

15th CII – Exim Bank Digital Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership 22 - 24 September 2020 : Virtual Platform

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

DAY ONE TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

1330-1500 hrs: **INAUGURAL SESSION** **“New Dimensions of India – Africa Partnership in Post Covid World Order”**

The India-Africa relations have been historically defined by a common global outlook, shared aspirations for growth, and partnerships in trade & investment. In the current context, as we enter a new decade and the one that will culminate in Sustainable Development Goals 2030, the relations are poised for a quantum leap. India is gearing up to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, the Indian government and industry reaffirm its commitment to partner with countries in Africa. And Africa being on a growth trajectory is equally welcoming Indian investors, companies, and all other stakeholders with a convergence of interest in mutual development and growth.

However, this year the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the lives and livelihood of people the world over. This has also immensely impacted the economies of African countries in many ways such as foreign reserves, cross-border trade, investment, etc. The countries across the world including India had to take multiple measures to protect their citizens and businesses. In this environment, businesses are compelled to consider different models of reaching out to customers and meeting their needs.

How can India-Africa partnership can be transformed to address the new world order? Will it affect India's outbound investments flow to the region? How do we reach the bilateral trade milestone of US\$100 billion?

1530-1700 hrs: **Session on “Architecting Innovative Financing of Africa’s Growth”**

Africa is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, offering promising investment opportunities in high-growth sectors like infrastructure development, agriculture, manufacturing, and services. However, the financing of investments in Africa mandates design thinking, as commercial and concessional Lines of Credit (LoC) offered through the Government of India channels have ceased to be the most preferred financing routes. Instead, there is a strong felt-need for VC/PE participation in project investments, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects, participation of global institutional investment funds, buyer's credit (as provided by EXIM Bank of India), private sector financing, development of local capital & long-term bond markets, use of pension funds, green financing, climate change mitigation financing options, among others. The trilateral partnerships have significantly broadened the scope and size of investments in Africa, to spur farm sector modernisation, manufacturing growth, entrepreneurship development, among others. Unlike the past, the trilateral partnerships are largely B2B and not B2G.

Are the investment projects in Africa adequately bankable? Are the projects scalable to attract private investments? How local regulatory frameworks can augment investment financing? Are the host country investment norms facilitative for PPP projects? Are the trilateral partnerships contributing to Africa's export growth, creation of RVCs and integration with GVCs?

1730-1900 hrs: **Session on “Reinforcing Long-term Energy Security for a Clean and Green Future”**

Renewables are central to the long-term energy security of countries. In recent years, India and Africa have taken strident steps to develop and promote the use of clean energy. Even oil-rich countries have stepped up the focus on renewables, in particular solar energy and hydel resources. Green energy is required on a large scale in India and Africa for meeting the electricity needs of rural areas, private and public transportation, and industrial needs. While Indian companies are showing a greater interest in investing in Africa's renewables sector, the host African countries may be called upon to

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create investor-friendly norms in the power and energy sectors by offering single-window clearances within a defined timeline, and transparent taxation laws.

Is Africa significantly engaged in the International Solar Alliance (ISA) that was promoted in a big way by India? Is there scope for cross-border partnerships in the development of wind, geo-thermal, biomass and tidal energy projects? How data sciences can be leveraged for renewables development? Are there ways to address the affordability of green energy equipment?

DAY TWO WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2020

1330-1500 hrs: **Session on “Fast-Tracking Africa’s Infrastructure Development”**

Africa’s economic growth has been hindered by the infrastructure deficit in the region as seen in the current state of road & railroad networks, port and airport facilities, water supply & sanitation system, power generation, transmission & distribution, housing, among others. Paved road density, for instance, is the lowest in Africa, and that alone increases the cost of exports from Africa 30%-40%. Similarly, only 39% of people in Africa have access to sanitation, 69% have access to clean drinking water and only 46% have access to electricity. To bridge the infrastructure deficit, Africa needs annual investments of the order of \$170 billion. The current shortfall is around \$100 billion per annum.

How big a role the Indian industry can play in bridging Africa’s core sector deficit? Is the PPP model with equity participation from government workable in this sector? Are there innovating investment financing options available in Africa’s infrastructure sector? What steps will ensure the feasibility of investments and reliable RoI from the projects? Are the investment opportunities aligned with Light Up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialise Africa, Integrate Africa and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa initiatives?

1530-1700 hrs: **Ministerial Session on “Enhancing India’s Trade & Investment with Africa through Bilateral, Regional & Continental level Partnership”**

As the economy of Africa is growing we are witnessing urbanization is a common feature of most economies in region, according to estimates, an addition of 187 million Africans are expected to live in cities. This urban expansion is contributing to rapid growth in consumption by households and businesses. Further, penetration of smart phones is expected to be more than 50% in 2020 from only 2% in 2010. In Sub-Saharan Africa, cellular-enabled machine-to-machine connections are expected to grow by around 25% per annum to 30 million by 2020, thus changing the prospects for a many sectors ranging from healthcare to power.

Though Africa has been the preferred trade partner for India, with bilateral trade of around US\$ 70 bln it is way below the potential. As the impending Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) promises to become the flagship of ‘Pan-Africanism’ -- bringing together 54 African Union (AU) members, uniting 1.3 billion, and creating a \$3.4 trillion economic bloc – India could play a defining role in supporting Africa’s economic integration with deeper engagements in the region’s industrial and infrastructure development projects, public institution building, development of human resources for future industries, etc. As a time-tested partner of Africa, India could also play an instrumental role in creating the avenues for deeper intra-regional business, trade and investment flows.

How best can Indian industry help an economically integrated Africa form its regional value chains (RVCs) and integrate those with global value chains (GVCs)? Will AfCFTA boost India-Africa bilateral trade and investment flows? How best can India support Africa in areas like technology transfer, innovation and continent wide infrastructure development?

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1730-1900 hrs: **Session on “Future-proofing Africa’s Development with World-class and Affordable Healthcare Solutions”**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe impacts on societies and economies across the world. The public health response to the pandemic has set in motion a global economic recession, with no clear way in sight back to growth. Indeed, the pandemic has overwhelmed both healthcare systems and government policies. While the impact of the pandemic will vary across countries and regions, it is likely to increase poverty and inequalities at a global scale. The policy response will determine the human toll of the virus; the length and severity of the economic downturn; and the economic, social and environmental progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Robust educational and healthcare systems is key for any developing county to build a young, future-ready workforce. The cooperation in health sector, over the years has become a vital component of the process of promoting India’s partnership with Africa. India’s engagement in areas like export of high quality low-priced Indian pharmaceuticals, setting up of manufacturing units and health care infrastructure, medical treatment, telemedicine, capacity building, traditional medicine, medical value tourism etc. Tthe e-VBAB (e-VidyaBharati and e—ArogyaBharati) which was launched by Government of India last year, proves significance of ICT prowess that India has been providing tele-education and tele-medicine across Africa.

What are the key takeaways from the Skill India programme that would be useful to Africa? Are African countries offering a conducive environment for Indian pharma companies to operate on a level playing field in the region? In what ways can India help African countries to upgrade their primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare systems? Is India the best destination for African nationals who seek affordable treatment of complex diseases?

DAY THREE THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2020

1330-1500 hrs: **Session on “India-Africa Forum Summit IV (IAFS IV) - Addressing Critical Needs of African Countries”**

India Africa Forum Summit III (IAFS-III) played a defining role in deepening India-Africa bilateral cooperation, with India offering US\$10 billion for development projects in Africa over a 5-year period, 50,000 slots for training opportunities, scholarships and capacity building for beneficiaries from Africa, and initiatives to establish capacity building institutions in different African countries. As both regions gear for the IAFS-IV to be held later this year, how is the partnership being strengthened at the continental, regional and bilateral levels and through multilateral fora? India is ranked as the third largest export destination in Africa.

Are the LDCs in Africa fully leveraging the DFTP scheme offered by India? How effectively is India helping Africa bridge its digital divide? How best can IAFS galvanise India’s cooperation with Africa in areas like energy, including solar energy, blue economy, culture, health and education, agriculture, women empowerment, defence and security, climate change mitigation, disease control & prevention, counter-terrorism? How IAFS can be aligned with Agenda 2063, and AfCFTA initiatives?

1530-1700 hrs: **Session on “Harnessing Africa’s Agriculture & Food Sectors for Regional and Global Needs”**

Africa is host to 60% of the world’s uncultivated arable land and hence has a tremendous potential for meeting its internal needs and emerging as a global food basket. India could extend key support to African countries in areas like crop rotation, hybrid breeding, crop clustering, fortification, crop tracking and advanced irrigation techniques. Also, the ushering in of “digital agriculture” and “e-Agri marketing” have opened new avenues for startups in agriculture, paving the way for new bilateral partnerships.

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How can India establish itself as go-to partner for realisation of Africa's Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063? What steps will facilitate greater participation of Indian industry in Africa's agriculture and food processing sectors? Is there scope for more cross-border partnerships in agriculture research? Are Indian companies geared to participate in Africa's farm sector infrastructure development including logistics & cold chains?

1730-1900 hrs

VALEDICTORY SESSION Reimagining India-Africa Partnerships in a Changing World

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing the nature of international cooperation and bringing out the inherent fault lines and weaknesses embedded in global institutions to sharp focus. Across the system, multilateralism is severely eroding as nations become more inward-focused, directing their attention and strategies towards improving domestic manufacturing capacities and reducing dependence on foreign imports. Protectionist tendencies are on the rise in addition to the pressures of constrained mobility and fear of reduction in financial resources essential for tackling climate change and achieving SDGs. It seems that a tussle between unilateralism and multilateralism is going to shape much of the discourse on international cooperation.

In this changing world order, India and Africa are called upon to redraw their external trade strategies by reducing the dependence on markets in the developed world. Instead, the two regions would do well to direct focused attention on accelerating cross-flow of investments that lead to value added bilateral trade flows. Due initiatives may be taken to promote RVCs and their integration with GVCs. Also, India and Africa could redouble the efforts to promote indigenous clean tech development. Collaborative initiatives to build and strengthen both regions as global manufacturing and services hubs, while also ushering in Industry 4.0 will go a long way toward enhancing the global competitiveness of India-Africa businesses.

Which are the new frontiers of India-Africa partnerships? Can India and Africa businesses collaborate to tap global markets? Will the private sector take the lead in broadbasing India-Africa partnerships? Are there ways to boost bilateral P2P engagements? How India and Africa can make the world a safer place for all?

Close of the Conclave

*** Time Difference with India : West Africa – 4.30 hrs, Southern Africa – 3.30 hrs, East Africa – 2.30 hrs**