

**73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 68**

**New Economic Partnership for  
Africa's Development**

**INDIA STATEMENT**

**By**

**Mr. Ashish Sinha, Counsellor**

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**Thank you Mr. President,**

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

We are meeting at a time when we are well under way on the journey towards achievement of the Agenda 2030, adopted three years ago. Our African partners have, in addition, also commenced the first phase of implementation of the mutually reinforcing longer term Agenda 2063.

Africa has made rapid strides in recent years in all aspects. 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.

**Mr. President,**

Longstanding trade and Diaspora links across the Indian Ocean, a shared colonial past and our common development challenges have framed India's relationship with Africa. Going forward, shared prosperity is the theme of our partnership.

Our development partnership currently includes implementation of 180 Lines of Credit worth about USD 11 billion in over 40 African countries. 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.

Every year, over 8000 African youth are trained in a diverse set of programmes. 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 billion. This is over 21 per cent 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. The Pan Africa E-Network links 48 African countries to India, and to one another. It can become the new backbone for digital innovation in Africa.

With several coastal nations, our partnership now increasingly seeks to harness the benefits of Blue Economy in a sustainable manner. And, India's medicines turned the tide on diseases that were once a threat to Africa's future. They also continue to make healthcare affordable and accessible to many

The International Solar Alliance, championed by India and France, is now joined by 70 nations including 25 from Africa. The alliance is making ambitious strides for making tangible contribution to the global efforts on renewable energy and climate action.

**Mr. President,**

Indian leaders continue to attach a very high priority to our partnership with Africa. Earlier this year Prime Minister Modi paid an official visit to three –countries of the continent. During the last four years, the top leadership of India, including the President, Vice President and Prime Minister have visited more than 20 African countries. Indian ministers have visited all 54 partner countries during this period.

We have also had 32 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 three 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.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to conclude by reiterating that India's partnership with Africa is based on building instruments of empowerment for Africa. India stands with African endeavors, upholding the principle of equality.

In the similar spirit, we look forward to BAPA+40 Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires in March next year. Here at the UN, last year, India established the India-UN Development Partnership Fund stepping up its efforts towards South-South cooperation. A sum of US\$ 150 million has been committed for the next decade focusing on the developmental projects in LDCs and SIDS.

Within the first year the fund has initiated projects in 9 countries in Africa and will continue to enhance its outreach, one that continues to contribute to the implementation of 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and one that stands true to the principle of leaving no behind.

Thank you.