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African Dynamics in a Multipolar World

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## **INDIA'S CAPACITY BUILDING DIPLOMACY IN AFRICA**

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United Nations Development Program defines Capacity Building as “The process by which individuals, organizations institutions and societies develop abilities to perform functions, solve problems and set and achieve objectives.”

Capacity Building can be a very expansive concept and may include the following:

- Human resource development, the process of equipping individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training that enables them to perform effectively.
- Organizational development, the elaboration of management structures, processes and procedures, not only within organizations but also the management of relationships between the different organizations and sectors (public, private and community).
- Institutional and legal framework development, making legal and regulatory changes to enable organizations, institutions and agencies at all levels and in all sectors to enhance their capacities

The economic and commercial ties between India and Africa are not new phenomena. From time immemorial, trade relationships have been going on where both sides benefited. As we know trade remained as one of the earliest human activities and the Indian sub-continent has had their interaction with various countries of Africa. It is a well known fact that both India and Africa shared many common issues under colonialism which could be characterized by exploitation, discrimination and many other oppressive activities. While addressing the Nigerian

Parliament Assembly in 2007, the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh acknowledged that undoubtedly India and Africa have a shared destiny and common future.

The sole objective of India's partnership with Africa is to cooperate with all the countries of this continent, within the limits of its capacity and shoulder together in their efforts towards achieving economic vibrancy, peace, stability and self reliance. India believes that prosperity of Africa is important even for India. Therefore, the first Indian foreign policy framer gave importance to Africa. It has been realized that Africa can gain in sharing India's development experiences. The focus of India has been, and shall continue to be, on capacity building and Human Resource Development (HRD) in Africa.

India's development assistance to African nations has a strong focus on the empowerment of people through capacity building and connectivity. A multiprolonged approach has been adopted, which combines creative use of Lines of Credit (LOC) with the development of Indian expertise to create assets in Africa and to establish high tech projects.

The spirit of partnership is further strengthening by the large number of trainees from different African nations who have been taking training in India under the Indian Technical and Educational Cooperation Programme (TECP).

India is committed to Africa's socio-economic, technological and human resource development and partners the African governments in a consultative, participative and responsive manner based on Africa's own assessment of their needs. In her address at the Inaugural Session of the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership being held at the Taj Palace Hotel, on 18<sup>th</sup> of March Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, said India will continue to play a "catalytic role" in Africa's capacity building initiatives.

Among several areas of cooperation between India and Africa, one important sector is capacity building and human resource development. It was a key component in India -Africa cooperation. India emerged as a third largest skilled human resource in the world due to substantial public investment in establishing academic and professional institutions. Therefore, India is a suitable partner to contribute in the capacity building and development of human resource.

As India's capabilities and resource base has grown in these areas it has broadened the scope of cooperation activities in capacity building with Africa. Not only the public sectors but India's private sectors are now encouraged to build partnerships for capacity building and human resource development.

India well recognizes the vastness of the African continent with fifty four countries and it also recognizes the existence of its sub-regional integrations. In Africa there are five key sub-regions that are progressively working towards greater economic integration and no doubt is gathering momentum. Very importantly India has taken the first step through the establishment of an India-Southern African Development Community (SADC) forum that links India with fourteen countries from Southern Africa. Since 2006, India has linked with nations of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) through visits of ministerial delegates. Further, dialogue with eleven members of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAs) has already been initiated during the African Union (AU) summit in July 2006. Even the first ministerial summit with the twenty members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African Countries (COMESA) took place in October 2006. Another important initiative was noticed when India activated in similar ways, her relationship with Eastern African Countries (EAC). India has signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Mauritius and with the Southern African Custom Union (SACU).

The Above activities are going on along with India's tremendous support to the vision of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since its inception in July 2001. One of the strategies of NEPAD is for Africa to build bridges with her development partners in order to collectively contribute to the renewal of the African continent. India has been a worthy partner in this regard. One of the largest infrastructure projects under this framework, the Lagos-Algiers Trans-Sahara pipeline, has already attracted the attention of many major Indian companies.

It may be noted that India-Africa trade expanded from \$ 20 billion in 2005-6 to 68 billion in 2011-12 and is targeted to reach \$ 90 billion by 2015. India's development cooperation with Africa was significantly expanded in 2005, when India became a full member of the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and was granted observer status in COMESA, SADC and ECOWAS. A special outreach to Francophone Africa was launched through the Team 9 initiative, with a view to promoting India's economic engagement with 8 French speaking countries. A sum of US\$ 1 million was extended to ACBF towards its programmes for capacity building sustainable development and poverty alleviation. To support the Team 9 initiative a line of credit of \$ 500 million was announced, along with a \$ 200 million credit line to NEPAD.<sup>4</sup> At the initiative of the then President of India, Dr. Kalam, India announced the very ambitious Pan-African E-Network project which would provide digital connectivity across Africa and also link Indian educational and medical institutions with counterpart institutions in Africa, enabling both tele-education and telemedicine services.

## **Pan-Africa e-Network Project**

The Pan-Africa e-Network is one of the best examples of the growing partnership between India and Africa. It began as a visionary initiative of the former President of India, Dr. Kalam. It is one of the most ambitious projects for distance education and tele-medicine even undertaken in Africa. In addition, the network is also equipped to support e-governance, e-commerce, and infotainment, resource mapping metrological and other services in African countries. A total of 47 African countries have joined the project in two phases. The first phase was inaugurated in February 2009, with 11 African countries signing up. The second phase was launched in August 2010. In tele-education, the objective is to impart quality education to 10,000 students in Africa over a 5-year period in various disciplines. Some of the best educational institutions are participating. Currently 2000 African students are already enrolled in several distance education programmes. In tele-medicine, on-line medical consultation with Indian medical specialists is now available to African medical practioners at the Patient End Location in Africa. The project cost is \$125 million.

In recognition of the growing importance of India-Africa ties and prospects for much closer development cooperation, it was decided to convene regular India-Africa Forum Summits and the first such Summit was held in April 2008 in New Delhi, the second in May 2011 in Addis Ababa. These Summits have “laid the foundation of a new architecture for a structured interaction and cooperation between India and our African partners in the 21st Century”.

The first Summit adopted a historic “Africa-India Framework for Cooperation<sup>5</sup>, which sought to foster mutually beneficial cooperation in a very comprehensive format encompassing Economic Political Cooperation, Cooperation, Sciences, Technology Research and Development, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Cooperation in Social

Development and Capacity Building. Under Political Cooperation, the Framework identified a number of areas where India would support Africa in meeting the latter's objectives of sustainable development, prosperity and peace. These are Peace and Security and Civil Society and Good Governance.

To foster S&T cooperation, the Framework envisages "robust networks" among leading institutes for collaborative research and development and for sharing of experiences in development of appropriate technologies. A number of specific actions were also spelt out to encourage ICT collaboration, including the quick and effective implementation of the flagship Pan-African E-Network project which India has contributed, towards overcoming the digital divide in Africa. A very broad-ranging collaborative effort is envisaged under the rubric "Cooperation in Social Development and Capacity Building. These are:

- Education
- Health
- Water and Sanitation
- Culture and Sports; and
- Poverty Eradication

The other broad areas of cooperation identified are Tourism, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment and finally, Media and Communication.

The Second Summit in Addis Ababa in May 2011 expressed satisfaction over the progress made in implementing the Framework of Cooperation adopted in the first Summit and adopted a follow-up Framework for Enhanced Cooperation. This document agreed to continue and expand cooperation in the various areas identified at the first Summit, while identifying a

few new initiatives to be pursued. In the Second Summit, India offered five billion US dollars for the next three years under lines of credit to help Africa achieve its development goals. An additional 700 million US dollars was offered to establish new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions. Further, as a follow-up step to the successful Pan-African E-Network Project, it was proposed that an India-Africa Virtual University would be established.

It may be noted that in order to ensure early implementation of recommendations emanating from these summits, several conferences and workshops have been organised in the period September 2011 to March 2012. These conferences/workshops have come up with a number of specific projects for the participating governments to consider for implementation. Among the meetings convened so far are:

- India-Africa Business Partnership Summit (October 2011)
- India-Africa Workshop on Traditional Medicines (October 2011)
- India-Africa Conference on Indian Lines of Credit (November 2011)
- India-Africa Strategic Dialogue (November 2011)
- 3rd India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference (December 2011)
- Crafts Skill Development Workshop for Women (January 2012)
- Special Session on Global Commons & Challenges (February 2012)
- Science & Technology Ministers' Conference (March 2012)
- Training programme for Secretary Generals of African Chambers of Commerce and Industry.



## Scholarships and Fellowships

India also offers a number of scholarships and fellowships to students from Africa.

### Profile of ICSSR Scholarships at Indian Universities

Year	Seats Allocated	Seats Utilized
2009-10	532	238
2010-11	532	207
2011-12	532	207
2012-13	900	Data not available presently

**Source: Ministry of External Affairs (India)**

## Capacity Building Institutions

As per decisions taken at the India-Africa Forum Summits, India has committed to establishing about 100 capacity-building institutions to build and strengthen capacities at the pan-African, regional and bilateral levels. Some of the key institutions in the process of implementation are listed below:

- India-Africa Institute of Information Technology, Ghana
- India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade, Ghana, Uganda
- India-Africa Institute of Education Planning and Administration,  
Burundi
- India-Africa Diamond Institute, Botswana
- India-Africa Civil Aviation Academy (location to be decided)
- India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development  
(Location to be decided)
- India-Africa University for Life and Earth Sciences – Ibadan  
University, Nigeria

Another major contribution to capacity building in Africa is India's commitment to set up 10 vocational training centres in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Libya, Mozambique, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. An Apex Planning Organisation for Coal is being established in Mozambique, which will also providing training in mining technology. Another unique area of cooperation between India and Africa relates to the setting up of Human Settlement Institutes in D.R. of Congo, Kenya, Mauritania, Togo and Zambia to deal in a multi-disciplinary manner with the challenge of rapid urbanisation.

India has also launched an initiative of establishing and strengthening common infrastructure and facilities for pan-African development of some key industry sectors. Examples are:

- India-Africa Food Processing Cluster
- India-Africa Textile Cluster

The location of these clusters is under discussion.

### **Lines of Credit**

- Lines of Credit (LoCs) have been an increasingly significant part of India-Africa development cooperation since 2003-04.
- They are concessional loans intended to set up infrastructure projects and to share Indian experience in developmental initiatives.
- LoCs have financed a wide range of projects in agriculture, irrigation, food processing, rural electrification, IT and infrastructure such as roads, railways, cement and power.
- The objective is to create durable assets and build sustainable institutions.

The government of India also provided substantial lines of concessional credit, on a bilateral basis, to individual countries like Sudan, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Seychelles, etc. and are looking at similar proposals from several other countries. In the process, India has been able to develop lines of credit as an effective instrument for delivering carefully targeted development assistance to a broad range of countries across the African continent. An important area of cooperation between India and Africa has been agriculture and food security. The declaration of the India-Africa Framework for cooperation involves programmes for agriculture. India with vast experience of green revolution confidently can do a lot for African countries who are facing food shortages due to lack of proper irrigation and modern technology for agriculture. The lines of credit that have already been extended by the Indian government for the agriculture sector would provide opportunities to Indian and African partners to undertake projects which will be of direct benefit to farming communities.

**Year Wise Approvals and Disbursement of Credit to Africa (as on March 23, 2012)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Disbursed</b>
2002-03	10.00-	
2003-04	100.00-	
2004-05	99.87	49.90
2005-06	1052.60	97.52
2006-07	141.50	234.72
2007-08	524.50	338.50
2008-09	470.10	288.00
2010-10	486.50	352.66
2010-11	1055.07	398.95
2011-12	1189.41	380.38
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5129.55</b>	<b>2140.64</b>

*Source: Ministry of External Affairs (India)*

### **India-Africa Trade Promotion**

21 out of 34 African LDCs have acceded to the India-Africa Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme. India-Africa trade has seen significant growth over the last 6 years (see Table below).

### India-Africa Trade

In US D Million

Year	Exports	Imports	Total
2005-06	7.00	4.80	11.80
2006-07	10.26	17.72	27.98
2007-08	14.19	20.47	34.66
2008-09	14.82	24.73	39.55
2009-10	13.43	25.61	39.04
2010-11	19.71	31.95	51.66
2011-12	24.67	43.06	67.73

*Source: Ministry of External Affairs (India)*

### Conclusion

Good governance and an empowered civil society are essential development imperatives. India is partnering with Africa to build its indigenous capacity in these areas. The key focus areas in this partnership include enhancing public and private participation in local and central government, establishing platforms to enable civil societies to play a vibrant role in promoting institutions of local self governance and establishing relevant governance training institutions in Africa. The cooperation between India and Africa is historical and its strong focus remains empowerment of people and institutions of the African countries through capacity building and human resource development to effect rapid development.

The possibilities of further cooperation, both in the economic and political spheres, in the context of a multi polar and globalised world, are enormous. There is a strong belief that if the fifty four countries of Africa and India continue to work together, in international fora like the United Nations (UN) and World Trade Organisation (WTO), the sky will be the limit for their collective achievements. Both India and Africa along with economic challenges have also common to problems like global warming and climate change, HIV/AIDS and other pandemics as well as to global threats such as terrorism. As Africa strives to attain its development aspiration, there is no doubt that a new generation of leaders in Africa itself, are increasingly looking at India to reduce their dependency on their former colonial masters. Both India and Africa are young nations, learning to grow but India gained economic growth and development and is willing to share with friends in Africa. India's commitment to Africa is total and we look forward to a close partnership with Africa in its economic resurgence where both must benefit on equal share basis. It has been felt that since the late 1980s, India lost some momentum and could have done more to build upon its traditional strength in the continent. In fact, India was trying to combat her own several challenges and as such lagged behind in certain responsibilities towards Africa. Now, India is in a position, since the last few decades, to invigorate partnership in the true spirit of South- South Cooperation. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is often described as the Asian century, India wishes to acknowledge the twenty first century as the century of Asia and Africa. No doubt in the India-Africa relations one can see the whole concept of the Afro-Asian relationship which is guided by a long history of solidarity deepened by shared value and ideas from the Non-Aligned Movement days to the fight for freedom up until the present day. In the final analysis, it is the socio-economic and development similarities between the two regions that have enabled and would further enable a mutual and beneficial cooperative relationship based on goodwill and sharing.

*What Mahatma Gandhi dreamt decades ago is becoming true when he said that commerce between India and Africa will be of ideas and services, not of manufacturing goods against raw materials as was done by the European exploiters.* One can argue that India's intermediate skills and technological capabilities are well suited and cost effective to African development.