



6th PIDA WEEK

18 - 21 January 2021

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE SIXTH PIDA WEEK

- We**, Ministers and delegates to the Sixth 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, the European Union (EU), the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Private Sector representatives, as well as distinguished invitees,
- Express** our sincere gratitude to the Government of South Africa for hosting the 6th PIDA Week;
- Applaud the PIDA stakeholders and partners for the exceptional turn out and participation in the first-ever virtual edition of PIDA week, necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Reaffirm** the crucial role of PIDA in the achievement of the main goals of the AU Agenda 2063 for continental integration, prosperity and peace and Reiterate our commitment to regional integration and the development of integrated and efficient infrastructure through the application of sound policy and development strategies which will enhance efficiency, sustainability and affordability of transport, energy, ICT and Water services;
- Acknowledge** the diligent work accomplished during 2020 presented in the PIDA Annual Implementation report and take note with satisfaction that close to 50% of the PIDA PAP 1 projects have moved beyond project preparation and are either close to financial close, tendered, under construction or completed;
- Congratulate** the PIDA task force institutions (AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, UNECA) on finalization of the PIDA PAP 2 process and the development of the associated strategy documents: PIDA implementation strategy, PIDA partnerships strategy and PIDA financing strategy;
- Welcome** the update on the key milestone achieved on the progress towards development and finalization of the second phase of the Programme (PIDA PAP II) that has been validated by the Ministerial STC meeting on 12 January 2021 and is to be presented for consideration by the Heads of States during the AU Summit in February;
- Encourage** PIDA project owners and stakeholders to diligently ensure the PIDA PAP II projects' implementation is in line with its proposed PIDA PAP II Integrated Corridor Approach Implementation Principles that promote Connectivity

of Economic Corridors built around the four PIDA Infrastructure sectors, maximization of Job Creation, Rural-Urban Connectivity, Climate Resilience, Gender-Responsiveness, Innovation and Financial Viability;

9. **Encourage** PIDA stakeholders to adopt the principles espoused in the PIDA partnership strategy that will ensure a common African approach to infrastructure development partnerships; and urge AUC/AUDA-NEPAD to set mechanisms to assess the performance of Africa's infrastructure partnerships using the accountability framework presented in the partnership strategy;
10. **Welcome** the Gender Responsive Infrastructure Development guidelines (GRID) and call upon AUDA-NEPAD in coordination with the African Network for Women in Infrastructure (ANWIn) to mainstream these guidelines in PIDA PAP 2 implementation;
11. **Take note** of the critical role that soft and hard infrastructure plays towards the realization of the AfCFTA and the opportunity for PIDA PAP 2 projects to emphasize appropriately designed continental infrastructure that will contribute towards building resilience against pandemics and shocks that disproportionately affect the poor and marginalized;
12. **Underscore** the importance of creating the enabling environment and undertaking capacity building required to build a bankable project pipeline, and Urge AUDA-NEPAD to work with partner institutions to provide early-stage project preparation support for PIDA PAP 2 projects through the PIDA Service Delivery Mechanism (SDM);
13. **Call** upon the Private Sector, and Development Partners to continue supporting the PIDA programme through modalities and instruments such as SDM, the 5% Agenda and the Continental Business Network (CBN) that support the accelerated implementation of projects;
14. **Encourage** partner organizations, project owners as well as bilateral development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support for project preparation activities including access to critical data essential for the implementation of the second phase of PIDA Priority Action Plan projects;
15. **Note** the completion of baseline studies for the Continental Energy Transmission Masterplan and the validation of the roadmap, policy and governance structures of the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) and Urge the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and other partner organisations to work towards the attainment of the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) and the completion of the Continental Energy Transmission Masterplan;
16. **Note** the completion of the detailed scoping study of the African Integrated High-Speed Railway Network and call upon AUDA-NEPAD and AUC to mobilise the necessary technical and financial resources for the preparation and implementation of the pilot projects and work with member states on the ratification of the Luxembourg Railway Protocol;
17. **Acknowledge** with satisfaction the partnership between GWP and AUDA-NEPAD that has resulted in a significant number of water projects in the PIDA PAP 2 project pipeline and Urge AUDA-NEPAD, AUC, RECs and key mandated institutions to place greater focus on the economic viability of water infrastructure projects and the mobilisation of the much-needed resources thereof;
18. **Urge AUDA-NEPAD, AUC, RECs** and key institutions mandated to support the implementation of continental programmes, to delineate roles, align their complementarities and maximize synergies for the efficient implementation of PIDA PAP 2;

19. **Acknowledge** that COVID-19 has necessitated a rapid move to digitalisation and the use of online technologies, which was measured during the Africa's Development Dynamics 2021 report launch, and welcome AUDA-NEPAD's work in promoting cyber-resilience through cybersecurity assessments based on the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection.
20. **Further, acknowledge** that cybersecurity measures are an integral part of providing e-services as envisaged by the AfCFTA and therefore call upon AUDA-NEPAD to mobilize resources and partnerships to support member states to strengthen their cybersecurity and cyber-resilience;
21. **Welcome** the PIDA Quality Label (PQL) for Excellence in Project Preparation and **Call upon** PIDA stakeholders to promote the PQL as an African brand for excellence in infrastructure development processes, serving to accelerate the creation of quality project pipelines ready for appropriately structured finance from public or private sources, in the context of PIDA PAP 2 and beyond;
22. **Encourage** AUDA-NEPAD to work with partners (OECD Development Centre, ACET, GIZ) to establish, in support of the Virtual PIDA Information Centre (VPIC), an Africa-led infrastructure knowledge and peer learning platform and a community of practice of African infrastructure practitioners that works to speed up the building of capabilities of infrastructure professionals and stakeholders across Africa.
23. **Encourage** AUDA-NEPAD and partners such as the DBSA to work with national and regional institutions on spatial decision support systems that leverage 5IR technologies to identify optimal infrastructure investment opportunities and impacts.
24. **Acknowledge** that pandemics and similar shocks put short and long term pressures on socio-economic systems and Welcome AUDA-NEPAD's Call for Proposal on Economic Recovery through Infrastructure Services, which will provide COVID-19 mitigation supports to African Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

We take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the leadership demonstrated in continuing to steer the African Union through the COVID-19 pandemic and call on stakeholders to ensure that infrastructure remains a critical priority towards the realisation of Agenda 2063.

South Africa, 21 January 2021

