

16th CII - Exim Bank Conclave on India - Africa Project Partnership

13 - 15 July 2021, CII Hive (virtual platform)

PROGRAMME

DAY ONE Tuesday, 13 July 2021

1400 - 1530 hrs **Inaugural Session: "Setting new milestones for India-Africa partnership"**

The disruption associated with Covid19 pandemic is causing tectonic shifts beneath the global economic landscape that could eventually bring about significant realignments of international relations. For India and Africa, long-standing partners who have stood by one another through the most trying times, the global economic realignments could open up new frontiers for forging bilateral partnerships, that will not only benefit the 2.5 billion people living in both regions, but also render greater stability to the rather frayed global economy. In times of increasing protectionism, how India and Africa can promote freer regional and global trade and investment flows? How a resurgent India can contribute to aspirational Africa's sustained economic growth? Which are the new frontiers for key India-Africa partnerships.

1600 - 1730 hrs **Plenary Session I: "Designing innovative financing solutions for doing business in Africa"**

As the African economies resolve to take strident steps for driving manufacturing growth, creation of regional value chains, development of service sector businesses, and promotion of technology startups and other knowledge industries, the region aims to reduce its overall dependence on the commercial and concessional lines of credit (LoC) offered through Government of India channels for financing of businesses and projects. The unlocking of India's banking and financial sector and accelerated FDI inflows since the 1990s and their contribution to the country's private sector expansion would be of the essence to several African countries.

- *Is there scope for VC/PE participation in project investments in Africa?*
- *Is the investment regime conducive for public-private partnership (PPP) projects, and participation of global institutional investment funds?*
- *Are African economies open to buyer's credit (as provided by EXIM Bank of India), private sector financing of large projects, development of local capital & long-term bond markets, use of pension funds, green financing, and climate change mitigation financing options?*

1745 - 1900 hrs **Plenary Session II: "Aligning India-Africa bilateral trade with AfCFTA"**

India has been a strong votary of Africa's regional economic integration and has played a catalytic role in the development of regional infrastructure. The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), expected to become the world's largest Free Trade Area, serving 1.3 billion people across 55 countries with a combined GDP valued at US\$3.4 trillion, could provide significant impetus to India's economic engagements with African countries, and help diversify the India-Africa bilateral trade flows. Is there scope for India and Africa to enter into a separate free trade agreement as AfCFTA gains ground? Which are the sectors where the bilateral merchandise trade volumes can grow? Are there opportunities for increasing bilateral trade in services? What measures will contribute to India-Africa bilateral trade volumes breaching the US\$150 billion level?

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DAY TWO
Wednesday, 14 July 2021

1400 - 1515 hrs

Plenary Session III: "Forging new partnerships to bridge Africa's physical infrastructure"

The Agenda 2063 of the African Union, which aims to achieve inclusive and sustainable goals, lays great emphasis on world class infrastructure that crisscrosses Africa and which will improve connectivity through newer and bolder initiatives to link the continent by rail, road, sea and air; and developing regional and continental power pools, as well as ICT. A major infrastructure thrust has come from the African Development Bank, with its 'High 5s' -- Strategy to Light Up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Integrate Africa, Industrialize Africa, and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa. However, the cost of accomplishing these projects will be humungous. According to the African Development Bank's estimates, the infrastructure needs of the continent entail US\$130-170bn a year, and the current gap is US\$68-108bn.

- *How best can partnerships and development assistance from other regions of the world help bridge the financial gaps for expanding the infrastructure?*
- *Are trilateral partnerships helping fast-track Africa's infrastructure development & expansion?*
- *Are Government of India's concessional lines of credit offered to African countries bringing about the desired results in infrastructure projects? What are the key learnings by Indian Industry?*

1530 - 1645 hrs

Plenary Session IV: "Harvesting growth opportunities in Africa's agriculture & food sectors"

Africa has 60-65% of world's arable land, and agriculture accounts for 65% of the region's employment and about 30% of GDP. Yet, as per FAO's 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report', 2019, "Hunger is on the rise in almost all sub-regions of Africa, where the prevalence of undernourishment has reached levels of 22.8% in sub-Saharan Africa". If Africa's farm sector potentials are best harnessed, the continent will not only be able to adequately meet its own food needs but also become a source of prosperity too, through exports. In this light, the African Development Bank's Feed Africa programme and the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), focused on improving food and nutrition security, and increasing incomes in Africa's largely farming-based economies.

- *How best can India support the Feed Africa programme's strategy to transform African agriculture into a globally competitive, sustainable, inclusive and business-oriented sector?*
- *What kind of institutional linkages will facilitate greater India-Africa cross-border partnerships in agriculture research, food processing, and capacity building?*
- *Is Indian industry geared to invest more in Africa's agriculture infrastructure, equipment manufacturing and services sectors?*

1700 - 1815 hrs

Plenary Session V: "Propelling Africa's thrust to achieve sustainable energy security"

Energy security is fundamental to sustaining Africa's economic growth momentum seen in the last two decades, barring the current Covid19-pandemic impacted period. The International Energy Agency (IEA) in its 'Africa Energy Outlook 2019' report states that Africa will emerge as a major force in global oil and gas markets as more than half a billion people are added to the region's urban population by 2040. However, it is estimated that in 2030, 530 million people will still lack access to electricity and nearly one billion people will lack access to clean cooking. While conventional energy resources will support Africa's thrust on achieving energy security, it is imperative for African countries to develop green energy in a

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big way for meeting the electricity needs of rural areas, private and public transportation, and industrial needs.

- *Are Indian conventional and non-conventional energy companies geared for making big investments in Africa's energy sector?*
- *Are the investment norms in Africa conducive for attracting major investments?*
- *Is there scope for cross-border partnerships in the development of wind, geo-thermal, biomass and tidal energy projects?*

1830 - 1930 hrs

Special Ministerial Session: "Defragmenting & broad basing India-Africa bilateral trade"

India-Africa bilateral trade has grown from US\$5.3 billion in 2001 to US\$76.9 billion in 2018, accounting for about 6.4% of Africa total trade. India is now Africa's third largest trading partner. Yet, the bilateral trade data & patterns suggest the true potentials have not been realised. India's exports to Africa are relatively diverse, comprising mineral fuels, automobiles, pharmaceutical products, machinery, and cereals. However, Africa's exports to India are predominantly crude oil, gold, coal and other minerals. Today, as African countries aim to reduce their economic dependence on resource trade, India could play a catalytic role in Africa's collective efforts to boost the region's manufacturing and service exports. The ensuing diversification of India-Africa bilateral trade basket will also help geographically diversify India's trade exchanges with African countries. In what ways can the AfCFTA help India and Africa to deepen and expand the bilateral trade flows? Is there scope for stepping up India's trade and economic partnerships with COMESA, ECOWAS, The Sahel Alliance, WAEMU, SACU? Are LoCs still serving as instruments for growing project exports from India? What further steps are needed to increase LDCs' exports to India? How transport connectivity & transit infrastructure can help expand India-Africa trade?

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DAY THREE
Thursday, 15 July 2021

1400 - 1515 hrs

SERV Africa I: "Revitalizing Africa's healthcare systems for a brighter tomorrow"

Africa carries 25% of the world's disease burden but its share of global health expenditures is less than 1%, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Also, the region manufactures less than 2% of the medicines consumed on the continent. Down the years India has provided affordable life-saving anti-retro viral (ARV) drugs to help Africa fight the HIV-AIDS epidemic. Today, Indian-made ARV drugs constitute 80% of Africa's total consumption. Today, as Africa battles the Covid19 pandemic, India is supplying Made-in-India vaccines under the Vaccine Maitri Initiative.

- *In what ways can India partner Africa in augmenting the region's public healthcare systems?*
- *Are there opportunities for Indian private healthcare majors to invest in Africa?*
- *How best can Indian industry contribute to capacity building for Africa's healthcare and pharmaceutical sector?*
- *Is there scope for joint R&D in life sciences, biotech, medical equipment, epidemiological studies?*

1500 - 1600 hrs

SERV Africa II: "Scaling new peaks of tourism & hospitality business growth"

The Covid19 pandemic has laid waste to the global tourism and hospitality sectors, but there is renewed expectation of a strong business rebound in these sectors as the world prepares to contain and eliminate the virus spread. The tourism industry contributes an estimated 5% of Africa's GDP, and 30% of service exports, while providing about 235 million jobs. According to one study, by 2030, consumer spending on tourism, hospitality and recreation in Africa is projected to reach about US\$261.77bn, i.e., US\$137bn more than it was in 2015. The Indian tourism and hospitality majors could play an instrumental role in modernising and expanding the physical infrastructure needed for these sectors in Africa, extend training facilities to the large young workforce in the region. Destination Africa could also be promoted widely in India through bilateral cooperation.

- *Presentations from Tourism Board, African countries*

1530 - 1630 hrs

SERV Africa III: "Logging into IT / ITeS growth spheres"

Africa is a relatively late-comer to the information technology domain that has held sway across global markets, influencing and impacting a broad spectrum of industries. But, the region is now seeing new initiatives to power IT and IT-enabled Service (ITeS) businesses that in the coming years will have a profound impact on Africa's growth and development. One report has it that there are now an estimated 643 tech hubs across the continent, with the largest groupings being in Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, and South Africa. 41% of the "tech hubs" are incubator facilities, 24% are innovation hubs, and 14% are accelerators, according to Forbes. Although Internet penetration and broadband connectivity in Africa are still way below global average, the conditions for building IT / ITeS businesses are improving.

- *Are Indian IT / ITeS majors inclined to invest in Africa?*
- *Is IT / ITeS the best sector to leverage Africa's demographic dividend?*
- *What steps are underway to build a strong IT / ITeS workforce in Africa?*

1700 - 1830 hrs

Valedictory Session Way Forward: "Connect- Collaborate - Create"

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges to the world, more particularly to the emerging and developing countries. According to WHO, the pandemic is estimated to have driven 119-124mn more people into extreme

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poverty in 2020. As countries redouble the efforts to regain the lost ground, there is a unique opportunity for India and Africa to launch concerted initiatives and partnerships to bring about a fairer, more equitable and healthier world. Similar initiatives may be taken to redraw their external trade strategies by reducing the dependence on markets in the developed world, and promote RVCs and their integration with GVCs. Driving inclusive growth, manufacturing competitiveness, entrepreneurship, tech innovation, farm sector modernisation, and expansion of service sector will secure a New Future for India, Africa and the world.

- *Which are the areas where India and Africa could jointly address key global issues?*
- *How India can help Africa economically integrate more closely and thereby leverage its own latent potentials?*