

**STATEMENT MADE BY HON. CHIEF MGWAGWA
GAMEDZE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE
KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND ON THE OCCASION OF
THE THIRD INDIA – AFRICA SUMMIT, NEW
DELHI, 27 OCTOBER 2015**

Your Excellency, Minister Smith Sushma, Minister for
External Affairs of the Republic of India,

Your Excellency, Minister Simbarashe, Minister of
Foreign Affairs of Republic of Zimbambwe,

Deputy Chairperson of the African Union,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates

Co-Chairs

Let me join my fellow colleagues in expressing my
profound gratitude to the Government and people of
the Republic of India for hosting this 3rd India-Africa
Forum Summit, as well as for the warm and excellent
hospitality that we have enjoyed since our arrival here
in New Delhi. I also commend the Government of India
for the excellent facilities put at our disposal for this
Summit.

Co-Chairs

Swaziland greatly appreciates the partnership that exists between India and Africa. In a true spirit of South-South Cooperation, we are here to further enhance this partnership which has been formalised since the first India – Africa Summit which was held in 2008 here in New Delhi. Indeed, cooperation between India and Africa dates back to the pre-independence era and it is therefore befitting for us to cement these ties.

Co-Chairs,

We are therefore here to review the progress regarding the implementation of the decisions of our two previous Summits. In line with the theme of this Summit, I hope that we will put in place mechanisms that will make our partnership more meaningful for the benefit all our peoples.

Africa is appreciative of the immense contribution the Republic of India has made in our respective countries.

Through this cooperation, India has helped our countries to develop in a variety of sectors.

Co-Chairs

Africa is the richest continent in terms of natural resources and as such I hope that this partnership will further develop our economies by adding value to our natural resources which we are often exported as raw material and yet when they come back processed product, we find ourselves paying exorbitant prices. I therefore hope that Indian companies will consider Africa as the best destination for investment.

The Kingdom highly commends the Government of India for providing duty free trade preferences to the LDCs. However, I hope our partner would consider giving some form of preferential treatment to other African countries, including the landlocked countries like my own.

I thank you.