

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Apologies for absence on Minister this morning

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the government of India for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to myself and my delegation and to commend the government of India for the excellent organisation of this important meeting

Africa and India cooperation has grown from strength to strength over the many decades that we have had relations. In Africa we rightly pride ourselves that we are a continent on the rise. This is indeed true because some of the fastest growing economies are in Africa and it is happening at a time when the global economy is facing challenges of growth. It is also true that India has recorded impressive economic performance in recent years and it is emerging as a very influential contributor to global growth.

These developments offer us abundant opportunities to tapping into our expanding middle classes and youthful population. India's rapid economic development is very contemporary and it is an experience Africa can emulate. Many of us in this room have witnessed India rise from a low income country to the successful economy that it is today. Indeed India is today an important political economic and social partner to Africa.

The theme of this Summit...**Partners in Progress: Towards a Dynamic and Transformative Development Agenda** aptly captures the spirit of where we want to head with our partnership. Some may question what the achievement of the previous summits have been. However I opt to be forward looking given our growing strengths as well as the ambitious plans we have set for ourselves.

In Africa I have in mind our Agenda 2063 and its 10 year Implementation Plan. India and Africa can partner by cooperating and consolidating the priority areas that are identified in the Agenda and the plan of action. These include the traditional areas such as capacity development particularly in skills development, healthcare, energy, agriculture as well as new areas like infrastructure development, peace and security, ICT and the blue economy.

We look forward to positively contributing to this process and we are confident that the summit will agree on concrete proposals which will deepen our partnership for the mutual benefit of our two regions.

We also need to nurture this partnership so that it does not take the shape of a donor recipient relationship. Instead we should strive to become genuine partners engaged in a win- win association. For example we would like to see India collaborate with Africa in developing the latter's manufacturing and value addition sectors through investments, technological transfers and capacity building. This will enable us to grow our trade significantly than if it is dominated by one side supplying finished goods and the other raw materials. Moreover it will not just be good for India Africa trade but also intra Africa trade.

In this regard, we take note of the growing Indian FDI in Africa and we are optimistic that as the business and investment environment continues to improve in Africa the trend will accelerate. Indeed Africa has great potential for investors and I would encourage Indian businesses to tap into that potential and access that vast African market which is becoming more and more integrated as our regional economic co operations mature.

I am hopeful that the engagement between our business leaders which is taking place alongside our meeting will yield the desired results of greater awareness and actual business deals.

We are very satisfied that a gap that existed in this process of engagement will be capped with the proposed institution of an Implementation monitoring and evaluation mechanism. This mechanism is important in ensuring that our decisions see the light of day.

Our host referred to the forthcoming World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference (MC -10) that Kenya will be the host in December this year. This will be the first time this important conference will be held on African soil. We have consulted widely with our African colleagues as well as with friends like India on the possible outcome of the conference. We wish to thank you all for your tremendous support and co-operation from the time we offered to host the conference and during the preparatory process. We would like to assure you that arrangements for hosting the conference have been finalised and we look

forward to welcoming your ministers and other participants to the conference from 15 to 18 December 2015

Finally I would like to conclude by informing this meeting that Kenya working in conjunction with the Indian Government and UNAIDS will to convene a side meeting to exchange views on the important subject of ensuring sustainable access to affordable medications for managing HIV/AIDS epidemic. We are all aware that 80% of drugs used in Africa to treat the disease originate from India. The supply of these drugs have been the reason quality medication is available at an affordable cost to people suffering from the dreaded disease.

The meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday 30 October at Hotel Taj Palace from 11:00 to 12:30. The meeting will bring together political leaders from Africa and India, experts from the United Nations and health care experts as well as business leaders from the industry.

We hope that the outcome of the meeting will be a reaffirmation by the stakeholders of their commitment to achieving universal and sustainable access to life saving medicines and diagnostics. It is my humble request that you diarise the event and inform your principals about the meeting so that they can participate in the meeting.

I thank you