

**PRESIDENT OF G-NEXID, MR. JEAN-LOUIS EKRA, PAYS RICH TRIBUTE  
TO EXIM BANK OF INDIA FOR ITS ROLE IN PROMOTING G-NEXID**

The Global Network of Exim Banks & Development Finance Institutions (G-NEXID), a Network launched by Exim Bank of India in March, 2006, under the auspices of UNCTAD, held its Steering Committee meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, recently. Steering Committee Members of G-NEXID, including Exim Bank of India, participated in the meeting.

Mr. Jean-Louis Ekra, President and Chairman of the Board, African Export-Import Bank and Honorary President, G-NEXID, in his welcome remarks at the meeting, paid rich tributes to Exim Bank of India for its role in promoting G-NEXID. He said :

**“Allow me also to say that until recently, we have been so fortunate to have Mr. Venkat Subramanian as our Honorary President. He has brought his distinguished professionalism, outstanding leadership and personal dedication to the service of our association. Through Exim India, he has relentlessly promoted our network. He has set the bar remarkably high, which is an inspiration to whoever comes after him to steer the course of G-NEXID.... I hope that together, we shall be able to keep up the standard set by Mr. Venkat Subramanian and render our community vibrant”.**

Text of the address of Mr. Ekra is reproduced below :

**Dear Friends and Distinguished Members of the Steering Committee,**

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the Steering Committee members of G-NEXID, holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in this beautiful and historic city of Kiev.

I would first like to thank the Chairman and Management of UKREXIMBANK, and our Honorary Executive Secretary, Mr. Nikolai Udovychenko, for kindly offering to host today's Steering Committee meeting of our network.

You will all agree that the gracious and warm welcome we enjoyed here at UKREXIMBANK, has clearly provided us with an environment with such collegial comfort for us to share our thoughts and ideas that will further propel our network towards achieving its overarching objectives.

Allow me also to say that until recently, we have been so fortunate to have Mr. Venkat Subramanian as our Honorary President. He has brought his distinguished professionalism, outstanding leadership and personal dedication to the service of our association. Through Exim India, he has relentlessly promoted our network. He has set the bar remarkably high, which is an inspiration to whoever comes after him to steer the course of G-NEXID.

It has been a great honour for me and Afreximbank that the baton has been passed on to us. To have your trust in carrying the torch as the Honorary President of our association means a lot to me. My Organisation's mission is to promote trade in Africa

through active engagement with other partners that share similar objectives. As such, we hope to do the same for our network and to actively promote collaborative and synergistic relations between our members.

But we will not do this alone; rather as a team. I hope that together, we shall be able to keep up the standard set by Mr. Venkat Subramanian and render our community vibrant.

The current financial crisis and its ramifications has shown that team effort is essential to overcoming difficult times, while history has shown, time and again, that solutions which are born-out of team effort and a collaborative spirit have a lasting legacy.

So far the achievements of G-Nexid have been a team effort and I would like to thank all our members for their commitment, enthusiasm and dedication.

Today's meeting will examine ways of consolidating the network, to ensure that there is a solid and permanent framework for supporting G-NEXID's growing activities. These have and will further expand as a result of the interactions and collaborative engagements amongst our increasing membership and between our members and an increasing number of stakeholders.

Essential elements of such a framework that needs strengthening include the Secretariat of the Network, whose coordinating role will increasingly become essential. It also includes finding a mechanism for sharing risk and credit information between members. Practical steps are proposed for our deliberation today.

Internally, we have been making great strides in coming closer to each other, enabling many organisations in our network to engage bilaterally, exchanging business ideas, entering business partnerships with each other or embarking on bilateral capacity building programmes.

Our conferences and seminars will increasingly become one of our key venues for interaction. It is our intention to organize these more frequently and on themes that are salient and directly relevant to the needs of our members. We actively invite your suggestions of themes and topics that matter to our membership.

Externally, G-NEXID will increasingly be involved in partnership arrangements with other stakeholder groups. We look forward to furthering this aspect of our association. The operating environment has indeed been very responsive to our initiative. The implications of these arrangements for G-NEXID will come into focus in our deliberations today. The Steering Committee will deliberate on different Strategies for implementing established MOUs/MOCs as well as exploring ways of deepening working relationships with partner institutions such as: UNCTAD, International Network of SMEs (INSME), Berne Union, International Finance Cooperation (IFC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and ITC.

I thank you once again for your response and I look forward to useful interactions in today's meeting. The outcomes of our deliberations will pave the way for implementing measures that will enable us to meet and sustain our overarching objectives. These, I would like to recall, are to boost bilateral and multilateral agreements of all kinds among

our members, and to allow emerging countries to learn from each other and share effective practices and experiences.

In closing these opening remarks I would like, on behalf of all members of this Committee, to thank UKREXIMBANK once again for their generous hospitality. I wish us all fruitful deliberations.

THANK YOU.