JOINT STATEMENT OF 2\textsuperscript{nd} INDIA-AFRICA TRADE MINISTERS MEET

17\textsuperscript{th} March, 2012,
New Delhi, India

1. We, the African Trade Ministers and the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles of the Republic of India, met in New Delhi on 17\textsuperscript{th} March 2012 for the 2\textsuperscript{nd} meeting of the India-Africa Trade Ministers. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union Commission, and H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles of the Republic of India.

2. We took note of the progress in implementation of the decisions taken by us in the 1\textsuperscript{st} Trade Ministers meeting in Addis Ababa in May, 2011. Towards the need to strengthen the trade relationship between the two sides, we took note of the setting up of the Joint Study Group between India and COMESA for examining the feasibility of a PTA/FTA between India and COMESA. We express satisfaction at the first meeting of India-Africa Business Council (IABC) today, wherein leading businessmen from Africa and India got an opportunity to have in depth discussions on opportunities in India and Africa. We recall our commitment made to work towards tapping the huge potential for the development of integrated clusters in sectors such as agro-processing, textiles, IT, floriculture, etc in Africa, and appreciate the decisions of the Indian Government to set up two such clusters in the areas of ‘Textiles’ and ‘Food Processing’, and other sectors.

3. We recognize the important role of the various Pan-African Institutions being set up by the Indian Government under the umbrella of the ‘India-Africa Forum Summit’, for capacity building and human resource development across many areas, which would help the African countries to achieve their developmental goals. These include establishment of four institutions as decided at the 1\textsuperscript{st} Summit viz., (i) India-Africa Institute of Foreign
Trade, (ii) India-Africa Diamond Institute, (iii) India-Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration and (iv) India-Africa Institute of Information Technology and further six institutions agreed at the 2nd Summit viz., (i) India-Africa Food Processing Cluster, (ii) India-Africa Integrated Textile Cluster, (iii) India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, (iv) India-Africa University for Life and Earth Sciences, (v) India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development, and (vi) India-Africa Civil Aviation Academy. We took note of the steps taken towards setting up of these institutes, including identification of the location of many of these Institutes. With respect to the remaining Institutes, we commit ourselves to their early implementation. We urge the African Union to finalize the locations expeditiously and encourage host countries to undertake requisite arrangements for early implementation. We welcome India’s contribution to augmenting human capacities in Africa and strengthening indigenous capabilities for greater processing and value addition for their natural and other resources.

4. We exchanged views on the global economic situation, and noted that in an environment of increasing concerns over the sovereign debt crisis in the Euro area, the global growth prospects for 2012 have deteriorated. Slower growth in the advanced economies, expected to be around 1.9% in 2012, is likely to depress demand for our exports. The emerging and developing economies on the other hand are expected to grow at around 6.1%. The Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.9 % in 2011-12 and at 7.6% in 2012-13. We agreed that it is necessary for India and Africa to forge new mutually beneficial business partnerships which will act as engines of economic growth and socio-economic development of the region.

5. In the 1st Trade Ministers meeting, we had expressed confidence that the bilateral trade between Africa and India will reach US $ 70 billion by 2015. We note with satisfaction that the India-Africa bilateral trade has reached US $ 60 bn in the year 2011, registering a growth of 22% over the preceding year. In view of the present bilateral trade figures and the trend of growth, we are now confident that bilateral trade between Africa and India will reach US $ 90 billion by 2015. We took note of the dialogue initiated between India and COMESA for a PTA/FTA, the progress in the India-SACU PTA negotiations and agreed on the need for trade cooperation agreements between India
and the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) / countries for strengthening the trade relationship between the two sides.

6. We recognize the need to accelerate and deepen two way investments and emphasize that concerted efforts by the Industry Associations of both the sides are needed for promoting bilateral investment flows in the potential sectors by organizing Investment Promotion Events, Business Delegations, CEOs Roundtables, Road Shows and Fairs. We agreed to strengthen the institutional linkages between the Investment Promotion Agencies and Apex Industry Associations to facilitate greater business to business cooperation, and providing services to the entrepreneurs of India and Africa. These linkages would promote greater dissemination of information regarding investment environment, investment policies & opportunities, incentives available to the investors and lists of specific projects for investment.

7. The launch of India-Africa Business Council (IABC) today, under the leadership of Mr. Sunil Bharti Mittal and Mr. Aliko Dangote, is a welcome step. The Council will suggest the way forward on enhancing economic and commercial relations between India and Africa and also identify and address issues which hinder growth of our economic partnership. The core sectors of cooperation which will be explored by IABC are Agriculture, including Agro-processing, Manufacturing, Pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Mining, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Information Technology and Information Technology Enabled Services, Gems and Jewellery, Banking, Financial Services (including microfinance), Energy, Core Infrastructure including Roads and Railways. The IABC will look into promotion of business cooperation by way of technology transfer, exploring business opportunities in third countries, advising the Governments on policy issues, facilitation of exchange of business delegations, organizing of investment/trade promotion events, fairs and road-shows, capacity building/training in African countries and MSME development in Africa.

8. We appreciate the Indian assistance in the diamond and cotton sectors, which would help many African countries in the all round development of their economy and their people. India will continue to support and forge equitable alliances with African
diamond producing nations and help them upgrade their skills and technology, wherever possible, in the best interest of the people of those countries.

9. We recognize the importance of trade related initiatives taken by India, including the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme, cluster development studies and other capacity building and Technical Assistance Programmes undertaken by the Indian Government in Africa. These initiatives will further strengthen the historic ties between Africa and India.

10. We welcome the launch of Cotton Technical Assistance Programme in the C-4 countries, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda being undertaken by the Indian Government. On the request of Ministers from Central African Republic, Togo and Zambia, it was decided to cover these countries also under the Programme. This will be an important contribution by India towards helping the cotton growing countries of Africa to build capacity, technical expertise and thereby competitiveness in the field.

11. We appreciate the Indian Government’s initiative to set up an Integrated Textiles Cluster as well as other clusters in African countries, to address the need for value-addition in the textiles sector in Africa, in view of the assured supply of cotton, adequate labour force and need to promote small and medium industry. The proposed Integrated Clusters are expected to garner investments of US $ 350 mn and generate employment for 60,000 textile workers. The Cluster, to be set up in next 2 to 3 years, would have vertically integrated production facilities with state of the art infrastructure and a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model of governance. We also appreciate the offer of the Indian Government for capacity building in the Textile and Manufacturing sectors of Africa, which would encompass a range of activities from training on different speciality mills in spinning and weaving to setting up and maintaining effluent treatment plants; skill development of labour and management; and association with Textile Research Associations (TRAs) in India for skill up gradation in Textiles.

12. We express our satisfaction on our coming together in the WTO Ministerial Meeting of December 2011 to reiterate our commitment towards the centrality of the development dimension and the expeditious completion of the LDC issues in the Doha
Development Agenda. We believe that by concluding the Doha Round of negotiations with development at its core, the multilateral trading system envisaged by the WTO would be strengthened. India and Africa share a common platform on many issues of importance to developing countries and our joint efforts have played a key role in preventing any dilution of the development agenda.

13. We expressed confidence that our regular interactions at the level of Ministers will greatly enhance India-Africa relations, and we, the Ministers from Africa, thank our Indian colleague for the excellent arrangements for this meeting and his gracious hospitality.

14. It was decided that in future meetings of the India-Africa Trade Ministers, the RECs would also be in attendance, as were present at the 1st India-Africa Trade Ministers Meeting in Addis Ababa in May, 2011.