

Statement by H.E. Mr Dharambeer Gokhool, President of the Republic of Mauritius

7th AU-EU Summit, 24-25 November 2025

Luanda, Republic of Angola

**H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and
Chairperson of the African Union**

H.E. António Costa, President of the European Council

H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

H.E. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Good Morning, Bonjour and Bomn Dia

At the very outset I extend to you all the warm greetings of the Government and the people of the Republic of Mauritius.

Our sincere appreciation to His Excellency President Lourenço, and to the Government and people of Angola, for their warm and cordial hospitality and excellent arrangements made for our comfort since we have arrived in Luanda.

On a personal level, I am particularly pleased to be in Angola – a country with which Mauritius shares historical and cultural connections going back to 1507, when sailors from Portugal who were exploring the spice route, also visited Mauritius besides Angola.

Mauritius deeply values its long standing and enduring partnership with the European Union which is grounded in shared interests in multisectoral areas.

We are heartened that two landmark events - the G 20 and this 7th AU EU Summit – are being held back to back in Africa - a mark of respect for the Continent and a strong sign of hope for the people of Africa

Mauritius remains deeply attached to the AU's collective actions and aspirations in fulfilling its transformative role towards the prosperity and well-being of the African people.

We in Mauritius are ever grateful to our African brothers and sisters who have always stood by our side in our journey towards our complete decolonization.

There is a consensus in this august assembly that this Summit is being organized against the backdrop of a challenging geopolitical landscape and

Mauritius has deemed it essential to be present not only to commemorate the silver jubilee of this partnership, but also because of our conviction that as a Small Island Developing State, our future prosperity is intrinsically linked to an open and rules-based international economic and global world order through strong and balanced multilateral institutions.

Excellencies

Destiny

Our two continents' destiny is intertwined as we both envisage the new frontiers of our development to ensure the prosperity and the progress of our people – specially the youth.

As much as we can congratulate ourselves for the significant milestones achieved during the past twenty five years, we also need to boldly look at the future – to reset rethink and restart a new cycle -that would enable this partnership to deliver more effectively on its promises of building a better future and prosperity for our people.

From that perspective, as leaders we need to acknowledge a number of challenges that our partnership need to tackle together.

5 strategic issues

In this context, I would like to address 5 strategic issues that as partners, we should, address to move forward together decisively:

(i) First - **The uneven implementation of our Summit's past declaration.**

We need the renewed efforts of all to overcome the gaps at both the political and operational levels, between the adoption of the declarations and their comprehensive and effective implementation;

(ii) Second - **The urgency of reforming the International Financial Architecture to serve the interests of both Africa and Europe.**

A financially stable Africa, with a manageable debt level, will go a long way in improving the investment climate for both African and European investors. Efforts to alleviate the debt burden of Africa are encouraging. However, we need to upscale our actions and would therefore welcome greater efforts in view of the urgency of the situation.

(iii) **Third – The Global Gateway and the Team Europe Approach.**

We would like to congratulate the President of the European Commission for the innovative financing mechanism that the EU has put in place through the Global Gateway and Team Europe Approach, which we are delighted to note, have started to deliver on their set objectives.

Nonetheless, we are of the view that since this new initiative is built on the system of blending, it would become much more productive if the European Union could comprehensively address the debt and investment nexus.

(iv) **Fourth – Regulatory Measures.**

The prosperity of our people in the context of the AU EU partnership is highly dependent on an acceleration of trade and investments between our two continents.

Africa today, is the fourth largest trading partner of the EU. We must not be complacent with this situation.

We firmly believe that Africa has the potential to emerge as a more important trading and economic partner of the European Union.

To attain this objective, it is imperative to remove the barriers to trade and address the imbalance in the regulatory frameworks and skills shortages.

In this regard, I call on the need for mutual understanding and structured dialogue to transform those barriers into trade accelerators rather than decelerators.

(v) **Fifth – Digitalisation and AI**

Digitalisation and the rapid progress of AI is no more a remote new phenomenon; rather it needs to be viewed as a powerful catalyst for economic growth and development. We are glad to note that Digital cooperation has become part of the broader agenda of our partnership.

It must continue to be the focus of our future actions.

Much more need to be done to bridge the digital divide. We should encourage more collaborative ventures through the promotion of innovation ecosystems in Africa.

I am confident that our youth – in Europe and Africa – a new generation, that speaks the same digital language, could bring this partnership to new heights as long as we, leaders, adopt a transformational leadership paradigm and provides them the necessary space and platform for unleashing their creativity and talents.

Excellencies

As a Small Island Developing State, the economic prosperity of Mauritius is dependent on stable, predictable and strong multilateral institutions. This partnership epitomizes the fundamental recognition of our interdependence and therefore we are compelled to work collaboratively for our mutual prosperity.

The insightful reflections and contributions of my colleague Leaders and State representatives during the last two days, brings me comfort and much satisfaction that we are on the right track to enhance this AU EU strategic partnership for the prosperity, progress and well-being of our people.

This 7th AU EU summit is a historic and defining moment.

Our people aspire to a better future.

Let us - government, civil society and the private sector - join our hands together, to ensure that the legitimate aspirations that are reflected in the outcome document are effectively implemented in a spirit of a win-win partnership, underpinned by a strong commitment to a vibrant and mutually beneficial multilateralism.

I am convinced that a sincere and balanced engagement between our two sides can transform the Africa agenda 2063 “Africa we Want” into the “Africa we CAN”.

Thank You