



**Speech of H.E. James Wani Igga, Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan
At the 11th CII EXIM Bank Conclave, New Delhi
14th – 15th March 2016**

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my President, H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, the entire people of my country, and on my own behalf I salute and convey to you their greetings, and best wishes for a successful conclave.

I would like to thank Mr. Noel Tata, Chairman CII Africa Committee and the organizers for extending to me, in solidarity, this invitation to represent my Country, the Republic of South Sudan in this important Forum. As Africa's newest country, South Sudan is seeking economic development partners globally through mutual cooperation in various sectors, including mineral exploitation, infrastructural development, and agriculture. I congratulate our older African countries that have committed themselves before us in this fruitful relations and solidarity with the CII-EXIM Bank and the Indian people.

It has been more than a decade since the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership was formerly established. The 10th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave discussed a number of very important developmental projects for African Countries, covering a wide range of sectors. I strongly believe that the participant Countries, and indeed Africa as a whole, will benefit greatly from the implementation of those projects. This in turn will boost the India-Africa relations. The 11th conclave, I hope, will evaluate the impact of these relations on both sides. It will also be an opportunity to look into the new upcoming investment avenues in Africa.

Our two regions will have to commit resources to developing our rural areas, and sustainable agriculture, fisheries, supporting smallholder farmers (especially women farmers), herders and fishermen.

Africa has a long history of cooperation and business dealings with India. The contribution of Indian Investors in the majority of African countries has helped governments answer some of the pleas of their people in the area of employment, infrastructural development and the delivery of service. Business and investment opportunities are increasingly expanding with the global proliferation in technological advancement.

The business landscape in Africa is rapidly changing. In the past decade, Africa's economies have shown significant improvements after about two decades of struggling with political and social conflicts and growth-related bottlenecks. At present, six out of the ten fastest-growing economies in the world are in Africa. Literacy rates for both men and women have risen, democracy has replaced totalitarianism in most countries and many of them are taking credible measures to overcome absolute poverty.

We in Africa should continue to work hard as leaders in our respective countries to ensure that we strengthen the link between political and socioeconomic development.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have dwelled much on my bigger home, Africa, but now let me say something about South Sudan.

South Sudan is a landlocked country with a population of 12 million people. The country covers an area of 644,329 sq. km with a population density of 19 persons/km². The population is quite young, with up to 72% below 30 years of age. 73% of the population lives in the rural areas.

South Sudan is pursuing a policy of regional cooperation in order to maximize access to transport infrastructure and institutional capabilities of the neighboring countries. In the region, South Sudan has made steps in seeking membership into some important

organizations. Our laws and regulations favorably aim at improving the investment climate to speed-up economic growth.

As government and people of South Sudan, we assure our prospective investors of a peaceful and secure environment, rule of law, a clear and well-coordinated regulatory framework and basic infrastructure. Investors operating in priority sectors will benefit from a package of incentives including access to land, licensing and entry/work permit and tax holidays within the legal and regulatory framework.

Conclusion

As the partners to this conclave embark on achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the two regions (Africa and India) should pay attention to uplifting the basic standard of living and secure social protection systems for their peoples. This requires commitment of resources to the development of rural areas, sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). If successfully carried out, no doubt, other LDCs will follow suit in similar direction. The longstanding and multifaceted Africa-India relationship has resultantly fashioned out a development partnership hinging on equality, friendship, mutual benefit, and solidarity, marking a remarkable cooperation of the South-South dimensions.

Our presence today is testament to the fact that Africa acknowledges and applauds the Indian experience and expertise in small and medium enterprises, as they offer significant avenues for further cooperation in the dire spheres of industrialization, job creation, enhancement of local capacities of the African people, especially in management, and industrial organization.

God bless you all, and thank you very much.