



**Statement by Hon. Valentine Rugwabiza, Minister for East African  
Affairs, Republic of Rwanda, at the Ministerial Meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> India  
Africa Summit – New Delhi, 27 October 2015**

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Hon. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India

Co-Chair, Hon. S.S. Mumbengegwi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
Zimbabwe and AU Chair

Distinguished Ministers

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by thanking our host the Government and people of India for the warm hospitality accorded to me and the Rwandan delegation. We comment the excellent arrangements for a productive and mutually beneficial 3<sup>rd</sup> India Africa Forum Summit.

May I also thank our senior officials who have worked very hard on the outcome documents of the summit; especially the joint Summit Declaration and the Framework for Strategic Cooperation.

India and Africa enjoy a strong bond of friendship and partnership going back to hundreds of years. There has been a long history of trade and commerce, people to people connection and cultural contact between India and Africa. This Summit goes a long way to further cement this invaluable relationship. Rwanda believes that we must cease this momentum and build on this long and enduring connection for the mutual benefit and enhancement of the welfare of the people of India and Africa.

Since its inception in 2008, the India Africa Forum Summit has registered many achievements that my country Rwanda has benefited from. Rwanda is pursuing a vision to be a middle income country by 2020. This calls for significant investments in infrastructure, energy, agriculture

transformation, skills development and building knowledge based economy, among other priority areas. Programmes under the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> IAFS have in a recognizable way contributed to Rwanda's efforts in pursuit of that vision.

**Excellencies,**

The Government to Government partnership between India and Africa is strong. India also has a very vibrant private sector with leading business enterprises and business actors. This Summit and other Indo-Africa connections offer a tremendous opportunity to boost trade, investment and flow of Indian capital and foreign direct investment to Africa.

My country Rwanda is open for business with India and the rest of the world. We have created a conducive environment for business. Rwanda is ranked by world the Bank in its annual doing business rankings as one of the top global reformers offering a competitive business environment. This offers opportunity for increased trade and investment between our two countries. Indeed Indian entrepreneurs are among the top investors in Rwanda in various sectors and we look forward to continued partnership.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today we agree on a joint declaration and Framework for Strategic Cooperation to be adopted by African Heads of State/Heads of Governments and the Government of India during this Summit. It is 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.

Our common objectives and development challenges can be overcome by implementing agreed priority programmes with a sense of urgency and stronger ownership. This is a shared objective and Rwanda is committed

to playing its role in making this a truly productive and high impact partnership.

**Excellencies,**

The agreed areas of cooperation under this Summit are aligned to Africa's own vision for transformation: Agenda 2063 and its 10 year implementation plan. They also conform to African's ambition of fostering African regional economic integration. We thank our Indian friends for their commitment to support Africa in this regard.

**Distinguished**

**Participants,**

Increased Trade and investment between our two parts of the world will ultimately be the game changer and will have longer term impact on our people and transform India and African economies. We need to make the best use of the platform offered by this Summit to explore in a concrete manner practical actions to boost trade between India and Africa. Although trade between the Indian sub-continent and Africa has grown over the last decade, there are many un-tapped opportunities; and more can be achieved.

I would like to close by thanking again the Government of India for organizing and hosting this high level Summit. I have no doubt that the outcome of these deliberations will go a long way to cement the bond of friendship and partnership between India and Africa.

Thank you for your kind attention.