

Honourable Foreign Minister of India;

Honourable Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe

Honourable Ministers from Africa;

Chairperson of the African Union Commission;

Distinguished delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen

Firstly, I wish to thank His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Mr. Narendra Modi for inviting the President of the Republic of Zambia, His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, who would have loved to attend the Summit, but due to other pressing national duties, he assigned Her Honour the Vice President Mrs. Inonge Wina to represent him. In that same vein, as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, I am representing my Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Harry Kalaba, MP at this Summit. Having said that, it is indeed an honour and privilege for me to not only be in this vibrant city of New Delhi, but also to address this august Assembly.

Your Excellences

On behalf of Zambian delegation, and indeed my own behalf, I wish to thank our host, the Government and people of the Republic

of India, for the warm welcome and excellent facilities placed at our disposal for this Summit, and so far the fruitful deliberations starting from the India - Africa Trade Minister's meeting held on 23rd October, 2015 which our Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry attended, I also wish to thank India for having agreed to consider providing technical assistance to African countries benefiting from the Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme to overcome Non - Tariff barriers for better access of the Indian market.

Distinguished Guests

India - Africa relations date back to the colonial era. Over the years, the relations have grown and the two have continued to cooperate in many areas.

As Africa, we need to safeguard and develop this partnership based on a win win partnership, taking advantage of our rich resource endowment to develop our industries and trade, and the opportunities available at continental and global levels.

Your Excellences

Distinguished delegates

As I am attending this Summit for the first time, I wish to express my appreciation for the strides already made in strengthening the

India –Africa partnership. I also wish to commend the tremendous work done during the Senior Officials meeting yesterday, who worked tirelessly to bring before us the New Delhi Declaration for the Third - India Forum Summit, and the 2015 India - Africa Forum Summit Strategic Framework. The two documents before us present an opportunity for us to forge ahead in implementing projects and programmes under the first and second Summits, as well as new areas that will come out of this Summit for the benefit of both India and Africa. As we endeavour to develop the many spheres of our economies in Zambia, and Africa as a whole, this is, your Excellencies, a demonstration of the true spirit of South - South cooperation.

Distinguished Guests

Africa's development is indeed well poised to benefit more from the projects and programmes that have a continental character through our Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and those coordinated by the African Union Commission.

Your Excellences

Distinguished Guests

In this regard, we welcome India's policy in cooperating with Africa in agriculture, infrastructure, health, Information,

Communications Technologies (ICT), education, trade and industry, and energy, which are critical areas in our integration agenda.

Your Excellencies

It will be remiss of me if I do not make mention of the energy crisis that has rocked many African countries in recent times. This issue is indeed at the centre of the success of the many projects we would like to undertake as a continent. We trust that this partnership will help in overcoming the difficulties we face due to the energy crisis. The situation provides a definite opportunity for our two sides to collaborate and find solutions to the problem. It is essential that the issue is addressed if we will indeed see the greater participation of our peoples in activities that will generate income and in turn poverty alleviation.

Ladies and gentlemen

Zambia is in support of interventions that mutually benefit our people. It is my sincere belief that our Indian friends share the same views. These interventions include the need to combat climate change; the need for stronger collaboration in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and eventually to work towards the elimination of poverty by uplifting the living standards of our people by building on and strengthening Africa's commitments to

the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Further, your Excellencies, India and Africa should continuously work towards the reforms at the United Nations (UN), including the UN Security Council.

Your Excellences

Distinguished delegates

In conclusion, allow me to underscore the key elements upon which the success of this Forum will be measured, which not only include identification of the projects and programmes that require implementation in Africa under Pan African, Regional and Bilateral levels, but also to follow through by both sides in monitoring and evaluating for effective implementation before subsequent Summits.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Zambia's commitment to the India -Africa Forum partnership, the successful implementation of programmes in progress and those to be implemented.

I thank you.