

YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA,  
NARENDRA MODI

YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN UNION, PRESIDENT  
ROBERT MUGABE,

YOUR MAJESTY,

EXCELLENCIES, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION, DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI-  
ZUMA,

HONOURABLE MINISTERS,

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

## **INTRODUCTION**

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE PRESIDENT, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, FOR BEING SUCH A GOOD HOST AND ORGANISER OF THIS SUMMIT.

TODAY'S SUMMIT, WHICH SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN AND PROMOTE THE COOPERATION BETWEEN AFRICA AND INDIA, IS A CLEAR TESTIMONY OF OUR CLOSE FRIENDLY TIES THAT HAVE EXISTED FOR A VERY, VERY LONG TIME.

WE THANK OUR HOST COUNTRY FOR BUILDING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN AFRICA AND INDIA.

SINCE THIS SUMMIT WAS CONCEIVED IN 2008, THERE HAS BEEN A NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS THAT HAVE BENEFITTED MANY COUNTRIES IN AFRICA IN A VARIETY OF SECTORS, NAMELY; QUALITY EDUCATION, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING, HEALTH, CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCES, INFRASTRUCTURE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

WE SALUTE THE CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT NATION FOR THE SACRIFICE OF SHARING WITH US THEIR EXPERIENCES.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL THAT INDIA CONTINUES WITH HER COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP AFRICA WHICH IS SERIOUSLY LAGGING BEHIND FROM OTHER CONTINENTS AND SUCH SUPPORT WILL CERTAINLY GO A LONG WAY IN BRIDGING THIS GAP.

## **COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND AFRICA**

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LIKE SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES, INDIA DOES NOT HAVE MANY NATURAL RESOURCES, BUT THROUGH THE HARD WORK OF ITS CITIZENS, THE PEOPLE HAVE ATTAINED THE DEVELOPED STATUS THAT THE COUNTRY NOW ENJOYS.

WE WISH TO PRAISE INDIA FOR THE PROGRAMMES WE SEE WHICH DEMONSTRATE AN ADMIRABLE COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP ITS PEOPLE.

WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE HAVE A LOT TO LEARN FROM YOUR SUCCESS STORIES.

YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP A SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM, GOOD INFRASTRUCTURE, RESEARCH CENTRES, INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONS, TO NAME BUT A FEW.

AS INDIA CONTINUES TO DEVELOP IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS, SHE HAS NOT LEFT AFRICA BEHIND.

THE ISSUE OF ENERGY REMAINS CRITICAL IF WE ARE TO REALISE ECONOMIC GROWTH. SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE CURRENTLY FACED WITH AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF ENERGY AND THIS HAS HAMPERED OUR INVESTMENT DRIVE AS A COUNTRY.

WE WOULD WELCOME INVESTORS FROM INDIA TO EXPLORE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS SECTOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, THE LINES OF CREDIT THAT PROVIDE CONCESSIONAL LOANS HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED IMMENSELY TO INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA.

THE KINGDOM IS ALSO A BENEFICIARY OF THESE LOANS IN AGRICULTURE, ICT AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

## **LAUNCH OF THE UN 2030 AGENDA**

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, OUR SUMMIT FOLLOWS ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE LAUNCH OF THE UN POST 2015 AGENDA WHICH SEEKS TO CREATE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR MANKIND TO LIVE IN.

IN JUNE THIS YEAR, AFRICA ADOPTED VISION 2063 WHICH CRAFTS THE ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CONTINENT – THE AFRICA WE WANT.

## **SUPPORT TO THE KINGDOM**

WE IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAVE ALSO SET FOR OURSELVES A NATIONAL VISION WHICH SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE EVERY CITIZEN TO WORK HARD SO THAT THE COUNTRY CAN ATTAIN A DEVELOPED STATUS BY 2022.

WE BELIEVE THIS VISION IS ATTAINABLE DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE ARE NOT BLESSED WITH MANY NATURAL RESOURCES, BUT THROUGH THE HARD WORK OF OUR PEOPLE WE ARE CONFIDENT WE SHALL ATTAIN IT. WE ARE DRIVEN BY AN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY, MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AND SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES.

WE HOPE INDIA WILL CONTINUE TO WALK WITH US IN PURSUING OUR VISION, SINCE ALL THE PRIORITY AREAS OF AGENDA 2030 AND 2063 ARE CONTAINED IN OUR NATIONAL VISION.

WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY ARE CRITICAL BECAUSE THROUGH INVESTMENT, THE KINGDOM CAN CREATE JOBS ESPECIALLY FOR THE YOUTH.

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS PLEASED THAT THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETING AN INNOVATION PARK WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AND CREATIVITY.

WE APPEAL TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST WITH BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF OUR PEOPLE, TO ENABLE THEM TO DEVELOP THIS FACILITY INTO A SCIENCE AND RESEARCH CENTRE THAT CAN TRANSFORM OUR ECONOMY INTO THAT OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY.

THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE CONTINUES TO AFFECT AFRICA IN PARTICULAR AND THE WHOLE WORLD IN GENERAL. MOST AFFECTED ARE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE OURS.

AFRICA IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT.

IN THE KINGDOM, WE HAVE EMBARKED ON A DAM CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME AIMED AT STRENGTHENING WATER HARVESTING FOR BOTH POTABLE USE AND IRRIGATION.

THIS WILL ALSO HELP OUR FARMERS TO DIVERSIFY FROM SUGAR CANE TO OTHER COMMERCIAL CROPS IN ORDER TO MEET OUR FOOD SUFFICIENCY OBJECTIVES.

WE ARE CURRENTLY DISTRIBUTING FARM INPUTS TO SUBSIDISE FARMERS THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT THIS PROGRAMME IS BEING AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT DROUGHT WE ARE EXPERIENCING IN THE REGION.

**CONCLUSION**

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, WE WISH TO THANK INDIA FOR SUPPORTING AFRICA, ESPECIALLY IN PROVIDING AFFORDABLE AND QUALITY MEDICINES TO MEET OUR CHALLENGES CAUSED BY PANDEMICS SUCH AS; HIV/AIDS, TB AND MALARIA AND LATELY EBOLA LAST YEAR.

WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT INDIA IS SUPPORTING AFRICA'S VOICE OF A FAIR AND JUST COMPOSITION OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, AS CONTAINED IN THE EZULWINI CONSENSUS.

THE SUPPORT PROVIDED TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND STABILITY ON OUR CONTINENT HAS INDEED BROUGHT PEACE TO AFRICA.

FINALLY, IN ORDER TO TRACK PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2015 AFRICA-INDIA FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND ITS PLAN OF ACTION, WE NEED TO HAVE AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MONITORING MECHANISM IN PLACE.

THE KINGDOM ENDORSES THE FRAMEWORK WHICH IS TO DEVELOP THE FORMULATION OF THE MONITORING MECHANISM WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

AS WE LEAVE THIS FORUM LET US GO BACK TO OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTIONS WE HAVE AGREED TO PURSUE FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLE.

**I THANK YOU - MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL**