



Republic of Malawi

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE DR.
GEORGE T. CHAPONDA, M.P., MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MALAWI,
AT
THE THIRD INDIA-AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT
NEW DELHI, INDIA
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**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation**

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- **Honourable Simbarashe Mumbengengwi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the African Union;**
- **Honourable Shirimati Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India, and Co-Chairperson;**
- **Your Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission;**
- **Fellow Foreign Ministers;**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is my honour to address this important Forum, which is playing a pivotal role in enhancing the economic, social, and cultural cooperation between India and Africa. Before I proceed, allow me, to express my profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to His Excellency the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation, and for the facilities put at our disposal for the success of this Forum.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Africa is on the rise. It has been deemed as the new frontier for economic growth, in fact the last one, as all other parts of the globe have developed, while we have lagged behind. Regardless, we are all aware of the immense opportunities for wealth creation available in our countries - from the vast natural resources, to trade and investment opportunities for industrialisation, and a lot of other sectors.

However, the economic progress that has been achieved by most African countries is an opportunity, and not a destination, as argued by renowned International Strategist, Kingsley Chiedu Moghalu. This, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the reason for our partnership, to enhance the economic capabilities and opportunities, in order to ensure equitable growth in our respective countries.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Africa-India Partnership, founded on the principle of mutual benefit, underscores the need for us to engage in a consultative process, in order to ensure that there is sustainability in the projects we are mutually implementing. It is not surprising therefore, that major projects under this partnership are a success, as African countries and their leaders decide on the key priority areas of focus that affect their people the most and pave the

way for sustainable development. This aspect of our partnership is critical to achieve sustained economic development, as only Africans will develop Africa, of course in partnership with our colleagues such as India.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is also pleasing to note that India's support for Africa continues to increase, since the inception of our partnership in 2008. In particular, I am gratified to note that the Government of India has further extended the

Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for goods for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in order to ensure increased market access to India by more African LDCs. This is timely with the realisation that what Africa needs most is trade other than aid.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is also worthwhile to mention, that through the India-Africa Union collaboration, Malawi will host the India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development. This Institute, as

you may well be aware, is designed to build and strengthen existing efforts in agricultural productivity, research, and innovation. I invite you all, to take keen interest in this institute, as it supports our common goal of turning Africa into a food basket. I strongly believe this is attainable, and that through this institute, we will focus our industrial capacities, on making this a reality.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are grateful to the Indian Government for the support that it

provides to our countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. Under this programme, African countries, including Malawi have benefitted, through capacity building, skills development, and imparting of specialised skills by Indian experts in various fields.

Skills development, particularly for our huge youthful population, has been beneficial, particularly for Malawi, where our President, His Excellency Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika has prioritised the

provision of Community Technical Colleges to enhance vocational skills development for the youth and offer them job opportunities and entrepreneurial skills.

In Malawi, as in many other countries worldwide, youth unemployment remains a key challenge that poses a threat to peace and prosperity. It is for this reason that His Excellency Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika was appointed the Champion of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Youth Programmes in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March,

2015. The programmes are aimed at addressing the challenges faced by the youth with respect to health, education and economic opportunities. The main emphasis, therefore, is not merely to treat the youth, as leaders of tomorrow, but as partners of today.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malawi has, therefore, embarked on a vigorous programme that will see the establishment of Community Technical Colleges in all the twenty-eight districts of the country. The aim of this

programme is to have a nationwide increase in access to Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training. I am confident that we will soon be sharing with you all, a success story on how Malawi managed to integrate an unskilled youthful labour force into its economy, resulting in reduced endemic poverty.

It would be remiss of me, not to acknowledge India's offer for short term, graduate and post graduate scholarships and fellowships that are administered by the Indian

Council for Cultural Relations.
Malawi is benefitting immensely
from this important facility.

**Your Excellencies, Distinguished
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are living in a digitised era,
where Information Communication
Technology (ICT) drives our
economies. The Pan-African e-
network has ensured unified
communication across the
continent in key sectors of tele-
education and tele-medicine,
thereby enhancing our capacities
in skills development and the

exchange of experts in different fields.

Under this partnership, access to world class higher education has been made available to many African people, even in the remotest areas, who would have otherwise, not been able to access higher education.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude my remarks by once more thanking the Government of India for the partnership and support that it

continues to render to Africa. I hope this meeting will avail us the opportunity to identify areas that have worked well, and those that have not worked very well in the Africa-India cooperation so that we can work out how best to ensure sustained progress and cooperation.

I thank you for your attention.
