



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

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AT

**THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE THIRD INDIA-AFRICA
FORUM SUMMIT (IAFS)**

NEW DELHI

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[Please check against delivery]

Your Excellency Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India

Excellencies

Distinguished participants

Ladies and gentlemen

A month ago, our leaders met in New York and adopted the Post-2015 Development Agenda, with ambitious aspirations to transforming our world by 2030.

Through the Sustainable Development Goals, this unprecedented agenda addresses all issues central to the socio-economic aspirations of this partnership between India and Africa.

From ending poverty and hunger; ensuring healthy living and inclusive and equitable quality education; to accessing affordable energy, building resilient infrastructure, and combating climate change, the agenda put forth an important framework to guide our national development planning and cooperation partnerships.

I have outlined before, that if one chooses to live the life of a warrior, they must also be prepared to run. It is therefore important that our decisions at this forum fully embrace this agenda, and put in place clear mechanisms to support its implementation. It is also important that we think about setting time-frames for implementation of commitments we make at this forum.

For Africa, we have mapped out our socio-economic development and transformation path, through Vision 2063. We have identified

strategic bottlenecks hampering our growth and outlined ways to overcome them over the next fifty years. Going forward, this India-Africa partnership, and indeed other global partnerships, should strive to support Africa's growth and development initiatives.

Access to affordable and reliable energy; development of strategic infrastructure, especially that which supports production and trade, such as roads, railway and ICT; and access to regional and international markets, are critical aspects for Africa's growth and development.

In Uganda's view, other priority issues that require adequate attention and support include agriculture and agro-processing; industrial development; and quality education and capacity building, including in vocational and technical training.

It is also imperative that we make appropriate structural changes to move from low labour productivity sectors towards high productive sectors, such as industry and services. Noting agriculture's contribution to the job market in most of our countries, it is vital to double efforts towards agricultural mechanization, to increase productivity and rural incomes.

The role of women and the private sector in development remains indispensable. We need to develop policies to mainstream their involvement, with particular emphasis on micro, small and medium enterprises. With the private sector contributing over 70% of GDP in many of our countries, enhancing its participation will be central in mobilizing the much needed domestic revenue to finance national

growth and development. Public-private partnerships, including through financial instruments like infrastructure bonds must be enhanced.

Excellencies,

Growth and development in many parts of Africa has been constrained by conflict and insecurity over the years. This problem is however being overcome gradually, which is contributing to progress on the continent.

Making progress requires taking control of our own destiny, by doing things differently. We must address the root causes of conflicts among us. We have to deepen our integration, including through developing cross-border infrastructure. We must put in place socio-economic and political policies to stimulate our economies and support private sector investment and growth. But above all, we must gradually be ready to finance our own activities, linked-in with sound leadership.

Harnessing the full potential of inter and intra-regional trade will always be critical. While access to global markets, through a fair and transparent trading regime is important, full development of national and regional markets is a more sustainable way of supporting growth and development.

I thank you for your kind attention.