

Joint Statement of the 4th India-Africa Trade Ministers
23rd October, 2015
New Delhi, India

1. Under the auspices of the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit scheduled to be held from 26 to 29 October, 2015, we, the Minister of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of India and the African Trade Ministers, met in New Delhi on 23rd October, 2015 for the 4th Meeting of the India-Africa Trade Ministers.

2. We agree that India and Africa, as traditional partners, have drawn strength from their historical ties that have also translated into stronger economic and trade relations. We reiterate our commitment towards equitable socio-economic progress for the people of India and Africa. We recognize the importance of forging progressive trade and investment partnerships in order to attain stable growth and face the challenges posed by emerging global economic order.

3. We observe that inspite of a combined population of over 2.3 billion, the share of India and Africa in the world trade basket of over US\$ 37 trillion in 2014 is only around 2.1% and 3.1% respectively, and there is substantial scope for its augmentation. However, we note that the bilateral trade between India and Africa has increased from US\$ 52 billion in the year 2010-11 to US\$ 72 billion in 2014-15, at a compound average growth rate of 6.75% per annum. We recognise the need to continue our joint efforts for improved and equitable growth in trade and investments between India and Africa, resulting in higher economic growth and development for our people, and enhanced share of global trade for both partners. Importantly, we emphasize the need to diversify Africa's exports to India through initiatives aimed at enhancing Africa's industrial, productive and supply side capacity, as well as further improving market access conditions for African exports.

4. We note the progress on proposed economic cooperation and investment relations of India with Regional Economic Communities/groupings. We welcome the launch of the Tripartite Free Trade Area which is paving the way for the Continental Free Trade Area.

5. Considering the regional and continental initiatives in Africa on industrialisation, we call on the India-Africa cooperation to take concrete measures to support Africa's industrialisation through value addition, capacity building, technology transfer, and SME development. India and Africa acknowledge the importance of SMEs in enhancing economies of developing countries, using Indian pexperience of designing policies for small industries.

6. We note that Indian investment in Africa has surged, with major investments having taken place in the telecommunications, IT, energy, engineering, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and automobile sectors. India's current investments in Africa are estimated to be over US\$ 57 billion. However, there is a vast potential for accelerating investment flows in

numerous sectors of mutual cooperation viz. Agriculture including Agro-processing, Pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Ocean Economy, Mining, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Information Technology and Information Technology Enabled Services (IT & ITES), Gems and Jewellery, and Core Infrastructure, including Roads and Railways. We encourage joint investments to establish a robust telecommunication infrastructure in the African continent to have access to reliable and affordable ICT network and service.

7. We underscore the need to enhance India-Africa cooperation in the Services sector including in health, education, tourism, banking and insurance, IT and ITES including software development, telecommunications and voice based services, R&D services, professional services and films, music and television. We encourage the movement of professionals and business persons, students, medical patients and tourists between India and African countries.

8. We note the steps undertaken by Invest India to facilitate information sharing about investment opportunities and hand holding of entrepreneurs from both the sides. Invest India has brought out Investment Guides for five regions of Africa highlighting investment policies in the countries of each region. We appreciate that Invest India, and industry associations, have organized capacity building programmes for African Investment Promotion Agencies and Chambers of Commerce. We commit to strengthen this process of mutual learning, focusing on the development of SMEs.

9. We reviewed the progress on the implementation of the joint commitments by the Indian and African sides during the earlier Trade Ministers' Meetings held in Addis Ababa in May 2011, New Delhi in March 2012 and Johannesburg, October 2013 particularly on the establishment of trade institutes and trade-related capacity building initiatives. We appreciate the continuation of trade capacity building by the Government of India through training programmes conducted by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. We acknowledge the importance and usefulness of such programmes towards strengthening the human resource capital of African nations. We agree to take steps for early establishment of India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade in Uganda and India-Africa Diamond Institute in Botswana.

10. We highly commend the Cotton Technical Assistance Programme being implemented by India to strengthen the cotton and textile sector in Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda, as the programme is progressing well towards achieving its objectives. We recommend that the programme be extended and expanded to a larger number of countries that have indicated interest towards it like Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

11. We recognize the important role played by the National Institute of Design (NID) of India in capacity building of women artisans of rural Africa through Training Programmes on Design Intervention for the Basketry Craft as part of initiatives under the Second India-Africa Forum Summit. We appreciate that such capacity building is proposed to be extended to other countries. We reiterate our commitment towards ensuring inclusive socio-economic growth for all sections of our societies by sharing experiences and continuing joint efforts towards their empowerment.

12. The African side appreciates the initiative of the Government of India to establish an integrated textile cluster in Ethiopia for the region which will help usher a new era of mutual cooperation in the textile sector, and also requests India to consider the expansion of the project to other African countries.

13. We note that pharmaceuticals is increasingly an important sector in supporting our industrial development. We, therefore, encourage cooperation in Pharmaceuticals to ensure that the sector supports our mutual regional developmental imperatives.

14. We reviewed the progress made by India-Africa Business Council since its first meeting held in March 2012 at New Delhi and they are encouraged to continue sustainable and regular interaction from both sides among the five Working Groups in the areas of Infrastructure, Agriculture and Textiles, Value Added Manufacturing, Services and Skills Development.

15. We welcome India's expanded and simplified Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). India introduced this Scheme in 2008 and further expanded it in April 2014. The enhanced DFTP Scheme provides duty-free and tariff preference to about 98.2% of India's national tariff lines which is far higher than that committed by most other countries. We note that 21 LDC countries that have registered under this Scheme, out of 34 LDCs in Africa, have experienced a compound annual growth rate of over 15% of their exports to India since the Scheme was introduced. We are confident that with the enhanced awareness of the DFTP Scheme, the African LDCs' market share in the world trade will gradually grow and contribute to the mutual well being of our people in India and Africa.

16. We commend India's Services offer to LDCs, which would support African LDCs in increasing their Services exports to India. We appreciate the significant decision by India to waive visa fee for natural persons of LDCs applying for Indian business and employment visas.

17. We take note of the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India and welcome this initiative in order to encourage mutual and joint investments in India and Africa by our business enterprises. We view this initiative as an opportunity to support the evolution of economies of both India and Africa, and their emergence as manufacturing hubs through mutually beneficial partnerships in value chains. We wish to infuse economic transformation in India and Africa by creating a more conducive business environment.

18. We take note of recent developments between India and Africa in the field of standardisation for upgrading domestic capacities in the field of standards and standards development as a tool to promote bilateral trade and investment.

19. We appreciate the connection between Africa's Agenda 2063 with its First Ten Year Implementation Plan and the focused priorities being pursued by the Government of India which should help towards working to build peace and prosperity for our peoples through

poverty eradication, provision of healthcare, education, employment, access to modern energy services, infrastructure, connectivity between resources and markets.

20. India and Africa commit to continuing the tradition of mutual support in the WTO negotiations in order to ensure that the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) is concluded as per its mandate and the progress achieved so far. We emphasize that the development mandate of the DDA, with its principles of special and differential treatment, is critical for better integration of developing countries into the global trading system. We note that since majority of population in the developing countries depends upon sustenance agriculture, having a permanent solution for food security is also crucial.

21. We underscore the importance of the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the WTO to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, in December 2015, the first WTO Ministerial Conference in Africa. We commit to working towards substantial outcomes in keeping with the DDA. We urge the WTO to strive for the satisfactory resolution of issues of interest to developing countries, in light of the mandate to address existing inequities in the trading system. In addition, we reaffirm our full solidarity with African countries in the process of accession to the WTO and call on WTO members to facilitate and accelerate their process of accession to the WTO.

22. We commit to the establishment of a Joint Monitoring Mechanism to report on the implementation of the outcomes of the Ministers of Trade Meetings. In this regard, we agree to establish Joint Working Group(s) on specific areas of cooperation identified in the statement.

23. We agree, given the importance of industrial development for both India and Africa, to meet at our 5th Meeting as Ministers of Trade and Industry.

24. We appreciate and commend the Government of India for hosting the meeting, and for the excellent arrangements and to the people of India for the warm hospitality extended to the delegates.
