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Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege for me to be one of the speakers at the opening session of the ANC Donors Conference convened by - the African National Congress.! I consider this singular privilege as an honour for my country and acknowledgement of the support extended by India to the struggle waged by the African National Congress against the racist policies and structures of apartheid erected by the white minority regime in South Africa. Assembled as we are in this beautiful city of Arusha, it is also a befitting recognition of the important role played by Tanzania, a Front-line State, in the international affairs and in the Southern African region, in particular, under the dynamic leadership of H.E. President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Mwalimu Nyerere. With such a broad-based representation evidenced by the presence of L; representatives of many countries and international agencies, it is also an affirmation of the support of the world community

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the African National Congress to help it to hasten the elimination of apartheid that has been of concern not only to those who are immediately affected by this abhorrent practice but to the entire international community. Apartheid threatens the people of South Africa, its neighbours and international peace and security.

2. The repression and exploitation carried out inside South Africa at the instance of the racist regime has brought about untold miseries and death. Both India and Africa can, under the domination of the colonial powers and suffered economic exploitation and discrimination. Considerable, as was our own deprivation in the colonial era, we knew that Africa's tribulation. were even greater, particularly of the oppressed majority of South Africa. We in India have therefore consistently identified ourselves with the aspirations of our African brother: and sisters; and, both the Indian people and their leaders have extended moral and material support in rooting out the last vestiges of colonialism in Africa and hastening the dismantling of structures of apartheid which, now show signs of crumbling under its own weight of injustice, ..3

inequality and ingrained oppressiveness.

3. India's own commitment to the cause of racial equality and struggle against colonial subjugation in Africa goes back hundred years when Mahatma Gandhi forged his political weapon of Satyagraha or passive resistance, which he later introduced to his people; and, which became India's formidable non-violent weapon in throwing off the yoke of colonialism.

4. Even in the midst of our own travails and struggle for independence, the Indian people never for a moment could leave the thought of the just causes for which their brethren in Africa were fighting. At the Congress of the Anti-Imperialist League in Brussels in 1927, our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru sought the friendship of the leaders of resurgent Africa for he believed strongly in their conviction and made a common cause to create an international order based on equity, justice and tolerance. In keeping with this solidarity and in its belief and respect for fundamental principles

! principles guiding human relationship as part of the larger family in the comity of nations, the Indian National Congress at its every session adopted resolutions supporting African independence. ...4

5. In 1947. when independence came to India, as a demonstration of our abhorrence of racialism, the independent India was the first country to break off diplomatic and economic relations with South Africa. Even before its independence, India had already withdrawn its High Commissioner from the Union of South Africa and prohibited trade with that country. That was in 1946. The Indian diplomatic mission itself was withdrawn from South Africa in 1954. From the very inception of the United Nations, India has been raising the question of racial discrimination and has co-sponsored various resolutions condemning this practice at the world body.

6. The close interaction between India and the African National Congress has a place of pride in history. The oldest political organisation in South Africa, the Natal Indian Congress, was founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1894: and, he was its first Secretary too. The Congress along with the Transvaal branch of the South African Indian Congress have always worked in close alliance with the African National Congress which came into being in 1912; and, it too was inspired by the Gandhian ideology of non-violence. In the 40s, the alliance

between the Natal Indian Congress, the Transvaal Indian Congress and the ANC were formalised in the now famous 'Three Doctors Pact' signed by Dr. A.B. Xuma, Dr. Yusuf Dadoo and Dr. G.M. Naicker. The 1952 Defiance Campaign was mounted under the banner of the ANC with Dr. Mandela as the leader supported by the South African Indian Congress with Maulevi Cechelie, as his deputy. The campaign which went on for several months showed in no uncertain terms its contempt for the reprehensible laws of public segregation. The Indians turned out in large numbers and courted arrest. The ANC found its ranks swollen. The Indian participation in the highest cadres of anti-apartheid leadership was now there to stay.

7. At the same time, the leadership of Independent India not only continued to extend political, moral and material support to the African National Congress, but it also strongly espoused its cause in international gatherings.

8. I may also mention a little known fact that it was on Nehru's insistence that the racist regime was kept away from the Non-aligned Conference at Bandung held in the mid 50s.

Instead of South Africa, two delegates of ANC, Moses Kolane and Maulvi Cachalia attended the Conference as observers. These two South African revolutionary leaders had approached Nehru for support. Nehru offered not only to take them with him but also introduced them to all the leaders at the Conference. It was the presence of these ANC observers which in many ways sharpened focuss on the struggle against apartheid and brought i support in Asia and Africa.

9. We, in India, hold ANC leadership and its wise counsel in the highest esteem. We were happy to have played host to the Deputy President of the ANC, Dr. Nelson Mandela in October last. His was a long awaited visit. We had very much wished that he would receive in person the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding conferred upon him by the Government of India in 1979 for his outstanding contribution to world peace and understanding. Ohher notable recipients of the award have been Mwalimu Nyerere, President Kaunda, Mother Teresa and Civil rights leader Martin Luther King. Incarcerated as he wee. Dr. Mandel; could not visit Delhi in 1980 and the award on his behalf was received by the ANC President Mr. Oliver Tambo. ..7 I

10. We, in India, have been watching with keen interest and admiration the relentless and just struggle waged by the African National Congress and its great leaders Oliver Tambo and Dr. Mandela to secure for the people of their country political freedom, fundamental human rights, dignity and equal rights without distinction as to race, colour, language or religion. The knowledge of shared sufferings, though formidable in dimension is the corner stone of India's continued support to African National Congress in its just struggle.

11. ANC would always count upon India's political, moral, financial and material support. We deem it our privilege to be of some assistance in knocking out the last bastion of racial discrimination and apartheid. I will also like to assure our friends in ANC that India will remain steadfast in maintaining sanctions against the régime in ID that the process of irreversible change in South Africa could be expedited. Long live ANC and its just struggle.