



Africa-South America

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

PRESS RELEASE N.03

A STRONG AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA PARTNERSHIP TO FACE GLOBAL CHALLENGES...

Malabo 25 November 2011 – The Fourth Africa-South America ASA Ministerial Meeting opened on 24 November 2011, in the Sipopo Conference Centre, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea . Representatives of forty five African countries and six South American countries took part in this continental gathering. The opening session was attended by President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and current Chairperson of the African Union (AU), who declared the meeting open.



Addressing participants at the opening ceremony, President Obiang expressed satisfaction for the ongoing efforts by both parties to move the partnership into greater heights in the interest of both sides. He said that while the ASA Ministerial Meeting is taking place against the backdrop of the recent global financial crises, there is an urgent need for the two parties to join efforts with the aim of ensuring the availability of financial resources necessary for the implementation and sustainability of projects and programmes mutually agreed upon under the partnership.

Speaking earlier, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, indicated that during the ASA Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting held on the margins of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2010, the meeting had adopted a merged Implementation Plan, which covers the broad spectrum of the agreed eight areas of cooperation. He underscored the need to prioritize the implementation of the Action Plan so as to determine what projects and programmes could be implemented within the various time frames in order to achieve concrete deliverables, which will symbolize the common commitment of both

parties towards building a strong and virile Cooperation Forum. “This meeting is yet another testimony of the mutual desire to re-invigorate and nurture a strategic and robust partnership that is predicated on a regular structured dialogue between the two Regions”, he said. (See complete speech of Chairperson Ping on the AU website: www.au.int).

Representing the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Coordinator of the African Group of the Africa South - America Partnership Forum (ASACOF), the Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Nurudeen Mohammed, highlighted the fact that at the heart of the ASA partnership is the solemn realisation of the commonality and affinity that exist between the two regions. He recalled that for centuries, South America has been home to Africans in the Diaspora, many of whom have successfully retraced their roots and family lineage in Africa. The Minister further indicated that one of the main goals of the Africa-South America Forum is to cement the already existing bonds between peoples of the two regions who are bound by common historical experiences and values. (See complete speech on the AU website: www.au.int).

The Minister of External Relations of Brazil and Coordinator of the South American side of ASACOF, Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, expressed appreciation for the joint efforts of ASA Ministers to reinforce the ties of cooperation between the two regions. He called on the participants to commit themselves to fostering initiatives, actions and activities for implementation of ASA Decision bearing in mind the principle of common and shared responsibility. The Minister underlined the importance of consolidating the foundation of the South – South relationship and reinforcement of the presence in the international scene through the establishment of solid and efficient mechanism and practical modalities, since “the credibility of ASA will depend on the result”.

The Executive Secretary of the Union of South American States (UNASUR) welcomed the African proposal to create a Trust Fund to finance the activities of ASA especially with respect to the eight areas of cooperation. He assured the meeting of the commitment of UNASUR to fully implement the identified areas of cooperation of the partnership.

It is worth recalling that the Third Africa-South America Summit (ASA) is scheduled to take place in 2012 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The partnership was born in November 2006 in Abuja, Nigeria, and reaffirmed during the 2nd ASA Summit held on September 2009 in Margarita Island, Venezuela.

A Press Conference will crown the ASA Ministerial meeting on 25 November 2011, at the Sipopo Conference Centre in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

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