

**AFRICA- INDIA TRADE MINISTERS MEETING**  
**[11 A.M. to 1 P.M. on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2011 at AU Plenary Hall, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia]**

**OPENING ADDRESS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY MINISTER OF INDIA**

Thank you **Your Excellency**, H.E. Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson, Commission of the African Union, for your opening remarks. Thanks for the warm words of welcome. I am indeed honored and feel privileged to be addressing this august gathering of the Hon'ble Ministers of African countries, who have gathered here for the historic first 'Africa-India Trade Ministers Meeting'. This meeting has been possible due to the unstinted support of the African Union, and I thank H.E. **Dr Jean Ping**, Chairperson, Commission of the African Union, H.E. Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson, Commission of the African Union and Ms. Elisabeth Tankeu, Commissioner, Trade and Industry, African Union Commission, for their support. I take this opportunity to welcome the Trade Ministers of Africa:

**H.E. Ms. Francisca Tatchoupe Belope**, Minister of Economy, Commerce and Business Development, Equatorial Guinea: Co-chairperson of the Trade Minister's Meeting

**H.E. Mr. Youssouf Abassallah**, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Chad

**H.E. Mr. Abdurahman Sheik Mohamed**, Minister of Trade, Ethiopia

**H.E. Mr. Chirau Ali Mwakwere**, EGH, MP, Minister of Trade Kenya

**H.E. Mrs. Eunice Kazambe**, Minister of Industry & Trade, Malawi

**H.E. Mr. Bamba Ould Darmane**, Minister of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Tourism, Mauritania

**H.E. Mr. Tjekero Tweya**, Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry, Namibia

**H.E. Mr. Amadou Niang**, Minister of Commerce, Senegal

**H.E. Mr. Rob Davies**, Minister of Trade and Industry, South Africa

**H.E. Ms. Jabulie Mashwama**, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Trade, Swaziland

**Ambassador H.E. Mr. Abd-El-Naceur Belaid**, representing H.E. Mr. Mustapha Benbada, Minister of Trade, Algeria; and

**Ambassador H.E. Mrs. Epiphanie Kabushemeye – Ntamwana**, representing **H.E. Mrs. Victoire Ndikumana**, Minister of Trade, Burundi

**Ambassador H.E. Mr. Tarek Ghoneim**, representing Mr. Samir Youssef Ali EI-Sayyad, Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade, Egypt *(to be confirmed)*

**Ambassador H.E. Mr. Eineje Egabadekwu Onobu**, representing Senator Jibril Martins Kuye, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Nigeria *(to be confirmed)*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa- India Forum Summit is being convened on 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This Summit, coming 3 years after the New Delhi Summit, provides an over-arching institutional umbrella for a sustained multi-dimensional engagement between India and Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The ‘Africa – India Forum Summit’ provides a unique opportunity to strengthen the economic dialogue between India and the African Countries and to promote measures for capacity building, and in pursuance of the same, we have gathered here. It is indeed important for us to devise mechanisms to strengthen Trade and Investment linkages between India and Africa to realize the full potential of our economic partnership.

Trade between India and Africa crossed US \$ 46 billion last year and is expected to reach US \$ 70 billion by 2015. Indian private sector entrepreneurs have made investments in excess of US \$ 25 billion in a wide range of sectors, ranging from Telecom, Automobiles, IT, Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture etc. I believe there is immense scope to take the present levels of trade and investment between India and Africa to new heights. In view of the opportunity provided by the Summit, we have organized an ‘India Show’, since yesterday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 at Addis Ababa, which we will have an opportunity to visit later in the day. The Show will profile India’s rich heritage, the story of its developmental journey and showcasing its achievements in the field of industrial development. A ‘Business Conclave’ will follow this meeting, in which, leading CEOs of India and Africa will take part and have an interaction with us.

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