

7th PIDA WEEK

Putting Africa on a firm footing for recovery, growth, and resilience through Infrastructure

28 February - 04 March 2022 | Nairobi, Kenya

Communique



PIDA
INTERCONNECTING
INTEGRATING & TRANSFORMING

- 1. We**, Ministers and delegates to the Seventh PIDA Week and the organizing and partner institutions, African Union Commission (AUC), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), African Union Members States, the Regional Economic Communities, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), GIZ, JICA, the European Union (EU), the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Private Sector representatives, as well as distinguished invitees under the leadership of Hon. Raila Odinga, African Union High Representative for Infrastructure Development in Africa.
- 2. Welcome** the keynote message of H.E Uhuru Kenyatta during the opening of the 7th PIDA Week underscoring the criticality of infrastructure integration in Africa under PIDA, which set the tone for the vibrant discussions throughout the week;
- 3. Applaud** the PIDA partners, Development Finance Institutions and stakeholders for the exceptional turnout and participation in this hybrid edition of PIDA Week, which has led to the critical examination of PIDA progress financing needs and possible solutions in line with the PIDA Week Theme.
- 4. Commend** the Government of Kenya for demonstrable leadership in infrastructure development and in the implementation of PIDA projects as evidenced by various projects that have been completed or are under construction;
- 5. Acknowledge** the progress that has been made in the implementation of PIDA, including the detailed appraisal of the 69 PIDA PAP 2 projects using the PIDA Service Delivery Mechanism (SDM) using the Quick Check Methodology (QCM). Further acknowledge the 10 PIDA projects that were presented, and commend the project owners and Member States for their commitment to advancing PIDA implementation;

6. **Commend** the AU Assembly for the adoption of the second phase of the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PIDA PAP 2) containing 69 priority projects that will be implemented based on an Integrated Corridor Approach (ICA);
7. **Reaffirm** that the implementation of regional infrastructure projects under PIDA is essential to putting Africa on a firm footing for recovery, growth, resilience, and and acknowledge the contribution of high-level political leadership through the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) as a key vehicle for coordinating and accelerating the implementation of priority transnational infrastructure projects towards regional integration in line with AU Agenda 2063;
8. **Commend** AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and PIDA stakeholders for the operationalisaiton and enhancements of PIDA tools and instruments including the Service Delivery Mechanism, the PIDA Quality Label, the PIDA Job Creation Toolkit, the virtual PIDA Information Center, and consolidating these into the PIDA implementation strategy and encourage AUDA-NEPAD to work with partners and stakeholders to devise mechanisms for the technical and financial sustainability of these tools and instruments as part of AUDA-NEPAD's PIDA project advisory services.
9. **Recognise** the PIDA Quality Label (PQL) as a certification of excellence in infrastructure project preparation which remains PIDA's standard of quality assurance and excellence in recognizing well-prepared projects and Applaud the recipients of the inaugural PQL Awards (Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency (CCTTFA), East African Community (EAC), Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM));
10. **Commend** UNECA for its recent research on the implications of AfCFTA on the demand for air transport infrastructure and services and call upon all African Member States and concerned stakeholders to fast-track implementation of SAATM and AfCFTA as the two AU important flagship projects are intrinsically linked;
11. **Recognise** the role of the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) and the Continental Power System Master Plan (CMP) in accelerating the integration of the energy sector in line with the AU Agenda 2063 and appreciate the commitment of the African Development Bank, EU, and other partners to support Africa in achieving the African Energy Transition;
12. **Considering** that the five regions of Africa are at different levels of market, regulatory, technical and operational readiness for implementing AfSEM, call for the strengthening of the institutional and governance capacities of institutions with important roles in the implementation of AfSEM, including the operationalization of the AfSEM Coordination Unit within the AUC;
13. **Acknowledge** the progress made by AUDA-NEPAD on the MoveAfrica Initiative and the role of the RECs (COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, and SADC) in developing and rolling out the Traffic Light System and urge partners and RECs to design a roadmap towards electronic data exchange to upscale Coordinated Border Management on OSBPs;

14. **Commend** the progress made in the revision of the OSBP Sourcebook with the support of JICA and Call upon PIDA stakeholders to continue providing data on OSBP implementation and technical guidance on the revisions, particularly in light of developments with the AfCFTA and COVID-19.
15. **Recognise** that the proof-of-concept study on empirical trade data flows conducted by the AUC provides a promising tool for leveraging intra-African trade and the potential “Made-in-Africa” product-country pairings will help to determine requirements in infrastructure and logistics, including missing links in transport in support of the AfCFTA.
16. **Acknowledge** that while recently completed SGR projects in Africa have numerous benefits, early lessons learnt on success factors indicate that future and ongoing SGR initiatives should invest in adequate planning; build local institutions, capacities, and knowledge; provide value proposition; ensure first/last mile & logistics connectivity; and promote private sector engagement, through inter alia, adequate PPP arrangements;
17. **Commend** the Partnership that led to the launch of the Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP-PIDA) Scorecard designed to transform the investment outlook for water investments on the continent by mobilising political support at the highest level of leadership and call upon AU Member States, Heads of State, and water sector stakeholders to support the data collection and use of the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard as an instrument to catalyse water investments;
18. **Acknowledge** the importance of mainstreaming climate resilience in planning, designing, constructing, and monitoring infrastructure projects, especially PIDA PAP 2 projects. Call upon the Member States to utilise and finance the Africa Climate Resilient Investment Facility (AFRI-RES), which aims to strengthen the capacity of African institutions and project developers, including the public and private sectors, to implement infrastructure investments that are resilient to climate variability and change;
19. **Call** upon all partners and stakeholders to focus on specific infrastructure sectors within strategic development corridors to support MSMEs with access to market opportunities, linkages for partnerships, adoption of global best practices that can lead to significant jobs, economic impacts, and resilience outcomes in the short to medium term;
20. **Call** upon AUDA-NEPAD, partners, and stakeholders to ensure gender and disability inclusion in PIDA projects and to note the need for projects to be implemented in a gender-inclusive manner, recognising that women play a key role in development. Additionally, the inclusion of women and minority groups in infrastructure development decisions will open up opportunities for community empowerment;
21. **Acknowledge** the important role of digitalisation in PIDA implementation for Africa’s growth and recovery and Support the call from the AU High Representative for Infrastructure for the AU Assembly to consider “Digitalisation” as the theme for 2023; Further Call upon the private sector and partners to invest in digital infrastructure and support Member States to devise strategies for measuring and monitoring the resilience of the Internet in Africa and developing and protecting critical regional infrastructure;

- 22. Call** upon the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, partners and stakeholders to ensure that digitalisation (including cybersecurity, data protection, privacy) and cyber-capacity building is fully integrated in all regional and continental projects, develop actions that foster digitalisation and complementarity between the infrastructure sectors and work towards the implementation of SMART Integrated Corridors;
- 23. Recognise** that solidarity between African ports is essential to face the challenges linked to the globalisation of trade and encourage member states to develop ports that integrate digitalisation and the use of low-carbon approaches. Further request AUC to support member states to strengthen the alignment of policies with the strategic priorities of the regions in order to maximize the value of our maritime resources, our inland waters and to optimize the opportunities presented by our economic corridors.
- 24. Welcome** the ecosystem approach to infrastructure project development and implementation to maximise the efficacy of governments' investments and give confidence to the private sector by (i) galvanising the collective capacity of a wide range of stakeholders all throughout the infrastructure cycle and (ii) increasing value-added from improved coordination and shared learnings;
- 25. Considering** that sustainable cities and communities are components of PIDA ideals in terms of job creation, climate resilience, gender empowerment and robust economic corridors, in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and 2030 SDG's, call for tourism and housing delivery to be included in the PIDA framework towards having an inclusive and holistic PIDA strategy that will result to enhancing regional integration and economic growth and resilience in Africa;
- 26. Note** with satisfaction the AUDA-NEPAD technical assistance to infrastructure-related MSMEs under the Continental Business Network (CBN), commend the AUDA-NEPAD and GIZ collaboration to mobilize private investment towards MSMEs-led solutions for infrastructure development in Africa and call upon AUDA-NEPAD to work with its partners to expand the MSME support in the infrastructure sector.

We express our profound gratitude to H.E. Uhuru. Muigai Kenyatta President of the Republic of Kenya and his government for the excellent hosting and facilitation of the 7th PIDA Week.

Nairobi, Kenya, 04 March 2022

