



6th PIDA Week

New decade, new realities, new priorities - positioning PIDA and infrastructure development in Africa's continued growth and economic recovery

Virtual Event: 18th to 21st January 2021

Concept Note



AUDA - NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Global Water Partnership
Southern Africa



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

1. Background

The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) is the African Union's (AU) strategic framework for regional and continental infrastructure development, guiding the continental infrastructure development agenda, policies, and investment priorities. It provides a framework for engagement with Africa's development partners on the provision of regional and continental infrastructure, and facilitates the physical, economic and social integration of the continent in support of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

PIDA brings together continental infrastructure initiatives and regional master plans into one coherent infrastructure investment programme with an implementation strategy and portfolio of projects for prioritised implementation, the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PIDA- PAP). PIDA- PAP covers the four key infrastructure sectors of transport, energy, ICT and transboundary water resources, and the first iteration of the PIDA- PAP (PIDA-PAP 1) comprised more than 400 projects in 51 cross-border programmes for implementation until the end of 2020.

While progress is being recorded in PIDA implementation, there are numerous challenges affecting the pace of implementation, such as the lack of finance; lack of capacity for project preparation; limited involvement of the private sector in infrastructure projects; and the need to address governance issues and create an enabling legal, policy and regulatory environment, amongst others.

PIDA Week was inaugurated in 2015 as a forum to bring together key stakeholders in the implementation of the PIDA programme. It provides an opportunity for stakeholders to review and reflect on progress in the implementation of the programme; discuss ways to overcome the key challenges and advance possible solutions; share lessons learnt and identify ways to improve implementation.

The first PIDA Week was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire under the theme "Accelerating Infrastructure Implementation for Africa's Integration". The second event in 2016 focused on job creation and was themed "Creating Jobs through Regional Infrastructure Development". The Third PIDA Week (2017) maintained the emphasis on job creation and economic transformation through its theme, "Regional Infrastructure Development for Job Creation and Economic Transformation". The Fourth PIDA Week in 2018 focused on "Realising Africa's Integration through Smart Infrastructure and Good Governance", while in 2019 the Fifth PIDA Week in Cairo, Egypt, was convened under the theme, "Positioning Africa to deliver on Agenda 2063 and Economic Integration through multi - sectoral approaches to infrastructure development".

PIDA Week has since progressed into a critical forum for accelerating infrastructure implementation in Africa, but also to link infrastructure to the key themes of development of regional integration, transformative economic growth and job creation.

2. Value Proposition

Since its inception in 2015 PIDA Week has evolved and grown to become the flagship advocacy and marketing event for the PIDA programme and specifically projects in need of financing. The format of the event provides an opportunity to engage and exchange information on PIDA in particular and infrastructure development in general. PIDA Week also takes into account the mandate of AUDA-NEPAD for program delivery across various sectors underpinned by infrastructure and is thus be positioned to deliver value

internally and externally by promoting a multi-sectoral 'corridor approach' that links all sectors to infrastructure development and stimulates spatial economic development.

As in past years, the 6th PIDA Week will:

- a) Provide a platform to advocate and market PIDA as part of the recommended strong communications strategy to communicate progress on priority PIDA projects and facilitate sharing of lessons and experiences on the implementation of PIDA projects
- b) Develop and foster linkages with External Stakeholders - As a continental initiative, PIDA provides a common framework for African stakeholders to build the infrastructure necessary to integrate the continent physically, economically and socially, offering opportunities to boost intra-African trade, create new jobs for Africa's growing population and improving overall socio-economic development on the continent and provide requisite infrastructure and environment to facilitate the implementation of the AfCFTA.

The 6th PIDA Week 2020 will be a virtual event with the theme "*New decade, new realities, new priorities – positioning PIDA and infrastructure development in Africa's continued growth and economic recovery*"¹

3. 6th PIDA Week

3.1. Overview

PIDA Week takes place amidst the backdrop of global economic and social uncertainty. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, prospects of economic growth on the continent were uncertain, with most countries struggling to achieve growth. With the expected negative impact on Government funding arising from the threat of a sustained downturn in economic activity and revenue collection, spending on infrastructure is likely to diminish significantly in the short- to medium-term. Over the medium-term, governments are likely to view infrastructure as a major stimulus mechanism for economic recovery and growth. The impact on cross-border trade has also been affected with member states shutting down borders and, in some cases, applying trade restrictions that have affected supply chains inbound and outbound with the regions recording trade deficit in volumes, exposing Africa's overdependence on external supply chains.

PIDA Week aims to bring together international and regional expertise from multiple stakeholders to deliberate on the issues around infrastructure delivery in Africa, and, those related to PIDA. It will focus on how Africa can lead the way in the delivery of infrastructure in a post-COVID era, supporting the economic and social imperatives of the continent in the digital age. It is also coming at a pivotal moment in the history of PIDA, when the programme is transitioning from the first phase (PIDA PAP I) to the second phase (PIDA PAP II), which will be launched during the AU Head of States summit in January 2021 to 2030.

In addition to the typical issues impacting on infrastructure delivery on the continent, PIDA Week will consider thematic issues such as:

- Infrastructure priorities in the PIDA PAP II
- Post-COVID 19 infrastructure financing, delivery and resilience
- The critical role of infrastructure for the economy for the implementation of AfCFTA
- COVID-19 impact of reduced economic growth and changes in investment and exports patterns on the continent

- The likely transformation in demand for and consumption of transport, energy, ICT and social infrastructure.

3.2. Objectives

The main objectives of PIDA Week are to:

- Provide a platform to showcase and deliberate on inclusiveness in infrastructure development in Africa through the PIDA Integrated Corridor Development Approach
- Showcase progress made in the implementation of PIDA projects and related initiatives and share lessons and experiences on the implementation of PIDA projects
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- Provide an opportunity for project owners and stakeholders to network, mobilise resources for proposed and ongoing projects, address crucial issues around policy and project enabling environment, hence accelerating project implementation
- Showcase possible economic development opportunities along the PIDA Corridors as presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in various sectors as a necessary tool for continental integration towards boosting intra-African trade, job creation and economic development on the continent

As has been the case in previous events, stakeholders will be invited to hold parallel events linking to PIDA Week.

3.3. Outcomes

The anticipated outcomes from the PIDA Week are :

- Provide a platform for advocacy of implementation of priority PIDA Projects as part of an enhanced communications strategy to act as a catalyst for Africa to attain and deepen Economic Integration and the relevant targets set under Agenda 2063.
- Mobilise resources for project preparation is conduct market sounding for more advance projects
- Facilitate cross sectoral linkages to continental Infrastructure Projects and facilitate sharing lessons and experiences on the implementation of PIDA projects.
- Promote private sector participation in PIDA and provide a marketplace to showcase PIDA Projects

4. PIDA Week Programme and Structure

4.1. Conference duration and structure

PIDA Week will be delivered virtually using Zoom meetings for parallel sessions and Zoom webinars for plenary sessions spread over 4 days

The first day is reserved for parallel events while the official opening and high-level roundtable will take place on the second day. Parallel breakout sessions will be organised in the morning of day 3 with plenary sessions thereafter. Considering that the event will be virtual with participants spread across multiple time-zones, the daily duration of sessions will be between 10:00 and 18:00 SAST. ((GMT+2)

4.2. Programme Outline

The general outline is as follows:

- Day 1 (Monday 18th January)

- All day: Parallel sessions
- Day 2 (Tuesday 19th January)
 - Morning: Parallel sessions
 - Afternoon: Plenary sessions for official opening, presentation of PIDA 2020 report, High level panel on PIDA Week theme
- Day 3 (Wednesday 20th January)
 - All day – Plenary sessions focusing on PIDA PAP II
- Day 4 (Thursday 21st January)
 - Morning: Plenary sessions focusing on gender and job creation; report-back session on key outcomes and recommendations
 - Afternoon: Plenary sessions for presentation of communique, official closing

The detailed programme is available on the PIDA Week website <https://www.au-pida.org/pw2020/>

4.3. Target Audience

PIDA Week targets the participation of key stakeholders in infrastructure and related thematic areas including:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AU Member states • Regional Economic Communities (RECs) • Regional Power Pools (RPPs) • Regional Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEEs) • European Union • Africa Development Bank (AfDBO) • United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) • Africa Renewable Energy Initiatives (AREI) • The African Energy Commission (AFREC) • PIDA Project owners • AFUR members • Project developers • Government officials • National and Regional Development Banks, Private Equity & Debt investors • Project Preparation Funds • Law firms, Advisory and Auditing Firms • Institutional Investors: Pension Funds, Insurance Companies, Commercial Banks, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual Funds, Hedge Funds & Sovereign Wealth Funds, Guarantee and Risk Mitigation Instrument Providers • Public Private Partnership Units • Investors, Business Executives & Entrepreneurs • Multilaterals & Development Finance Institutions • Regional Economic Communities & Institutions • Utilities and Regulatory Bodies • Industry Sector Specialists • Media • Logistics / Supply Chain Companies • Academic & Research Bodies • Civil Society • Allied Industries (Cement, Iron, Steel Producers, Construction Companies) • International Development Partners |
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4.4. Outputs

The key outcomes from the proceedings of the conference will be captured in a PIDA Week Report that will contain observations and recommendations. It will also produce a 'think-piece' to be shared with participants on general issues arising from the PIDA Week.

A PIDA Week Communique will be drafted under the leadership of the AUDA-NEPAD, submitted for consultations during the conference, and presented at the closing plenary for adoption.

5. Dates and Venue

The 6th PIDA Week will be a virtual event hosted from South Africa and will take place from January 18-21, 2021.