



THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

STATEMENT

BY

**THE HONOURABLE MRS. NENEH MACDOUALL- GAYE,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

DURING THE

**3RD INDIA -AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT (IAFS III)
FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING**

NEW DELHI

INDIA

27TH OCTOBER 2015

**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE GAMBIA, MRS. NENE MACDOUALL GAYE
TO THE IAFS III NEW DELHI, INDIA.**

**Honourable Minister of
External Affairs, Government of India
Colleagues, Foreign Ministers of Africa
Madam Chairperson African Union
Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Development Partners
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I have the honour and pleasure to convey to you warmest greetings from His Excellency The President of the Republic of The Gambia, H.E. Sheikh Professor Alhaji Dr. Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh Babili Mansa, the Government and people of the Gambia and to further wish this session a successful outcome.

May I on behalf of my delegation and own my humble self-express our profound thanks and gratitude to the Government and people of India for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of New Delhi.

We extend our congratulations to India for the successful hosting of this all important event in New Delhi. We are impressed with all the arrangements and facilitations in place for this Forum Summit.

The relationship between the Gambia and India has been growing stronger over so many years. India is a household name in the Gambia with the presence of a large Indian Community in the country. Our

people have known each other for long and continue to live in peace and harmony.

We very much value our brotherly and friendly relationship with India. The Gambia, like the rest of Africa is inextricably linked with India by history, culture, shared values and by vision. India and Africa should therefore continue to make every effort to strengthen the mutually beneficial bonds of relationship. We started our relationship before many nations came to Africa and so we should never shy away from standing for each other at all levels of cooperation and partnership.

There is huge development in The Gambia-thanks to the effective leadership provided by His Excellency President Jammeh and the immense support we received from genuine friends and brotherly countries such as INDIA. Recently, the most modern house of Parliament in West Africa has been completed and officially opened and that the funding for the project came from the Government of India. This is in addition to the many infrastructure Projects supported by India to the benefit of the Government and people of the Gambia. It must be also acknowledged that India has provided over 9 billion dollars in recent years to support Africa's development needs. There is no doubts that India's contribution to sustainable development in Africa has been significantly remarkable. This goes to show that Africa has always been in the political consciousness of India. Africa and India must support each other in global affairs especially at the level of the United Nations. We should continue to share common points of view on international issues such as terrorism and violent extremism, drug trafficking and a two state solution between Israel and Palestine, reorganization and reform of the united Nations Organization, violence against Women, climate change, etc to name a few.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, in conclusion, the Gambia would welcome a visit to the African continent by the Indian leadership led by the Honourable Prime Minister to further deepen the very cordial ties between us and to open more Trade, Investment and business opportunities between Africa and India.

Let me reiterate my Government's steadfast resolve to promoting the very pillars on which India-Africa Partnership is built. I am confident that with the continued support of the Indian Government through this partnership, we will witness a peaceful, stable and enviable Africa as well as a prosperous and secured India.