

**DECISION ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: ENERGY, RAILWAYS, ROADS AND ICT SECTORS – Doc. Assembly/AU/17(XV) Add.4**

**The Assembly,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the paper proposed by the Republic of Uganda titled “Socio-Economic Transformation and Infrastructure Development in Africa: Energy (Electricity), Railways, Roads and ICT Sectors”; and **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the proposal;
2. **RECALLS** its previous decisions on infrastructure development in Africa, particularly its “Declaration on development of Transport and Energy Infrastructure in Africa” adopted by the 12<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on 3 February 2009 in Addis Ababa and “Declaration on ICT in Africa (challenges and prospects)” adopted by the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on 2 February 2010 in Addis Ababa;
3. **FURTHER RECALLS** the ongoing programmes in the energy and transport sectors, especially: The Programme on Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), jointly initiated by the AUC, AfDB and NEPAD; and the Trans-African Highway (TAH) programme, launched with the objective of linking Africa’s capitals and other commercially important centres of production and consumption;
4. **RECOGNIZES** that effective implementation of the above Declarations, Programmes and other related initiatives will require policy re-orientations and innovative funding mechanisms;
5. **FURTHER RECOGNIZES** that, in the energy sector, Africa will have to diversify its energy sources to meet the ever increasing gaps in energy production and consumption; and **COGNIZANT** of the fact the development and peaceful use of nuclear energy will be essential in the long run;
6. **ENDORSES** the recommendations in the above mentioned paper and, more in particular, agrees on the following measures:

**(a) FINANCING**

- i) Prioritize and ring fence infrastructure funding in national budgets for infrastructure development to enable long term planning and development of projects;

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- ii) Utilize and promote Public Private partnerships to implement infrastructure projects. This may entail respective Member States to have PPP policy and legal and institutional framework;
- iii) Generate funding using infrastructure bonds, and other available modalities, at national, regional and international markets for specific infrastructure projects;
- iv) Encourage public companies to float shares to generate revenue from the public which can be used for infrastructure development;
- v) Harmonize the financing and execution of cross-border project.

**(b) ENERGY**

- i) Make electricity infrastructure development a key priority sector in the national development plans;
- ii) Realizing that conventional energy sources are not sufficient to meet the growing demand, consider developing our capacity to generate power from non-traditional sources such as renewable and nuclear energy in the long run. This will entail putting in place a sound framework for the purpose;
- iii) Seek support from multilateral and bilateral development partners to make it a priority to support energy development in Africa in order to meet the MDGs and subsequently reduce dependency on them in the long run.

**(c) TRANSPORT**

- i) Include in the national priorities the various regional and continental interconnection infrastructure network projects and programmes;
- ii) Harmonize regulations, standards and executions to promote country-to-region interconnection and efficient operation of networks and market development;

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- iii) Create appropriate institutional frameworks for development of the major integration projects and carry out the necessary reforms to ensure better operation and maintenance of the projects;
- iv) Contribute financially to the NEPAD infrastructure projects preparation facility;
- v) Reduce the cost of construction and maintenance of railway infrastructure by using cheap labour provided by National Armies;

**(d) ICT**

- i) Strategic investment in broadband and its integration in national and regional development strategies;
- ii) Establish and operationalise ICT Incubation centres and ICT Parks to harness the economic benefits of increased band width;
- iii) Adopt e-government models that have been demonstrated to work elsewhere (Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, etc);
- iv) Develop regularly frameworks that promote competition and eliminate entry barriers in order to increase competition, reduce prices, and drive growth.

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission of the African Union to integrate the above measures within the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

2010

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