

# **REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**



## **Office of the Prime Minister**

### **OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY RT. HON. ANASTASE MUREKEZI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA AT THE 3rd AFRICA INDIAN FORUM SUMMIT INDIA 2015**

**NewDelhi 29, October 2015,**

*(Check against delivery)*

- ✚ Right Honourable Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India;
- ✚ Your Majesties;
- ✚ Excellencies Heads of State and Government;
- ✚ Heads of Delegations;
- ✚ Distinguished Guests;

1. It gives me great pleasure to be present here in New Delhi, at the 3rd India Africa Forum Summit.
2. Allow me first to convey my warm greetings and best wishes from His Excellency President Paul Kagame and the people of Rwanda of whom I am representing.
3. Furthermore, I would like to congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India for organizing together with African Union such an auspicious event and for the warm hospitality accorded to us.



- ✚ Excellencies;
- ✚ Distinguished guests;

4. Despite fluctuations in the global economy over recent years, Africa and India have both continued to perform encouragingly. Guided by the Africa India Framework for Cooperation, we are now seeing the benefits of this accord, specifically, increased trade, and greater flows of capital, technology, skills and knowledge especially in health and education sectors. Reflecting the trend in globalization, reciprocal trade openness strengthened the Indo-African relationship.
5. Crucially, the nations of Africa have to continue to work together with India to ensure that the outcomes of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference that will be hosted by Kenya from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015 are tangible inputs to concluding the Doha Development Round.
6. As India begins to take a leading role in the global economy, we as Africans can play an important role in further solidifying our relationship to ensure that challenges that hinder our shared development goals are robustly addressed. Therefore, as African leaders, it is our obligation to ensure that this burgeoning relationship leads to shared economic prosperity and stability.

7. India and Africa should consolidate efforts and make our voices and positions heard in the quest for presence and participation in the global decision making forums regarding effective peace and security, socio-economic development and human rights.
8. We should strive to see a reformed UN system including expanding permanent membership in the Security Council to ensure it is more regionally representative, democratic, accountable and effective.

 Excellencies,

9. Rwanda enjoys dynamic cooperation with India, both politically and economically. We have hosted numerous Indian delegations that have visited our country to explore investment opportunities. These visits have also led to the development of tangible ties with the registering of a number of Indian businesses in Rwanda.
10. Rwanda remains an ideal investment destination because of its security, enabling policy and infrastructure environment, as well as the provision of focused investment incentives.
11. Rwanda is also among the Top Reformers in the world according to the World Bank's Doing Business Index. In addition to domestic factors, our membership to the East African Community provides free access to a growing regional market.

 Excellencies,  
 Distinguished guests,

12. Rwanda recognizes the role of ICT as a central engine to driving transformation to knowledge based economy. There are many avenues for growth of ICT sector in Africa and Rwanda in particular. I therefore strongly encourage a strong partnership through india-africa framework to develop a robust ICT industry plan that will create wealth, jobs and entrepreneurs.

- 13.** I call upon everyone to support the ongoing regional infrastructure investments in Africa and East Africa Community in particular to tackle the existing infrastructure gaps and intermodal transport and distribution systems in the EAC. The ongoing regional infrastructure investments include among others: Energy, railway, roads, and ports.
- 14.** Rwanda will continue to play her role in advancing Africa India relationship in the framework of South-South cooperation, and we strongly believe that our shared objectives to promote world peace and prosperity will be realized.
- 15.** Finally, today we will adopt a joint Declaration and Framework for Strategic Cooperation. It is therefore important that a prioritized, results-oriented and achievable Plan of Action to guide implementation of the Framework for cooperation agreed in this Summit is developed sooner rather than later.

Thank you and God bless you all.