



**Statement of the Minister of International Relations and
Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, H E Maite
Nkoana-Mashabane**

New Delhi India, 27 October 2015.

Chairperson Thank you giving South Africa the floor

Your Excellency, Ms Sushma Swaraj, Minister of the Republic of
India

Your Excellency, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of
the African Union Commission

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

Honourable Ministers

Excellencies and members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the onset, let me congratulate the Government and the people
of the Republic of India for the warm hospitality that we always

receive whenever we visit this beautiful country. I would also like to thank you for hosting the Third India-Africa Forum Summit, which would clearly take us to a new level of political, socio-economic development.

Chairperson

Allow me to express that I personally enjoyed every moment of my stay here in India during my tenure as the High Commissioner of South Africa to India. India and Africa have very strong historical ties. Prior to the colonial era our people have had very solid relations with each other, especially in the field of trade. We share the same past and it is only befitting that we should solidify these ties for the mutual benefit of our nationals.

Chairperson

The coming two days will affirm that both India and Africa are ready to craft and drive the future that we want. Our continents are unique in that both boast of having a youthful population and face the challenges of unemployment and poverty.

Globally, Africa and India have a good track record of mutually beneficial relationships. The former Prime Minister of this great democracy, the late Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the founders of the South-South Co-operation.

Today, India is leading the way in the area of manufacturing, including beneficiation, Information Technology, pharmaceuticals

and energy amongst others. All these are issues that are covered under our continental development framework, Agenda 2063.

We in Africa aspire a continent where development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth. This aspiration calls for youth unemployment to be eliminated and Africa's youth to be guaranteed full access to education, training, skills and technological development.

Chairperson, my delegation regards India as a partner who can support Africa to successfully implement the Technical, Vocational, Education and Training Strategy (TVET) that was adopted by the African Union. Successful implementation of this Strategy would result in practical skills transfer to our youth and women alike. We therefore have to ensure that the roll-out of this strategy is implemented soon because our Indian partners have vast experience in this regard.

Chairperson,

My delegation would like commend the Government of India for playing an instrumental role in supporting the African Union's flagship projects. This has not only opened and facilitated trade, but it has ensured that for the first time Africans can trade among themselves. We need to speed up the implementation process of the flagship projects and ensure that we set-up a monitoring mechanism that will address these concerns and ensure regular follow-up on both sides.

The Africa-India Framework for Strategic Co-operation has identified key areas of co-operation, which include trade and industry amongst others. In this regards, my delegation fully supports the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) with Indian business for skills development centres in Africa. The ultimate goal of these skills development units is to train African engineers, technicians, managers and other workers. The continent of Africa is endowed with a variety of natural resources, which should be beneficiated before they are exported. We have vast land with fertile soil, which could provide for food security in Africa and India. Partnering with India in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) would promote agro-processing industries on the continent.

We further need to put more emphasis on the development of the oceanic industry. The ocean is vital to the health of the entire planet and the wellbeing of humanity: It is a major source of food for the people of Africa and India, it is imperative that we tap into the benefits of the blue economy not only for our survival but for our future generations.

I thank you.