

Dear Member,

India's shared historic relationship with Africa characterized by struggle against colonialism and apartheid has grown into a sustainable partnership. India has a vision for a partnership with Africa for the 21st century that aspires to go beyond strong bilateral relationships. India wishes to see the 21st century as the century of Asia and Africa with the people of the two continents working together to promote inclusive globalization. Towards this end India hosted the first-ever-India-Africa Forum summit on 8 – 9, April, 2008, in New Delhi. The Presidents of South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Vice-Presidents of Nigeria and Zambia, Prime Ministers of Burkina Faso and Ethiopia and Ministers and Special Representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Kenya and Libya and the chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission attended the Summit.


The African leaders called for a more concrete measures to forge a closer economic engagement between India and Africa. They sought India's immediate assistance to meet the fundamental needs of African people in the areas of construction of schools, houses, visible projects that generate employment, investments in infrastructure - railways, roads, high-ways, power generation and information technology. India's know-how in health, education, science and food security was sought.

In his inaugural address, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that no one understood better than India and Africa the imperative need for global institutions to reflect current realities and to build a more equitable global economy and polity. He announced India will double financial credit to Africa to US\$ 5.4 billion in the next five years from the present level of US\$ 2.15 billion. "We recognize the crucial importance of market access in ensuring the development dimension of international trade. Accordingly, I am happy to announce a Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme for Least Developed countries. Under the scheme, India shall unilaterally provide preferential access for exports from all 50 least developed countries, 34 of which are in Africa. The scheme will cover 94% of India's total tariff lines. Specially, it will provide preferential market access on tariff lines that comprise 92.5% of global exports of all Least Developed countries. Products of immediate interest to Africa which are covered include cotton, cocoa, aluminum ores, copper ores, cashew nuts, cane sugar, ready-made garments, fish pellets and non-industrial diamonds".

The summit adopted two documents, the Delhi declaration and the Africa – India Framework for cooperation with an aim to enhance the "true partnership" to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Delhi declaration is a political document that covers bilateral, regional and international issues interest to India and Africa, including their common positions on UN reforms, climate change, World Trade Organization and anti-terrorism. India and African countries agreed to "further strengthen cooperation towards early realization of a genuine reform of the United Nations and its working methods, particularly revitalizing and enhancing the role of the General Assembly and reform and expansion of the Security Council". Africa takes note of India's position and its aspirations to become a permanent member with full rights in an expanded UN Security Council" the document said. The Framework for cooperation covers agreed areas of cooperation in many sectors including education, science and technology, agricultural productivity, food security, industrial growth, infrastructure and development of the health sector.

The leaders of India and Africa have agreed to meet every 3 years in addition to the high-level political changes between them in the bilateral and regional and multi-lateral contexts. They have accordingly agreed that the next Africa – India Summit will be held in 2011 in Africa.

Thanks for your co-operation


Atluri Subba Rao