and India has reached about USD 72 billion. Both sides need to work in concert to increase trade between Africa and India.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The African Union has charted its long term vision in its Agenda 2063. The Agenda is a plan for Africa's transformation. Consistent with the solidarity and understanding established with India, I am glad to note that the new Declaration and Framework for Strategic Cooperation contain most of the areas in our Agenda

2063. For example, the Assembly of the African Union has decided to speed-up actions in eradicating poverty in a generation through concentrating all efforts investing in the productive capacities, i.e, skills and assets of our people. It has also decided to promote science and technology research and innovation; to transform and industrialize our economies through value addition and modernize agriculture; to connect Africa through infrastructure development through transport, energy and ICT. These are key areas for priority action in Africa's Agenda 2063 are indeed the basis for the new Cooperation Framework. Clearly delivering in these areas would have great contribution to benefiting Africa and India. As madam Chairperson suggested, a regular review mechanism should be put in place to improve implementation of the joint activities.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ethiopia has been registering a double digit growth rate for the last twelve years. We are now embarking on our Second Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan. Our goal is to continue to achieve an inclusive double digit growth rate. We have taken into account

the African Union's Agenda 2063 in the preparation of our Growth and Transformation Plan. In our fight to eradicate poverty and bring about sustainable development, I am honored to say that, India is one of our key partners. We highly value and cherish the commitment and dedication of India in supporting Ethiopia's and Africa's efforts at achieving our sustainable development objectives.

I thank you,

Namaste!