

OPENING REMARKS BY ELIZABETH SIDIROPOULOS,
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KOREA AFRICA FORUM INTERSESSIONAL MEETING
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Jan Smuts House/SAIIA

SAIIA is honoured to have been asked by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to host and organise this Intersessional Meeting of the Korea Africa Forum.

I believe this is the first time that think tanks, academia and the private sector in South Africa have focused seriously on the growing relationship, especially the economic relationship, between Korea and Africa. For this reason alone we are very pleased to be involved in this initiative.

We laud Korea for engaging Africa and starting to share the lessons it has learnt in its quite dramatic growth over the past fifty years and taking a practical interest in Africa's development. (Elizabeth: See attached article from Yonhap News taken from the Web.)

At the same time Africa has much to offer Korea in terms of the resources it needs for its industrial production.

The partnership, if well and responsibly managed, therefore has many benefits for both Korea and Africa.

I should like to thank that Department, the Embassy and especially our partner, the Korean Institute for Economic Policy, KIEP, for their support and enthusiastic cooperation.

We wish our visitors from Korea a successful and enjoyable visit to South Africa and I hope that your deliberations today will be interesting and productive.