



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

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The deliberations of this meeting have been quite impressive, viewing from the quality and level of the discussions. The fact that it is annually convened gives a room for partners to echo and re-evaluate the challenges and progress made on the various projects. I also appreciate the contributions of all the participants here; which I believe have enormously benefited this historic gathering.

I take this opportunity to profoundly thank the Indian government for their effective participation in the United Nations Peace Keeping force in South Sudan (UNMISS). This force has greatly benefited the country not only in entrenching peace but also in capacity building.

We further commend the commitment of India as one of the outstanding countries dealing in oil operations in South Sudan. We are also grateful to the people and the government of India for offering a good number of scholarships to my country.

This conclave is recognition of a long-held belief in Africa that development in the continent shall only benefit the common people when it is undertaken holistically. When Africa is looked at as a single market of about a billion people who are connected by common history, geography, and economic prospects of progress, the benefit is enormous. Common challenges abound in such areas as energy and food security and infrastructural inadequacies. That notwithstanding, opportunities in all areas have made the continent's potentials almost unmatched.

Much as Africa remains an attractive destination to the world, economic partnership should not be based only on extractive industries. A new paradigm shift in partnership should ensure that Africa's industrial base is broadened through the continent's capacity to add value to its raw materials. This approach will also provide India with wider investment opportunity in various areas where Africa enjoys competitive advantage and thereby bring about the needed socioeconomic transformation for the two regions.

The India-Africa cooperation has a positive bearing on the global trade and investment flows. In this regard, the two regions should take well-coordinated measures to democratize their multilateral financial institutions that culminate in fair share of dividends.

For those investing or wishing to invest in post-war countries such as South Sudan and several others in Africa, emphasis should be put to build the capacity and employ the African women and youth. This category is victim of all conflicts in the continent and yet the most important and productive labour force. Conducive environment for their employment should be created to guarantee their future and grab them off from being lured into participating in mischievous acts such as rebellions, and crime in general.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In partnership with other developing countries in Asia and Latin America, we in Africa have succeeded to change an old ineffective trend to economic growth and development. The relatively new approach to growth and development which has shed more light on infrastructural improvement is one that we also need to emphasize in future conclaves. For Indian industrial prowess to benefit Africa it has to partner with the continent in such tangible fields as modernization of agriculture and increase access to agricultural output, as-well-as investment in the healthcare and education sectors. In this regard South Sudan has established a Cooperative Bank, which has endeavored to support smallholder-farming communities through cooperative societies.

The same premium that Africa is placing on external partnership has also been directed inwardly. Intra-Africa partnership has become an important element of economic growth, with regional integration being an engine of continental growth and development. Integration blocs such as ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD, the Northern Corridor Projects, and EAC have brought together regions and countries that are bringing their capacities together. In light of this, South Sudan decided to request to join the East African Community (EAC), and it was eventually admitted as the sixth member early this month (March 2016).

Though we are landlocked, South Sudan is one of the largest territories in the region. It has designated a free trade zone thereby availing itself as one of the gateways to the region and the continent at large. With the signing of the recent IGAD Agreement, security has improved. Laws have been made and are continually being improved upon, so that the economic flow is guaranteed.

South Sudan here invites all investors from India and even from Africa for business in the country, now that a conducive environment for investment exists. There are great opportunities for investment in the areas of agriculture, mining, oil exploitation, infrastructural development, and social services. South Sudan will offer and assure provision of all the necessary cooperation to these potential investors once they are in our country.

Thank you very much,