

Speech by High Commissioner Abhishek Singh on IAFS IV: Advancing India-Africa Strategic Partnership at joint virtual discussion organized by Vivekananda International Foundation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am indeed privileged to deliver the special remarks at today's Joint Virtual Discussion on India-Africa Forum Summit-IV, titled "*Advancing India-Africa Strategic Partnership.*"

At the outset, I would like to thank Dr. Eghosa Emmanuel Osaghae for his opening remarks as well as Dr. Arvind Gupta for his insightful views, which have set the tone for today's important discussion .

India and Africa have long been bound by ties of history, culture, and shared aspirations. Our partnership is not new, it is built on decades of cooperation, people-to-people connections, and a commitment to supporting Africa's development. Yet what's exciting is how we are re imagining this relationship for the 21st century, one where both India and Africa emerge as economic powerhouses and voices of reason in global affairs.

The India-Africa Forum Summit, established in 2008, represents far more than a diplomatic gathering. It is the apex institutional mechanism for India's comprehensive engagement with Africa, covering the entire spectrum from political dialogue, security cooperation, economic ties, trade relations, developmental support, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people connections.

Lets look at some of the achievements of IAFS

Over the past 15 years, this framework has proven its value. What began as an idea has matured into a robust partnership that reflects our shared commitment to the South-South cooperation model, a framework where developing nations support one another's growth without the conditionality that often characterizes many other relationships.

India's development partnership with Africa speaks for itself. Africa is the second largest recipient of India's overseas development partnership support that reflects our deep understanding of the Continent's priorities and our genuine commitment to its progress.

Lets look at the numbers:

- **190+ Lines of Credit** extended to 41 African countries, totaling over **US\$10 billion**
- **20 completed projects** worth **US\$4.5 billion**, with many more underway
- **Sectors prioritized** by African partners themselves: power generation, water supply, agriculture, transport, rural electrification, and digital connectivity

These are not token gestures. These are transformative investments in sectors that directly impact the lives of African citizens, bringing electricity to villages, clean water to communities, modern transport infrastructure to remote regions, and digital access to the previously unconnected.

This is development partnership done right: listening to our partners, investing in their priorities, investing in human resource and building capacity that endures long after the projects conclude.

Let me now dwell on the importance of Nigeria in IAFS-IV

Nigeria holds particular significance in this equation. As Africa's largest democracy, Africa's largest economy and a nation of immense potential, Nigeria embodies the dynamism and entrepreneurial spirit that defines our continent. **The India-Africa Forum Summit** provides a unique opportunity for Indian businesses and Nigerian enterprises to explore partnerships that can unlock new markets and create shared value.

From technology start-ups to manufacturing, from infrastructure development to energy solutions, the possibilities are boundless. The IAFS Summit will provide an opportunity for the India to explore long-term energy and mining deals as Africa possesses vast reserves of critical minerals, rare earths, and energy resources essential for the green transition. India has the capital, technology, and expertise to help unlock these resources responsibly and sustainably for mutual benefit and shared prosperity.

But the opportunities extend far beyond large corporations. The IAFS platform bring together MSMEs, Consumers, Youth, Entrepreneurs, Artists, Media, Content Creators and Businesses. This Summit is truly inclusive and transformative aligning with the overall theme of the IAFS-IV which is India-Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience and Inclusive Transformation.

Friends,

In Conclusion, I am confident that the 4th IAFS will provide a blueprint for shaping the upcoming decades of the India Africa partnership unleashing the full potential of the two giants of the Global South. Together, India and Africa can chart a path of inclusive growth, technological advancement, and human development that benefits not just our two regions, but sets an example for the world.

I thank you all.
