

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Third PIDA Week

**Promoting Job Creation and Economic Transformation through
Regional Infrastructure Development**

Swakopmund, Namibia

13 December 2017

DRAFT CLOSING REMARKS

BY

MR. CHEIKH BEDDA

AUC DIRECTOR FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

In my opening remarks, I took the opportunity to report to you on the progress we have so far achieved in the implementation of PIDA.

I want to now thank you, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, and every single participant—both behind the scenes, and here in this conference room—I think you will agree, we have had a truly engaging, constructive and timely PIDA Week.

Let me thank the Government of Namibia for having accepted to host the 2017 PIDA Week and for all arrangements that enabled a smooth organization of the event.

We have had fruitful discussions around PIDA particularly on how to fast-track the implementation of its Priority Action Plan.

You gave us advice, counsel and recommendations during the different PIDA Parallel and Plenary sessions. I can ensure you that PIDA stakeholders will make good use of these recommendations as part of the implementation of the PIDA PAP and beyond.

Allow me to highlight major points:

- We will mobilize resources for the implementation of the five (5) selected projects;
- We will engage partner organisations, as well as bilateral development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support to the implementation of PIDA Priority Action Plan projects by 2020;
- We will Conduct the PIDA PAP Mid Term Review and engage the preparation of the PIDA PAP 2 (2020-2030) with an updated list of the priority projects; and
- We will Continue consultations in order to mobilise domestic resources for the preparation of PIDA projects.

To achieve the above, we want to reach a point where our discussions are no longer focused on our shortage of funds, but rather on our collaboration and concrete accomplishments to leverage PIDA projects for economic transformation of Africans, especially the youth.

To conclude, I call upon all Member States to commit themselves to the development of PIDA projects on the ground and to renew their focus to infrastructure development in rural and remote areas.

So I thank you all once again for being here – and for your commitment to our common continental framework – PIDA.

Thank You