

AFRICAN UNION
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UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

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3RD AFRICA-SOUTH AMERICA (ASA) SUMMIT

22 February 2013
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

STATEMENT BY

HER EXCELLENCY DR. NKOSAZANA DLAMINI-ZUMA
CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

**Your Excellency Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President
of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;**

**Your Excellency Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime
Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
and Chairperson of the African Union;**

**Your Excellency Mr. Goodluck Jonathan, President of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria and Coordinator for Africa;**

**Your Excellency Mrs. Dilma Rousseff, President of the
Federative Republic of Brazil;**

Excellencies Heads of State and Government;

**Excellencies Former Presidents Lula Da Silva and
Olusegun Obasanjo;**

Ministers and Ambassadors

Heads of Delegations;

Members of diplomatic core

Ladies and Gentlemen;

On behalf of the African Union Commission (AUC), I would like to join our host, H.E Mr. Theodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, to warmly welcome Your Excellencies to the 3rd Africa-South America (ASA) Summit that is taking place in this beautiful city of Malabo.

Allow me, from the outset, to express our profound appreciation for the warm reception and generous hospitality extended to us by President Theodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the Government and the people of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea since our arrival. I also wish to thank all of you for your presence today in Malabo.

Our attendance is an evidence of our common commitment to enhance the framework of cooperation between our two Regions, which is underpinned by the principles of Multilateralism, good governance, rule of law, sustainable development and the tireless fight against climate change, terrorism and drugs and small light weapons trafficking, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

We are holding our son the summit on the eve of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the OAU/AU. Let me take this opportunity to indicate that we as Africans have reasons to be proud of some achievements enabled by the sacrifices made by the great sons and daughters of Africa, but also by contributions from those who stood with us during the struggles against colonialism and apartheid to whom we shall forever be grateful. The theme of this celebration, **Panafricanism and African Renaissance**, we want to complete the emancipation of our peoples through a total recovery of our African identity and dignity and reach greater

achievements in our quest for peace, stability and prosperity, in order to bear with proud and humility our responsibilities in the international arena.

We cannot ignore the common heritage shared by our two regions forged by historical ties as well as by circumstances of which we have not always been the masters. Indeed, we have no choice but to take responsibility over our respective destinies in a collective approach as this is dictated by our past and present as well as by the need for us to successfully fight for a bright future.

We should, therefore, bear in mind that we, as a generation, we have an historical opportunity, through this political framework, to establish a common front to address issues that hinder our move towards achieving socio-economic development and social justice within our various countries.

History teaches us that our forbearers in both regions, did their part of the work in the past when together they fought hand in hand for our freedom and emancipation against slavery, colonialism and apartheid, but also for more justice in the World economic order.

Excellencies,

Today's gathering is taking place within an international context characterized by many threats to peace and security in the World, thus, undermining our dreams of living in a peaceful and prosperous era. There is no doubt that sustainable development cannot be achieved in the absence of peace and security, which are the core values to build on if some social progress is to be made.

Therefore, our forum should reflect on how to strengthen the capacity of the already existing Regional Peace and Security Institutions and to bring them to work together for the improvement of peace and stability in the world.

The issue of peace and security cannot effectively be handled at national or only regional level. As we are facing with global threats, there is a need for an holistic approach, which has the potential for tracing thread wherever it occurs and for taking relevant actions accordingly.

It is clear that the trend toward greater diffusion of authority and power that has been occurring for a couple of decades is likely to accelerate because of the emergence of new global players, the worsening institutional deficit, potential expansion of regional blocs, and enhanced strength of non-state actors and networks.

It is in this context of complexity, as you all know, that South-South Cooperation gained momentum in the last 1990s, marking the beginning of a new era in world politics. Africa-South America Cooperation Forum can be seen as a concrete way to reinforce the contribution and the role of both

the African Union (AU) and the Union of the South American Nations (UNASUR) in the consolidation of our Strategic Partnership.

At a global level, it should be seen as a platform from where the two Regions can defend their common interests in various International fora. It should primarily aim at enhancing the basis for a useful South-South cooperation within a rapid changing globalized world beset by various crises, which calls for more solidarity.

This solidarity should take place through implementation of projects of mutual benefits. And furthermore, our two regions, in building a strong political and economic bloc, and because of our growing geopolitical and economic strength, will have a high degree of freedom to customize our political and economic policies to our conditions for the benefit of our countries and peoples.

Excellencies,

This 3rd Africa-South America (ASA) Summit is a follow-up to the 2nd Summit that was held in Isla de Margarita, Venezuela, which came up with some useful outcomes. This Summit affords a good opportunity for both continents to reach a clear understanding about the thrust of our cooperation and access the implementation of those outcomes and come up with strategies of how enhance our collaboration to foster a stronger strategic partnership.

Our partnership should offer viable opportunities for our countries to collectively pursue programmes and activities that would propel us to sustained economic growth and sustainable development, which include the strengthening of cooperation and trade, sharing of best practices for the development of education, health, science and technology, trade and industry, culture and tourism, agriculture and rural development, Youth training, employment creation and gender mainstreaming in various fields of development.

Excellencies,

Our Partnership holds enormous potentials to balance growth and equity on a global scale. On the other hand, Africa and South America have great assets for combating the harmful effects of climate change and for promoting poverty eradication. This Summit should bring with it a renewed dynamism in our cooperation and seeks to strengthen our relations on the basis of solidarity, shared prosperity and promotion of our respective potentialities and human capabilities.

The task ahead is daunting but not insurmountable. We all need to rededicate ourselves to the aspirations and objectives of our cooperation forum, with a view to deriving maximum benefits from our partnership.

The Commission here reiterates its commitment to ensuring the full realization of the objectives of the ASA Implementation Plan in order to achieve concrete, specific and viable projects and programs for the benefit of the peoples of the two sides.

We would also like to wish President Hugo Chavez a speedy recovery.

I thank you.