

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND ON THE CONCLUSION OF HIS VISIT TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Malabo, April 8, 2018

1. It has been an honour for me to pay the first ever State Visit from India to Equatorial Guinea. This is indeed a historic occasion for our bilateral relations. I am grateful to the President of Equatorial Guinea and First Lady for their warm and gracious hospitality. I am honoured to have been bestowed with highest civilian award of Equatorial Guinea.
2. India is keen to strengthen its warm and friendly ties with Equatorial Guinea. We have taken an in-principle decision to open our Embassy in Malabo. This will be a major step forward for our bilateral ties. In my discussions with President of Equatorial Guinea, we reviewed the entire spectrum of our bilateral relations and discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest. We agreed that we should expand our partnership in the spirit of South-South cooperation to accelerate growth and development for our peoples.
3. We agreed to work in close coordination at the United Nations, especially during the two-year tenure of Equatorial Guinea in the UN Security Council. We expressed deep concern at the threat posed by terrorism to international peace and security and called for developing a strong global response to fight this menace.
4. The last few years have seen high level political exchanges between our two countries. We were privileged to host the President of Equatorial Guinea for the India-Africa Forum Summit in 2015 and again for the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi in March this year. We seek his support to help the Alliance contribute to global fight against Climate Change.
5. We are keen to strengthen our development cooperation partnership with Equatorial Guinea. In keeping with the priority of this country to promote

Small and Medium Enterprises, we have offered to set up an Entrepreneurship Development Centre which would impart training and skills to local youths. We would also assist in setting up an English Language Laboratory in Malabo and separately offer English Language training to public officials from this country in India.

6. We are aware that Equatorial Guinea is keen to diversify its economy. I am pleased to inform you that during our discussions we have identified specific areas of co-operation to partner Equatorial Guinea in this objective, including in agriculture, health, ICT and tele-communications sectors. We see Equatorial Guinea as an important energy partner. Today, our two countries have signed agreements for promoting bilateral cooperation in the fields of health, traditional medicines, mining and geology, and Information Technology. India is committed to partner Equatorial Guinea in its developmental journey. Alongside, development cooperation, we are also encouraging our Industry to invest and forge new business partnerships in Equatorial Guinea.
7. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am confident that my State Visit will mark a new beginning in India - Equatorial Guinea relations.

Thank you, Muchas gracias