



**STATEMENT AT THE
3RD INDIA-AFRICA SUMMIT FORUM**

India Stadium Complex, New Delhi
Thursday October 29, 2015
09.00am

**H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA &
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES**

Your Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Your Excellency Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe & Chair of the African Union

Your Excellences, Colleague Heads of State and Government

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

Honourable Ministers

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Those who spoke before me have eloquently testified to the warm and generous hospitality of our host, the superb organization as well as the excellent facilities that have been placed at our disposal.

I would like to join my colleague Heads of State in expressing Ghana's profound appreciation to the government and people of India for all that they have invested in making this 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit a resounding success.

I am hopeful that our meeting here in Delhi, will not only be a unique and memorable experience, but will further strengthen our shared commitment to the creation of a truly peaceful and secure world on a solid foundation of freedom, justice and prosperity for all.

The strategic partnership between India and Africa must therefore be seen as part of our shared heritage of struggling against foreign domination and an unshakeable determination to uphold the dignity of our peoples.

Your Excellences,

In the excitement and euphoria of a post colonial world, the founders of our newly independent nations forged strong partnerships aimed at asserting themselves in a bipolar world that was dominated by an arms race between the two super powers.

Jawaharlal Nehru, Suharto, Kwame Nkrumah, Haile Selassie and many other great leaders established a solidarity that led in 1961 to the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement and many other partnerships based on the principles of South-South cooperation.

This solidarity among the countries of the developing world at the time allowed our nations to speak with one voice against oppression and injustice of our world.

We have come a long way since the early post-independence era. And the need for South-South cooperation could not have been stronger. Our world faces new threats and challenges.

Conflict, terrorism, climate change, inequality and new waves of migration have become common features of our current world. And yet we stand on the cusp of great opportunities too, to improve the economic circumstances of our people and eradicate extreme poverty.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were a commendable effort by the world to improve the conditions of life of people especially in the developing world.

Great progress was made under this programme to lift people out of poverty, reduce hunger, increase enrolment in primary education, empower women and girls, reduce HIV/AIDS infections and increase access to water and sanitation.

Your Excellences

The recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the upcoming COP 21 summit in Paris, allow us to consolidate and build upon the successes achieved under the MDGs.

We can achieve this only if we capture the unshakeable spirit of solidarity that was pioneered by the founders of our nations.

This is why this summit of solidarity between India and Africa, and as President Mugabe described it, as “twins” whose destinies are inextricably intertwined, is critical.

Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ghana warmly welcomes the \$10 billion plus other commitments including 50,000 scholarships announced by Prime Minister Modi this morning.

Over the next 5 years, this allows Africa and India to expand the scope of our cooperation and partnership.

But, **Your Excellency Prime Minister Modi**, I am most excited and enthused by the leadership you have assumed in the formation of an alliance of solar-rich countries, which you intend to launch on the sidelines of COP 21 in Paris next month.

Ghana strongly supports your initiative and would indeed be one of the first to sign up to this initiative. Energy remains the greatest binding constraint to Africa's development.

India also suffers its own challenges with access to power especially in the rural areas.

And yet for Africa and India we have the most promise in using the free energy of the sun to transform the lives of our people.

It is unacceptable and indeed a shame that many of the countries with the highest utilization of solar power are located in temperate climates that have a relatively much lower level of insolation than India and Africa.

Over the next 5 years, working together, we can, India and Africa contribute our quota to realizing the targets outlined in the SDGs with particular emphasis on the achievement of agricultural self-sufficiency and access to sustainable energy.

Ghana strongly welcomes the tone and substance of the two outcome documents of this Summit.

Not only do both documents speak directly to our shared values and vision.

We also have a road map that has the potential to transform the lives of our peoples.

Finally, Excellences, I have no doubt that we all share the same conviction that the thorough implementation of the transformative agenda laid out in the agreed Framework is the key to lifting millions more out of poverty.

We all need to be constantly kept abreast with developments in the implementation of the Framework for Strategic Cooperation through periodic reports.

Let us pull our resources and efforts together and march forward resolutely in the spirit of friendship and cooperation.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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