



CONCEPT NOTE

Managing and Coordinating Large Scale Infrastructure Projects for Development planning in Africa.

Draft for Discussion

25th of March 2017.

i. Background

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has played a prominent role in providing support to African countries towards capacity building and related areas for large scale infrastructure projects (see ECOSOC *Report on infrastructure development in Africa 2015: Priority areas and interventions.*)

Infrastructure development and maintenance are core components of regional development initiatives in Africa, the most recent of which are New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Agenda 2063. The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) provides a long-term vision for Africa's infrastructure development and a platform for African countries, both individually and collectively, to engage with investors and development partners. The Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI), which consists of eight projects championed by the African Heads of State and Government and drawn mostly from PIDA projects, provides further impetus to the implementation of regional infrastructure projects in Africa. PIDA, in turn, draws largely from the infrastructure master plans of regional economic communities. In addition to PIDA and PICI projects, several regional corridors link Africa's landlocked countries to the sea. The most prominent of these regional programmes is the Trans-African Highways (TAH) network.

Many African countries have created special agencies to coordinate establishment, development and support to infrastructure coordination and coordinating agencies. For example, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, and Congo have created such infrastructure coordinating agencies. But the agencies' ability to carry out their mandate and exert a tangible impact on their country's development process will depend on their capacity, including institutional, organizational, as well as technical capacities.

As part of its support to African countries, UNECA has provided capacity development support to Republic of Benin and Guinea. Other countries are expected to benefit from the support as requests are received. An overriding goal of the support is to scale up knowledge through development of knowledge tools, their validation and increased uses in countries and by agencies.



At this stage, UNECA is embarking on consultations and meetings to inform selected key countries and stakeholders of the ongoing process. Knowledge and information gathered during the consultation and similar others with countries, stakeholders and partners who support and are interested in development in Africa, especially for enhanced capacity to implement large scale infrastructure projects, will help to validate the knowledge and knowledge tools being developed.

ii. Objectives

- a) To present and validate the results of the Pilot projects and the Member States consultations
- b) To establish coherence with existing continental frameworks on infrastructure
- c) To present a plan for scaling up knowledge in critical areas such as project preparation and development and management/coordination of large scale infrastructure projects for structural transformation in Africa
- d) To present a plan for integrating transboundary infrastructure projects implementation in national development plans

iii. Expected accomplishments

- EA1 The results of the Pilot projects are validated
EA2. The current initiative is in coherence with existing continental frameworks on infrastructure
EA3 A general consensus is obtained of the knowledge scale-up plan
EA4 The plan for integrating transboundary infrastructure projects in national development plans is validated

iv. Audience

The event is targeting Senior Public Officials including Ministers of Planning, Development and Planning Experts, Infrastructure Development Experts, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations etc...

v. Expected number of Participants

About 50 participants are expected to attend from Ministries of Planning Development and Planning Experts, Infrastructure Development Experts, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations etc...

vi. Structure of the Side Event

This Side Event is expected to consist of the following:

- 1.1 Expert presentations
- 1.2 Panel Discussions
- 1.3 Stakeholder engagement



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



vii. ***Partners Involved***

This side event is organized jointly by and in partnership with AUC, ACBF, ECA and Member States.

viii. ***Budget***

The estimated budget is approximately \$20,000, which will be borne by ACBF and ECA.