



PIDA WEEK 2018

Statement

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- Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga, African Union High Representative for Infrastructure Development
- Mr. Joel Biggie Matiza, Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development and Transport, Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe
- Dr Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission
- Ms. Chileshe Kapwepwe, Secretary General, COMESA Secretariat

**Excellencies,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Mesdames et Messieurs**

Bonjour

Avant toutes choses, permettez-moi de remercier humblement notre hôte qu'est le Gouvernement du Zimbabwe, qui nous fait aujourd'hui l'honneur de nous accueillir à Victoria Falls, à nouveau sous l'égide du COMESA où nous tenons cet évènement ô combien essentiel à la réflexion stratégique de notre continent en termes de développement de nos infrastructures, qu'est le PIDA WEEK.

En effet, bien qu'il ne soit plus aujourd'hui à démontrer de l'impact positif que le développement de nos infrastructures a sur nos économies et nos sociétés, nos pays affichent encore des besoins criants en termes d'infrastructures principalement dues à une offre ne pouvant combler la demande grandissante. Les chiffres parlent bien évidemment d'eux même ; pour ne prendre en exemple que quelques-uns;



Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

We are all aware that while progress is being made in Africa's infrastructure development, the pace of development continues to lag in relation to needs and demands; this is evident across all the 4 infrastructure sectors – energy, ICT, transport and transboundary water. However, despite major global strategic shifts, African economies have undertaken Macroeconomic, Business and Financial reforms. Governments have strived to maintain macroeconomic stability over time, while investing heavily on non-commercial infrastructure. Africa economies have also taken major steps to ensure policy and regulatory reforms that will attract private investors so as to increase the availability of infrastructure financing at reduced costs and risks.

Our countries continue to appreciate the irreversible need to industrialize by streamlining trans-boundary infrastructure projects. However, if Africa is to be successful in increasing the number of regional and domestic infrastructure projects and show impact in advancing sustainable inclusive development, major changes are needed in mind-set and perceptions on the issue of "Investment Risk" in Africa.

Our culminated efforts since the launch of PIDA in 2012, have demonstrated progress in Africa's infrastructure development overall. The First Priority Action Plan of PIDA (PIDA PAP) aimed at implementing key transboundary infrastructure projects with the potential to interconnect, integrate and contribute to structural transformation of Africa's geographic and economic regions by 2020. The PIDA PAP portfolio comprises more than 400 projects in 51 cross-border programmes covering the four sectors of transport (235 projects), energy (54 projects), ICT (113 projects) and trans-boundary water resources management (9 projects). Of these currently about 32% are either under construction or already operational; 16% of projects are being



structured for tendering while about 26% of projects have moved from concept to pre-feasibility and feasibility phases. Therefore, **PIDA WEEK which brings together key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the PIDA programme, allows us all to take stock of this progress made and redouble our efforts in advancing implementation within the next 2 years, so that the percentage of projects to undergo construction will significantly increase from the current 32% to 50%. Such an increase is possible as we do have a pipeline of projects which have undergone preparation and packing for financing.**

Distinguished guests,

You may recall that the first PIDA Week was held in Abidjan under the theme “Accelerating Infrastructure Implementation for Africa’s Integration” while the second PIDA Week focused on job creation - “Creating Jobs through Regional Infrastructure Development”. In 2017, PIDA Week continued with emphasis on job creation and economic transformation. This year, in line with emerging developments such as industrialisation and noting that the 2018 African Union theme is “Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation”, **PIDA Week 2018 focuses on good governance and smart infrastructure under the theme “Realising Africa’s Integration through Smart Infrastructure and Good Governance”.**

Last year at the 3rd PIDA Week in Swakopmund, Namibia, I emphasised the need to expand and strengthening Africa’s electricity transmission network, with the sole aim to established power trade among Power Pools. While taking note of the significant progress made on the Zambia Tanzania Kenya (ZTK) Power Transmission, we need to urgently conclude the ongoing work to commission the study on **Integrated Energy Transmission Masterplan for Africa**. The Masterplan aims to ensure that the five (5) established power pools are interconnected in order to develop an African energy market. It is my



fervent hope that the collaboration between our mother body; AUC, including partners such as UNECA, AfDB, Power Pools and Regional Economic Communities as well as development partners will urgently set us on a path to address the challenges that Africa is facing within the energy sector; particularly on interconnecting our power pools.

In November 2017, NEPAD and the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) commissioned a review of the implementation of transboundary water projects under PIDA. The review found that water projects showed little progress compared to projects in other sectors of PIDA. To this effect, NEPAD is working with the Global Water Partnership to provide support to accelerate the transboundary PIDA Water project, by finalising the Project Implementation Memorandums (PIMs) for the **Noumbiel multi-purpose dam, Okavango river basin** and **Nubian Sandstone Aquifer**. The implementation of these there (3) transboundary water projects will foster a water-food-energy nexus approach in the development of hydropower Projects in Africa.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are very happy to have Hon. Raila Odinga as the High Representative for Infrastructure Development in Africa. Hon. Odinga will support and strengthen the efforts of the African Union Commission's relevant Departments and those of the NEPAD Agency, within the framework of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). I am confident that the High Representative will work hand in hand with all of us as PIDA as PIDA Stakeholders to accelerate implementation of the missing links along the transnational highway corridors identified as part of the Trans-African Highways Network as well as with the Agenda 2063 flagship Continental High Speed Freight Rail Network. Hon. Raila Odinga, we remain assured that you



will be a worthy advocate in securing political and other support for Africa's transboundary infrastructure projects.

The successes that we have attained in PIDA implementation have not been due to our efforts alone. We have worked with a variety of partners at regional, continental and international levels. Partners such as the African Development Bank, the German Government through GIZ and KfW, JICA, DBSA, have all enabled us to advance PIDA implementation by directing technical and financial resources to our various projects and initiatives. Complementing this type of support, other partners and platforms such as the G20, TICAD, FOCAC, WEF and most recently the Africa Investment Forum (AIF) to mention a few have also give us the opportunity to amplify the African voice, advocating for partnerships and resources to advance our transboundary infrastructure projects. In 2019 we welcome a new phase of PIDA support from the GIZ, a new phase of the PIDA Capacity Building Support from the AfDB and support from the EU through their Infrastructure Support Mechanism. It is gratifying to note that representatives from each of these institutions are here with us in Victoria Falls. I am also pleased to announce that we will be signing two MoUs today – one with the Global Water Partnership and the other with the International Labour Organisation. Partnerships will continue to be a significant aspect of PIDA implementation and as we move forward we will work to expand our partnership base and crowd-in partners that are strategic for specific aspects of PIDA implementation.

Mesdames et Messieurs

Ladies and Gentlemen



Laissez-moi désormais conclure en vous souhaitant tout simplement un PIDA WEEK des plus bénéfiques. J'entends par là une semaine se devant de laisser place à des synergies et des convergences stratégiques pour nos organisations respectives afin de pouvoir travailler de concert en vue de la réalisation d'objectifs communs. Des objectifs qui rappelons le visent à améliorer la vie de nos concitoyens en rendant nos économies plus compétitives à l'échelle mondiale et en connectant davantage nos populations et ce par le biais d'une bonne gouvernance menant à des infrastructures « *smart* » et ainsi à l'intégration de l'Afrique.

Merci, Thank you

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