

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE NETUMBO NANDI-
NDAITWAH,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION,
AT THE 3rd AFRICA-INDIA FORUM SUMMIT**

NEW DELHI

27 OCTOBER 2015

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Your Excellency Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India;

Your Excellency Honourable Mumbengegwi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe;

Your Excellency Mr Erastus Mwenda, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission;

Honourable Ministers;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here in New Delhi for the 3rd Africa-India Forum Summit. My delegation and I are grateful for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements put in place for this important conference. Our congratulations to both the Government of India and the African Union Secretariat for their facilitation of our work through their excellent preparations.

Co-Chairpersons,

The history of relations between Africa and India stretches way back to the days of colonization, and Namibia was a beneficiary of

that relationship. We thank India for supporting the people of Namibia through SWAPO, till independence. The role played by a citizen of India, General Prem Chand, who was the Commander of the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group, that oversaw the implementation of Resolution 435, is highly appreciated. Today, Namibia is an independent, democratic, peaceful and stable country. Furthermore, we greatly value our cooperation between Namibia and India in the area of economic and cultural cooperation that has benefited many Namibians, including women and the youth.

Co-Chairpersons,

The first India-Africa Summit in 2008 consolidated Indian-African cooperation. Our meeting here in New Delhi today, takes place within an important global context. The world faces new and extraordinary challenges, including terrorism, land degradation, and climate change. We, therefore, need to work together to ensure that COP 21, to take place in Paris in December this year, comes up with internationally legally binding instruments to deal with the impact of climate change.

At the same time, we are working together to address our common challenges, including the possibility of eventually eradicating

poverty, which is also the target of AU Agenda 2063 and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan. The SDGs or global Agenda 2030 adopted recently also focused on poverty eradication. For Namibia to make her contribution to the realization of that international commitment to fight poverty, our President has declared war on poverty and has, therefore, created a Ministry of Poverty Eradication.

With strong political will and commitment, given present day scientific and technological advances and and our ability to pool our resources and knowledge, we can overcome poverty. Gatherings such as this Forum provide us with an opportunity to realize these goals.

Co-Chairpersons,

This Forum and its side events also allows us to strengthen a strategic partnership based upon mutual respect and equal benefit. This is an important aspect of the relationship between Africa and India. It is a partnership in which each can offer to the other many ways in which our interests and benefit intersect.

Relations between Africa and Asia, including India, were celebrated in Indonesia in April this year at the Africa-Asia Summit. There we celebrated not only the interdependence of our two regions but recognized the many ways in which our South-South Cooperation has been of benefit to both Africa and India, not to mention the rest of the Non-Aligned Movement members.

Indeed, if it were not for our cooperation on both bilateral and multilateral levels, we would not have been able to achieve the recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals which followed on from the Millennium Development Goals. Our 17 SDGs allow us to set benchmarks, to organize our national development plans around those goals, and to measure and monitor progress in this regard.

I have to say that both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs are in line with Namibia's National Development Plan with the aim of releasing concrete targets towards the final goal of eradicating poverty.

Co-Chairpersons,

Each of us within the partnership of India-African relations, has much to offer the other. India is leading the way in areas such as engineering, ICT, healthcare and medical tourism. Africa has made important strides around regional cooperation on trade and marine resources, as well as environmental conservation. In this connection, therefore, I would urge that this Summit would review progress made by the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) I and II, and ensure that the decisions made are aligned with Agenda 2063.

Finally, it is my firm belief that we can and must utilize opportunities such as these to seek mutually beneficial relations in order to develop and to achieve SDGs, wherein “no one should be left out”.

I thank you.