

74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**Agenda Item 64 New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress
in implementation and international support**

INDIA STATEMENT

By

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Deputy Permanent Representative**

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Thank you Mr. President,

We align our Statement with the Statement delivered by Palestine on behalf of G77.

It has been four years, since all of us have embarked on the journey towards achievement of the Agenda 2030. Our African partners have also commenced the first phase of implementation of the Agenda 2063, which complements Agenda 2030 and builds on the core priorities of NEPAD. International cooperation remains a critical element in Africa's efforts to achieve greater peace and prosperity envisaged in these two Agendas. NEPAD is an important part of these collaborative efforts.

India's partnership with Africa is based on a model of cooperation which is responsive to the needs of African countries. It is demand-driven and free of conditionalities. It is based on our history of friendship, historical ties, and a sense of deep solidarity. African priorities are our priorities.

Mr. President,

African countries continue to make progress in the implementation of the 2030 agenda towards a prosperous, peaceful and people-centered Africa. Compared to even a decade ago, the continent is more peaceful; its governance institutions are stronger; its overall economic output has grown; poverty rates have fallen; infrastructure and connectivity are improving; and economies are more diversified. Life expectancy has increased. Rates of infant and maternal mortality have fallen.

Africa is a 'young' continent – one that is projected to account for nearly one-fifth of the world's population by 2030- with a demographic dividend that can be of great advantage with the youth having education and the skills needed for economic opportunities. The African Continental Free Trade Area which came into force this year has made Africa the world's largest free trade area, with 1.2 billion consumers and a combined GDP of \$3.4 trillion. India views this development as yet another opportunity to boost trade and economic ties with Africa.

Mr. President,

The bonds between India and the African Continent have been forged over several centuries. Longstanding trade and Diaspora links across the Indian Ocean, a shared colonial past and our common development challenges have been the foundation of India-Africa relations. India has worked together with African partners to eliminate the evils of colonialism and apartheid. We have worked together for a fairer global governance system including a more equitable global economic order.

Going forward, shared prosperity is the theme of our partnership. The core strengths of our development partnership have been capacity building, mobilizing financial support and sharing of technical expertise. It complements our rapidly growing trade and investment links.

Our development partnership currently includes implementation of 181 Lines of Credit worth about US\$ 11 billion in over 41 African countries. Our projects have made a great difference to the quality of life of the African people, all over the African continent. At the last India Africa Forum Summit, we had committed a concessional Line of Credit of 10 billion U.S. dollars and 600 million dollars in grant assistance. India is proud of its educational and technical ties with Africa. We want to build genuine partnerships that create jobs and opportunities. It is with this in mind that we decided to offer 50,000 scholarships to African students. As always, our efforts will be driven by Africa's priorities.

Indian companies have invested over US\$ 54 billion in Africa. Our trade with Africa is now over US\$ 62.6 billion. This is over 22% more than in the previous year. Africa's exports to India are growing. And, our economic ties are now increasingly driven by new partnerships of innovation in the digital economy. We have launched the 2nd phase of the Pan Africa E-Network

which aims to provide 5 years free tele-education to 4000 students, free medical education to 1000 doctors/nurses/paramedics. African continent receives nearly 20% of our pharmaceuticals; these medicines turned the tide on diseases such as HIV and Malaria that were once a threat to Africa's future. They also continue to make healthcare affordable and accessible to many.

We are one of the largest contributors to UN Peace Keeping Missions in Africa which have played an important role in bringing peace and stability to the African continent.

Mr. President,

Trilateral partnership has considerable potential in Africa. India is collaborating with Japan in the health sector and UAE in IT sector in Africa. The International Solar Alliance, championed by India and France, is now joined by 79 nations including more than 25 from Africa. The alliance is making ambitious strides for making tangible contribution to the global efforts on renewable energy and climate action. India has pledged more than USD 1 billion Lines of Credit for solar projects in Africa.

Mr. President,

India's leadership continues to attach a very high priority to our partnership with Africa. In the last five years, we have visited 32 African countries at the level of President, Vice President and Prime Minister. There has, indeed, been an unprecedented transformation of our political engagement with Africa. Indian ministers have visited all 54 partner countries during this period.

We have also had 35 incoming visits by the African Heads of States, Heads of Governments and this is in addition to the landmark Third India Africa Forum Summit held four years ago in Delhi wherein all 54 African nations participated, including 41 African Heads of State or Government. India has also engaged in the G20 and BRICS on issues regarding the development priorities of Africa.

Our engagement is not limited only to the bilateral political level. Today, India and Africa have comprehensive diplomatic mechanisms at all three levels - continental, regional and bilateral and through multilateral fora. In

addition to the three editions of the India-Africa Forum Summits (IAFS I, II, III), we have had three meetings with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Africa.

Mr. President, I would like to conclude by saying that the underlying philosophy of India's partnership with Africa is to empower Africa for a glorious future that is founded on the principles of inclusiveness, sustainability, peace and prosperity, dignity and respect for one and all.

I thank you.