



14 – 16 June 2023, Taj Palace, New Delhi

Draft Programme Outline

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2023

1330 – 1445 hrs Networking Lunch

1445 – 1545 hrs Session I: Exploring New Models of Financing Growth

With African countries eyeing higher growth rates and more inclusive economies, the demand for financing trade, infrastructure and development is set to grow further in months to come. Currently, Africa's financing gap is estimated to be around \$345 billion, according to IMF. Against this backdrop, this session will explore innovative models of financing that can help unlock the continent's huge economic potential. Lines of Credit provided by India's Exim Bank are playing an important role in augmenting finance, but there is a need to go beyond the LOC model. In this context, PPP models are seen as more viable for Indian investments in critical industries like infrastructure, agriculture, food processing, renewable energy, information and communications technology, and financial services. This session will also focus on the critical role of multilateral development banks, financial institutions and export credit agencies in facilitating the development of infrastructure through affordable credit and enabling exporters to enter new and relatively risky markets. It's also time to change the risk perception of doing business in Africa – a change in narrative can pave the way for increasing financial flows. This session will examine pros and cons of new and alternative financing models to plug infrastructure deficit and bridge trade financing goals.

- *Can closer ties between India and Africa aid each continent's infrastructure for trade financing and financial sector capacity-building??*
- *How can LOCs be made more effective?*
- *How can potential Indian investors handle African nations' legal and regulatory obstacles?*
- *What initiatives are necessary to improve cooperation between the India Exim Bank and organisations like the African Development Bank and the African Exim Bank in order to strengthen trade financing access in African nations??*
- *How can one mobilise resources from other sources, such as bilateral and multilateral donors, to support development projects in Africa?*

1600 – 1700 hrs Session II: Transforming Infrastructure for Africa's Resurgence

Sustainable development of infrastructure holds the key to African economic resurgence. According to African Development Bank, the infrastructure deficit in Africa is estimated to be around \$100 billion. Post-pandemic, just as the infrastructure sector was bouncing back, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has complicated the international situation. Under these trying circumstances, the support from conventional donors is anticipated to decrease further. But every crisis also contains seeds of opportunity. With their proven record of providing high-quality, long-lasting infrastructure to several African countries, Indian companies are equipped to seize emerging opportunities in this crucial area. India's EXIM Bank has

provided Lines of Credit for a host of infrastructure projects across the continent. Over 44 African countries have already been granted 200 Lines of Credit, totalling to about \$12 billion. There are now \$2.2 billion in approved pipelines and \$9.75 billion in active Lines of Credit. Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) recently received \$100 million LOC from Exim Bank. To achieve the requirements of the host governments, the Indian government should help identify critical projects and assist Indian infrastructure companies in ensuring their successful completion.

- In what ways can India assist Africa in addressing capacity-building needs and soft infrastructure deficits?
- What should be done to encourage more triangular development cooperation or public-private partnerships (PPP) to improve African infrastructure?
- What policy reforms are required to allow Indian companies to participate more actively in the African infrastructure market?
- How can India partner with RECs to undertake infrastructure development at the regional level?
- Can the Indian government develop a single institutional organisation to consolidate and expedite infrastructure-related activities of many ministries?

1800 - 1930 hrs Inaugural Session: "India-Africa : Intertwined Growth, New Synergies"

Inauguration of Exhibition

1900 hrs onwards Gala Dinner

DAY TWO: THURSDAY, 15 JUNE 2023

1000 - 1115 hrs Session III: Agriculture & Food Processing: New Vistas, New Harvest

With 65% of the world's uncultivated arable land, and accounting for almost 20% of Sub-Saharan Africa's GDP, agriculture is critical to the health of Africa's economy. Having made rapid strides in raising agricultural productivity, India is well-placed to spur an agricultural renaissance in the continent by strengthening of value chains, especially in farm mechanization, irrigation, food processing and agricultural research. India can play a pivotal role in promoting the use of AAA technologies, i.e., affordable, appropriate and adaptable in agriculture and food processing. Indian companies can do more to boost agricultural productivity in Africa by sharing expertise and latest technologies. Bridging the financing gap will also be critical for modernization and upgradation of agriculture in Africa. In this regard, India-Africa collaboration should explore more innovative financing mechanisms like PPP (public-private partnerships). Food-processing also presents a huge opportunity, with the continent's food market expected to be around \$1 billion by 2030. There are also promising opportunities for enhancing collaboration with India in commercially viable value chains in the agriculture sector. Indian companies can also play an important role in making agriculture more environment-friendly and climate resistant in Africa.

- How can India support Africa's goal of achieving a food-sufficient society and facilitate a holistic agricultural transformation in Africa?
- Given the importance of the upcoming African Continental Free Trade Treaty, how can India and Africa leverage better opportunities in agricultural cooperation while strengthening institutional linkages between the two?
- What are key focus areas for Indian investment in agriculture and food processing sectors?
- What are the high-impact priority areas to achieve immediate and sustainable returns in African agricultural growth story?

1000 - 1115 hrs Session IV: Trilateral Cooperation with France/ US

Trilateral partnerships involving India and a developed country have many win-win advantages for both sides. India, with her rich development experience and decades of working on projects across the continent, has made her an attractive partner for developed countries such as the US/ France. Trilateral mechanisms benefit Africa in terms of providing both finance and experience in order to achieve development goals in a sustainable manner. In the case of France, Indo-French collaboration resulted in the formation of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in which African countries play an important role. India and France also consult each other on issues relating to North Africa and West Africa. India and US are collaborating to promote growth in the African continent by focusing on areas such as agriculture, regional connectivity, nutrition, women empowerment, water, sanitation, education and institution building.

- *How can triangular partnerships be made more effective to bring about change and development in African countries?*
- *How can the private sector of the three countries collaborate in trilateral mechanisms?*
- *How can these linkages be institutionalised to make the partnerships more effective?*

1130 - 1245 hrs Special Plenary Session with Trade Ministers

1245 – 1400 hrs Networking Lunch

1400 - 1515 hrs Session V: Strengthening Manufacturing to Expand Global Trade

Expanding the manufacturing sector is often seen as a prerequisite to enhancing global trade. While African exports of goods and services have been growing rapidly for the past decade, the volumes remain low at just 3 percent of global trade. With African countries looking to enhance their share in international trade, Indian companies should step up their investment in setting up manufacturing facilities across the continent. Indian industry can play an important role in bolstering Africa's manufacturing given new opportunities unleashed by the African Continental Free Trade Area, which would provide direct access to the continental market of 1.3 billion people. According to a World Bank report, the continent must go beyond trade in raw materials and link its production and trade to the global economy to take advantage of the unlimited demand and innovation along the supply chain. But there are many challenges on the way. More than three years after COVID, the supply chain is still plagued by several issues, including historically high carrier unreliability, record-high freight costs and traditionally low warehousing vacancies. In order to enhance the consumption of African goods, raise competitiveness, and increase exports, it is necessary to build regional value chains. Since the Covid-induced pandemic exposed Africa's underlying manufacturing shortcomings, it's essential to reconsider and redesign current manufacturing practices to make them more adaptable to similar future shocks.

- *What new initiatives are needed to improve Africa's manufacturing capability, and how will this affect current patterns in foreign direct investment?*
- *Which countries and sectors are most important for India-Africa industrial cooperation?*
- *How will AfCFTA change the local or regional production networks?*
- *How can small economies be part of the process once AfCFTA becomes operational?*
- *How can a robust fund to support manufacturing activities be created?*
- *What steps should African governments take to promote more investment?*
- *What are the prospects of joint R&D and Manufacturing?*

1400 - 1515 hrs Session VI: Blending Technology and Digital Transformation

The outbreak of COVID-19 has accelerated the speed of digital transformation across the world. Businesses are quickly adapting to this "new normal". However, there hasn't been much of a shift in digital coverage, usage, and diffusion in most low-income African economies. Although Internet penetration rates have improved in many middle-income African countries, internet use remains below the world average. In this regard, Indian institutions and companies should assist African economies in digital transformation. The prospects of Africa's digital emancipation and economic growth can considerably benefit from India's rapidly expanding digital economy. Africa can improve the delivery of health, education, and inclusive public services using Indian know-how. Under the framework of South-South cooperation, Africa can learn from India's rapid digital revolution and benefit from it. The session will also cover other emerging areas such as the efficient, equitable rollout of 5G and gender equity.

- How can Indian companies collaborate to improve Internet penetration rates and bridge the digital divide in Africa?
- How can technology be used in Africa to increase last-mile access to public distribution, financing, and health care?
- What are the possibilities for developing collaborative digital platforms?
- What is the current internet standardisation process in different African countries? What are the regulatory and policy challenges?

1530 - 1645 hrs Session VII: Trilateral Cooperation with UK/ Germany

Triangular partnerships have become an important form of development cooperation mechanism as they combine the comparative advantages of developed countries and developing countries in an effective manner. India's experience as a developing country has often been highlighted, particularly suited to act as a pivotal country in triangular partnerships. Such mechanisms offer huge benefits such as cost-effective development due to the pooling of resources, allowing the nations to learn from each other's strengths and experiences. Countries like Germany have proposed programmes such as the "Compact with Africa" programme alongside its G20 partners. India and Germany have signed three projects to be implemented in Cameroon, Ghana and Malawi, mostly aimed at boosting local economy through job creation.

On the other hand, India-Africa-UK triangular cooperation have looked at issues including energy and climate, health, investment, nutrition and education. Several projects have been identified and implemented utilising Indian technological, innovative pro-poor solutions that can be applied in the African context. One of the projects is called "Supporting India's Trade Preferences for Africa" (SITA) aimed at increasing the value of business transactions between India and Africa, with the objective of job creation and increased income opportunities. Five East-African countries—Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania—were selected to create income and employment opportunities. Since its implementation, the SITA has had tremendous impact in terms of exports, investment and business transactions.

- What are the high impact areas for triangular cooperation and how can the impact be maximised in such arrangements?
- How can the role of non-governmental actors, i.e, civil society, private sector and other entities be consolidated under the rubric of trilateral partnerships?

1530 - 1645 hrs Session VIII: Skill Development and Nurturing Entrepreneurial Spirit

Africa is a continent of young people with over 70 per cent of Sub-Saharan Africa under the age of 30. India, with its world-class higher education institutions, is well-suited to partner Africa in skill development and fostering entrepreneurial culture. The proliferation of start-ups in India and Africa has paved the way for the dovetailing of entrepreneurial eco-systems in the two regions. India-funded incubators in Africa have aided in the development of successful SMEs, the creation of jobs, and the strengthening of local and national economic systems. India and African countries should enhance collaboration in strengthening policy and regulatory reforms to improve job creation, innovation, creativity skills and entrepreneurship among the youth. India continues to fund several initiatives in the African continent

including the ITEC programmes, ICCR scholarships and the Pan-African e-network Project. Both India and Africa have a significant young workforce and it is important to educate and train the growing population of youth to harness the demographic dividend in a strategic manner. This session will explore concrete ways in which India can assist in training, capacity building and development of entrepreneurship across people of African countries.

- How can India help in bridging skills gap in African countries?
- What role can Indian private sector and civil society play in human resource development projects between India and Africa?
- How can Indian and African start-ups collaborate in building of joint projects?
- How can one facilitate regular interaction between Indian and African entrepreneurs?

1700 - 1815 hrs Session IX: India-Africa Health Partnership: Raising the Bar

Public health and economic fortunes are becoming increasingly interlinked. With India's emergence as the pharmacy of the world and its growing capability in health-related infrastructure, new avenues of collaboration between the two sides have opened up. Building on its record of providing necessary medications and made-in-India vaccines to multiple African countries during the pandemic, India can meet the needs of Africa's health systems thanks to its advanced infrastructure, technology, accessibility, and affordability in the healthcare industry. Every year, more than 50,000 Africans travel to India on a medical visa, demonstrating the strong demand for India's low-cost, high-quality healthcare. As of March 31, 2021, the Indian Exim Bank had given numerous African nations loans worth \$1.6 billion for health projects. India was also the third-largest investor in Africa's healthcare industry from 2010 to 2019. This session will focus on forging a targeted, win-win framework for healthcare cooperation with Africa that will enhance collaboration among Indian healthcare providers and African partners in areas like capacity building and the establishment of hospitals.

- What role can Indian companies play in augmenting the health-related infrastructure of African countries?
- What incentives can African governments provide to help the Indian healthcare industry to work smoothly in Africa?
- What are the prospects of joint R&D, vaccine or medicine manufacturing?
- What lessons can Africa draw from India to improve its healthcare distribution up to the last mile?
- What role can the Indian government play in supporting the pharmaceutical industry to expand its presence in African countries?

1700 - 1815 hrs Session X: Partnerships for Sustainable Water Security

With one in three Africans facing water scarcity, the continent is grappling with serious levels of water stress. Addressing the water crisis has become urgent due to the effects of climate change on the water cycle, which affects millions of lives. Mitigating water crisis is necessary to save agriculture, which remains largely dependent on rainfall and employs more than 60 percent of the continent's labor force. Against this backdrop, the session will explore ways in which India and African countries can collaborate in the sustainable use and management of water. India with its expertise in this area can help African countries to managed water resources, both surface and underground, to respond to Africa's existing and future needs. Water insecurity negatively influences people's health and well-being and prevents their ability to expand their economy. India plans to invest more than US\$240 billion in the country's water industry. India is also working to raise groundwater levels while executing the world's most extensive dam rehabilitation programme. Sustainable water consumption and wastewater management are essential to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. India can assist African countries in setting up effective water distribution infrastructure, restoring rivers and water bodies, and using technology to clean and purify water.

- How can Indian businesses contribute more to sustainable water management practices in Africa?
- What are the policy barriers for Indian companies to participate in African water infrastructure projects?

- Given the need for extensive capital investment, how can one mobilise finance for Africa's water sector?
- What is the status and prospect of community-based peer-to-peer (P2P) water solutions in Africa. What role can India play in this area?

1830 hrs onwards Gala Dinner

DAY THREE: FRIDAY, 16 JUNE 2023

1000 - 1115 hrs Session XI: Trilateral Cooperation with UAE/EU

India has been coordinating with a growing number of other countries to promote growth and development in African countries. Many countries such as UAE and multilateral groupings like EU are interested in leveraging Indian knowledge and experience to partner with Africa. Such cooperation mechanisms hold great promise for both India and Africa. In recent years, the UAE has become an important investor in African infrastructure and services. The UAE has also pushed investments in the agriculture and agro-tech sector where Indian collaboration can complement well. One of the signature projects of India-UAE cooperation has been the establishment of IT Excellence Centre in Ethiopia. EU and India have also cooperated on specific areas including defence and security, development cooperation, trade and investment, infrastructure development, climate challenges and strengthening institutions of democracy. This session will explore prospects of joint projects and new opportunities for trilateral partnerships involving India, Africa and UAE/ EU.

- How can India, UAE and EU leverage their increasing cooperation with Africa for mutual growth and development?
- How can these trilateral partnerships follow a more targeted approach while catering to the needs of the African people?

1000 - 1115 hrs Session XII: Scaling up Green and Clean Energy Collaboration

Accelerating green energy transition has emerged as a key priority for Africa as the continent navigates modernization and industrialization. With sub-Saharan Africa expected to grow at around 4 per cent, African countries need to invest more in clean technologies and renewable energy to transition to the path of green transition. The energy security situation in Africa is, however, relatively unstable. Around 600 million Africans have no access to electricity and another 180 million rely on wood or charcoal for cooking. According to a PwC report, African countries will need to increase their renewable power generation from only 59 GW (gigawatts) to a 2,354 GW by 2050 in order to ensure green growth. This green transition will cost around \$2.6 trillion, roughly the same as the continent's current GDP. While African countries are rich in high-quality renewable sources of energy such as hydropower, solar, and wind energy, the action in the future will be on geothermal and green hydrogen. The International Solar Alliance (ISA), jointly launched by India and France, has set the stage for enhancing sustainable energy collaboration between the two regions. ISA currently has 85 signatory members, of whom 42 are from Africa. In 2015, India set aside \$1.6 billion from its Line of Credit to support solar energy initiatives in Africa.

This session will explore prospects of enhancing India's assistance for strengthening Africa's energy security and identifying various approaches to improve energy collaboration between India and African countries. India's growing prowess in renewables can play the role of a force multiplier for the continent's green growth. Green energy collaboration between India and African countries can be pursued through joint ventures and technology ties.

- How can Indian businesses collaborate in sustainable energy technologies in Africa?

- *What new opportunities exist for partnerships between African and Indian renewable energy companies?*
- *What role can the International Solar Alliance play in ensuring that everyone in Africa has access to clean energy?*
- *What kind of coordination is needed between India's Ministry of External Affairs and various energy ministries to strengthen renewable energy collaboration between India and Africa?*

1130 - 1300 hrs Valedictory Session

1300 – 1430 hrs Networking Lunch

Close of the Conclave