

# India in Africa

## Delhi Declaration, 2015 – An Overview\*

The 'Delhi Declaration 2015- Partners in Progress: Towards a Dynamic and Transformative Development Agenda' was adopted at the conclusion of the Third India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III).

Formulated by India and Africa against the backdrop of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Organisation Of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union (AU) (OAU/AU), the outcome document was drawn up keeping in mind Africa's visionary Agenda 2063 programme, adoption of sustainable development goals (SDGs) at the UN and issues likely to crop up at the Conference of Parties (COP 21) meeting on climate change in Paris and the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial meeting.

### The Declaration and the Framework

The Delhi Declaration-2015 broadly covers the following aspects:

- Calls for continued collaboration in the fields of peace and security between India and Africa.
- Provides a concrete foundation for the consolidation of the strategic partnership between both sides. enhances cooperation for strengthening of UN counter terrorism mechanism and
- Enhances cooperation and coordination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The political document is different from similar statements made at the previous two IAFSs in which it agreed to establish a formal monitoring mechanism to review implementation of the agenda set out in a second document issued at the end of IAFS-III, viz., 'India-Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation' and a consequent Plan of Action to be drawn up jointly by India and the

AU in the following three months.

India Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation includes:

- Reaffirmed strong commitment to work together for comprehensive reforms of the United Nations system, including its UN Security Council.
- Make these world governing institutions more regionally representative, democratic, accountable and effective.
- Agreed to establish Small and Medium Enterprises and Medium and Small Industries to promote income generation and employment creation for people of both countries.
- Ensure access to affordable and quality treatment and medicines, particularly generic medicines to people of both countries.

In the Framework document, among other issues, India notes Africa's request to further expand its Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for greater coverage. It notes that US\$9bn of concessional credit in the form of line of credits (LOCs) was approved by India for Africa in the last decade covering 140 projects in over 40 countries, of which 60 projects are complete. Since IAFS-II in 2011, over 24,000 scholarships across 300 training programmes in 60 institutions have been utilised by African nationals in diverse fields. India has promised to fast track implementation of those capacity building institutions that have been found feasible for continuation in IAFS-III.

Due to lack of significant progress in the establishment of such



institutions in Africa as envisaged at the previous two Summits, it was decided not to commit to any new projects this time, but to complete those already in the pipeline.

In his concluding remarks at the IAFS-III, Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed India to:

- Ensure additional concessional credit (LOCs) of US\$10bn over five years, in addition to ongoing credit commitments
- Grant assistance of US\$600mn, including an India-Africa Development Fund of US\$100mn and a India-Africa Health Fund of US\$10mn and
- Provide about 50,000 scholarships in India over the following five years, continuation of Indian support for, and expansion of, the Pan African e-Network project, and institutions of skilling, training and learning across Africa.

### Conclusion

For long, India's relations with Africa have hinged on the common struggle against colonialism, apartheid, poverty, disease, illiteracy and hunger. Policy, strategy and implementation have changed. Nowhere is this reflected more succinctly than in the two outcome documents of IAFS-III, the Delhi Declaration 2015 and the India-Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation.

\* Excerpts from article entitled 'Why Africa' by Debnath Shaw. This article was published on [www.idsa.in](http://www.idsa.in) & [www.currentaffairs.gktoday.in](http://www.currentaffairs.gktoday.in), 29.10.15.

## US\$10bn Line of Credit to Africa

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a concessional credit grant to Africa at the Third India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS III) in New Delhi in October, 2015. "To add strength to our partnership, India will offer concessional credit of US\$10bn over the following five years. This will be in addition to our ongoing credit programme", Modi said.

"We will also offer a grant assistance of US\$600mn. This will include an India-Africa development fund of US\$100mn and an India-Africa health fund of US\$10mn. It will also include 50,000 scholarships in India through the following five years. And, it will support the expansion of the pan-Africa e-network and institutions of skilling, training and learning across Africa", he added.

Since IAFS I in 2008, India has committed US\$7.4bn in concessional credit and US\$1.2bn in grants, Modi stated. *(www.business-standard.com, 30.10.15)*

### India Woos African Countries

India has invited ministers and chiefs of state-owned Oil and Gas companies from Africa in January, 2016 to explore new opportunities in hydrocarbon exploration and production, export of oilfield services and construction of fertiliser plants. The focus countries include Sudan, Mozambique, Tanzania, Libya, Ghana, Egypt and Algeria.



www.livemint.com

At the two-day India-Africa Hydrocarbon Summit in New Delhi, starting from January 21, 2016 hydrocarbon explorers Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd; gas transporter GAIL and Refiners Indian Oil Corp.; Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd. would seek stakes in oil and gas fields and opportunities for setting up petrochemical complexes. In addition contracts for selling engineering, procurement and construction services from African customers, will also be explored, according to a person privy to the development.

*(www.livemint.com, 31.12.15)*

### India-AU FTA on Hold

India's proposal for a free trade agreement (FTA) with the AU – made

Indo-Africa Summit in October 2015 in New Delhi – has been put on hold as it wants to form its own union first and then negotiate as a bloc.

India will have to wait for at least two years to get into this FTA talks as the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Forum, which aims to integrate Africa's markets and establish an African Economic Community (AEA), will conclude its negotiations at the earliest by 2017.

At the same time, the Indian Commerce Ministry will examine individual countries in the African continent that hold reasonable export interest for India, so that it could initiate FTA negotiations with them, an official added.

*(www.thehindubusinessline.com, 06.12.15)*

### India-Bollere Africa Alliance

Following the tie-up with Bollere Africa, India's first in the pharmaceutical sector, the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) hopes a common warehousing facility in Nigeria will be operational by February 2016.

With this facility, council members can store products in different facilities of the warehouse for catering to Nigeria and other countries in Africa. This warehouse will reduce transaction time of shipments by three-four months, besides relieving the exporter of paying customs duty immediately.

Bollere Africa is part of the France-based Bollere Group, which offers transportation and logistics, communication and media and

electricity storage services. As per the arrangement, the council will take on lease a storage area, which will be allotted to the members based on their requirement.

*(www.health.economicstimes.indiatimes.com, 26.11.15)*

### MSF's Urge for Affordable Drugs

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has urged the African governments and India during the IAFS III to work together to maintain trade in affordable generic medicines.

India is under considerable pressure from the United States and other developed countries to roll back its pro-public-health intellectual property policies putting access to vital lifesaving generic drugs above the profits of multinational pharmaceutical companies.

The historical lack of patent barriers in India has opened up generic production of some older antiretroviral drugs, allowing the price of HIV drugs to be driven down from over US\$ 10,000 per person per year in 2000 to just over US\$100 per patient per year for India and Africa and 15mn people in the developing world. *(www.pharmabiz.com, 27.10.15)*

### Nigeria: Leading the Chart

Nigeria is leading the chart of Africans seeking medical care in India, with about 42.4 percent. Others prominent on the chart are: Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, Mauritius, Egypt and South Africa.

According to a 2013 statistics released by the New Delhi-based Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), of 275,271 tourist arrivals in India, Nigeria accounted for 34,522.

The report showed that 42.4 percent of 34,522 Nigerians, who visited India, came for medical treatment. The breakdown of African tourist arrivals in India and medical treatment percentage is: Tanzania-23,345(18.5 percent); Kenya-40,484(9.2 percent); Sudan-8,778(9.1 percent); Mauritius-27,418 (5.1 percent); Egypt-15,062 (1.1 percent); South Africa-58,023 (0.9 percent) and others 67,639 (13.9 percent).

*(www.thenationonline.net, 09.11.15)*

## Civil Society Creating a People's Network in India and Africa

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### Long History of Cooperation

Since ancient times Africa and India have shared a territorial proximity due to a navigable ocean between them. The colonial linkages and resulting trade also facilitated this contact. The basic fibre and intent of the India-Africa engagement has gone through a sea change after independence of states, as the focus has been on social and economic aspirations rather than preferences of imperial masters. The non-alignment movement brought the leaders in these countries together like never before and established concrete ties as independent states. This partnership is presently based on new found confidence of the place they occupy in the current world order, and issues of mutual interest.

### Role of Indian Civil Society in Africa

Indian civil society organisations are active in Sub-Saharan Africa sharing their expertise and experience as models from a fellow developing country. This engagement is based on a tripod: Firstly, the development realities and issues faced by both the regions are quite similar; Secondly, there is a larger strategic interest of the Indian government and Indian businesses to engage with Africa for natural resources and growing markets; and thirdly, English speaking Anglophone countries in Africa enable easy operations for Indian civil society organisations (CSOs). Use of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) tools and cheaper international travel has also added to the growing cooperation among CSOs in the two regions.

Most Indian CSOs are engaged in the domain of capacity building, technical advisory services and skills training. CUTS International for example is an Indian policy think tank working with state and non-state actors in more than 30 African countries to build local capacity on issues of consumer protection and competition; trade and development and good governance. Another example is Barefoot College, an Indian non-government organisation (NGO), which has trained more than 140 women from Africa in India on how to fabricate, install and maintain solar-powered household lighting systems resulting in 2000 energy self-reliant families in rural Africa.

Further, NGOs like PRIA, VAANI, SEWA and many others are extending their domain expertise to African countries while assimilating the local realities of in their work. Indian CSOs are a good case of using limited resources and appropriate technical expertise to build local capacity of stakeholders in Africa.

This engagement is in line with the international principles, such as the Busan and Addis framework for development cooperation. The principles agreed in these



frameworks, and the trilateral development (service provider from a developing country provides a solution/services to another developing country through support from a developed country donor) firmly establish the role of non-state actors in the arena of development cooperation.

Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, which is the nodal agency for implementation of India's development partnerships with developing countries, has also engaged Indian Civil Society. DPA played a key role in launch of the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC). The mandate of the forum is to explore various facets of development cooperation, which would also seek to draw upon India's own experience. Several Indian CSOs have come together under the banner of FIDC. Moreover, CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC), CUTS International and National Law University, Delhi organised a two week long international training programme on 'Competition Policy and Law for African Countries' in March, 2015, under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.

Similarly, DPA has been engaging with a variety of Indian CSOs to deliver on capacity building projects for African agencies. These are some of the examples of how the Indian Government and civil society are constructively engaging to deliver value to the African people.

### Civil Society – A Facilitator of People to People

India is seen as a progressive democracy and role model in Africa. Ministry of External Affairs's (MEA's) partnership with the Indian civil society to deliver foreign policy programmes through DPA is a refreshing model, which will enhance India's image. This approach will also help to simplify the foreign policy for domestic constituents who have become increasingly interested in it since Prime Minister Modi's engagement with the international community.

A partnership approach between the Governments and civil society in India and Africa can deliver high social impacts for the countries in Africa and establish India as a partner of choice. Synergising efforts with African civil society to strive for common goals will result in robust and forward looking partnership between India and Africa, the continent of hope.

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– This article was published in The Economic Times on October 29, 2015

### Africa to Build a Coherent Strategy

India and Africa share complimentary relationships. They need to see the India-Africa forum Summits as an opportunity to evolve common ground and cooperation in economic, political and other major issues in international relations. It is indeed desirable and necessary that India and her associates in Africa meet occasionally to rub minds on their place in the modern world, which has become more closely-knit by technology and scientific progress and for the two sides to exchange notes on the challenges and opportunities for their development in contemporary times.

The AU has also signed strategic partnership agreements, during the past decade, with numerous countries and international organisations including India. Africa so far does not develop a coherent strategy towards the partner that would set the ground rules for engagement.

(<http://allafrica.com/stories/201512071261.html>)

### India Keen to Invest in Africa

On October 26, 2015 almost 2000 delegates and heads of state or government from 54 African nations will convene in New Delhi (India) for the third India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS). The Indian government's interest in Africa, according to Indian Prime Minister is "driven by the aim of empowerment, capacity building, human resource development, access to Indian market, and support for Indian investments in Africa".

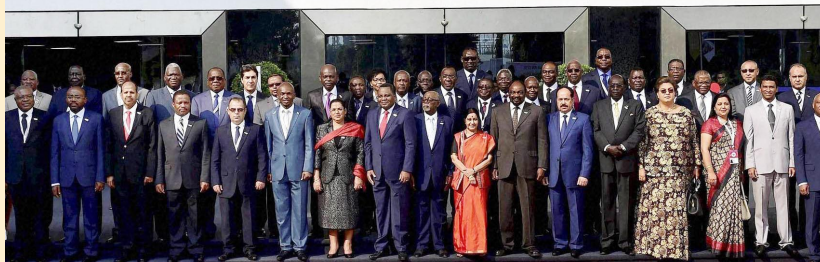
India's Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Nirmala Sitharaman characterised the India-Africa relationship as one between 'old friends and old family' diplomacy and economic ties. India and Africa are also united in an attempt to re-work the global tax architecture to combat illicit financial flows and allow developing countries to capture a larger share of international tax revenues.

(*The Wire*, 26.10.15)

### Focussing on Major Deliverables

The Chief Coordinator of the third India-Africa Summit, Akbaruddin indicated in the third India-Africa Summit that India will be focussing on capacity building and human resources as the major 'deliverables' "We stand for human resources in Africa...the most important element in any society. Any other resources are peripheral to our engagement. Our engagement with Africa is in terms of human resources, people-to-people contact, exchange of ideas, capacity building where and African can gain", Akbaruddin said.

## INDIA AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT 2015 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, NEW DELHI



India's trade with Africa is valued at US\$75bn. India has granted a whopping US\$7.4bn for various developmental and capacity building projects, and has implemented 137 projects in 41 African countries in the past four years.

(*Express News Service*, 27.10.15)

### Reaching Out to Africa

India-Africa trade was worth almost US\$70 bn in 2014-15, and Indian companies invested some US\$30-35 bn in the continent, over the past decade.

While trade has improved in these ten years, it is still much less than Africa's trade with China. India may not beat the level of Chinese investments, but it can certainly do a lot more with proper policy approaches, faster project execution and improved bilateral relations.

Firstly, Indian Prime Minister's announcement of the US\$10bn concessional credit is a right step in this direction. Second, there's a convergence of interest for reforming the Security Council.

(<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/indiaafrica-forum-summit-reaching-out-to-africa/article7823807.ece>)

### Stronger India-Africa Bonds

"I am convinced that during this Summit and following the Summit, we are going to have very important decisions, which will give both India and Africa a new sense of self confidence, our relations are going to become closer and deeper", said Narendra Modi.

India is Africa's fourth-largest trading partner, after China, the US and the European Union. Over the past decade, the two-way trade between India and Africa has witnessed a massive surge.

(*International Business Times*, 27.10.15)

### Bringing Foreign Policy Back

The India-Africa Summit fills a nagging void in Modi's omni-directional foreign policy. Although the relations between India and African countries have generally been good over the years, it was only in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century that they gained significant momentum.

The push came from India's burgeoning post-liberalisation private sector but the pull was the 'African Renaissance' project – championed by the then-South African President Thabo Mbeki.

While making a call for greater solidarity of the African countries with the Global South within the neo-liberal paradigm, African Renaissance served as an ideological background for greater economic cooperation between Africa and the rising economies of the Global South.

(*The Wire*, 27.10.11)