

**DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT
AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN AFRICA
Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XII)**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Twelfth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 to 3 February 2009;

CONSIDERING the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991;

BEARING in mind the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in Lomé, Togo, on 11 July 2000;

CONSIDERING the Decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2008 to organize the Twelfth Assembly of the African Union on the theme: Infrastructure Development in Africa;

CONSIDERING the declarations of the various African Union Conferences of Ministers responsible for Transport and Energy, endorsed by the Executive Council;

CONSIDERING the vital role of infrastructure and related services in the political and socio-economic development and the integration of the Continent, as well as in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

RECOGNIZING the need to speed up development of infrastructure as well as energy and transport services in Africa, and to put in place harmonized sector policies and programmes;

WELCOMING the various initiatives on infrastructure development in Africa, including:

1. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);
2. The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA);
3. The Africa-European Union Infrastructure and Energy Partnerships, as defined in the New European Union Strategy for Africa;

CONCERNED BY:

1. The slow pace of implementation of the NEPAD Infrastructure Short-Term Action Plan;
2. The enormity of gaps in transport and energy infrastructure in Africa and the huge financing needs of these infrastructure;
3. The high costs of energy and transport services in Africa, which are seriously affecting the competitiveness of the Continent;
4. The qualitative and quantitative shortage of energy supply;

5. The poor access of African populations to modern energy and transport services, particularly for the low-income social segments;
6. The formality constraints to inter-State transit in Africa, particularly the proliferation and complexity of cross-border procedures;
7. The slow pace of implementation by Member States of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalization of Access to Air Transport Markets in Africa;
8. The poor resource mobilization for preparation and implementation of infrastructure projects;
9. The deteriorating transport safety and security situation particularly in the maritime and air transport sub-sectors;
10. The impact of the global financial crisis on infrastructure development in Africa;

UNDERSCORING:

1. The leadership, coordination, harmonization, facilitation and advocacy roles devolving on the African Union Commission in building economic infrastructure for Africa's development;
2. The decisive role of the Regional Economic Communities and specialized Institutions in the implementation of the programmes for development of transport and energy infrastructure;
3. The need to establish and strengthen the institutional coordination structures of the various actors for implementation of infrastructure development policies and programmes in Africa;
4. The role of the private sector in the development of transport and energy infrastructure in Africa;

REAFFIRM:

1. Our determination to pool our efforts to develop efficient infrastructure networks as well as affordable transport and energy services;
2. The urgent need to enhance access to transport and energy infrastructure and services for the majority of the African population;

UNDERTAKE TO:

1. Include in our national priorities the various regional and continental interconnection infrastructure network projects and programmes;
2. Harmonize regulations and standards to promote interconnection, and efficient operation of networks and market development;
3. Create appropriate institutional framework for development of the major integration projects and carry out the necessary reforms to ensure better operation and maintenance of these projects;
4. Contribute financially to the NEPAD Infrastructure Projects Preparation Facility;
5. Increase public financing of infrastructure and promote public-private partnerships to speed up the development of transport and energy infrastructure;
6. Enhance the production of and inter-State trade in energy by implementing major integrative hydroelectric power projects and high capacity oil refineries as well as gas and oil pipelines projects;
7. Develop renewable energy resources in order to provide clean, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly energy;
8. Enhance institutional and research capacities to develop a non-traditional alternative source of energy to meet Africa's long-term energy needs, more specifically nuclear energy for peaceful purposes
9. Accelerate the facilitation of inter-State transport through harmonization of laws and simplification of transit procedures to promote efficiency and safe operation of transport in Africa;
10. Improve connectivity of the air transport networks between Member States of the Union through comprehensive implementation of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision;
11. Give high priority to environmental protection and to transport and energy safety and security to promote sustainable development of infrastructure and related services;

RESOLVE TO:

1. Support the development of infrastructure in Africa within the framework of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
2. Develop, as a matter of priority, the major regional and continental hydroelectric power projects, to ensure energy security in Africa;
3. Take all appropriate measures to complete the missing sections in the major transport corridors and remove all physical and non-physical barriers to the development of inter-State transport in Africa;
4. Institute appropriate institutional, legal and regulatory reforms, conducive for private sector investment in infrastructure development;
5. Promote innovative financing mechanisms to speed up the development of transport and energy infrastructure;

INVITE the African Union Commission to take all necessary measures to:

1. Formulate and implement, under its coordination, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa as well as capacity building in the transport and energy sectors;
2. Take appropriate measures to promote the execution of integrative hydroelectric power interconnection projects;
3. Speed up the facilitation of inter-State trade in Africa;
4. Promote projects and strategies aimed at enhancing connectivity as well as safety and security in the transport sector;

URGE:

1. Member States of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities to foster inter-African and international cooperation in the transport and energy sectors;
2. The African Union Commission to deploy its best efforts to ensure expeditious implementation of this Declaration.

LAUNCH AN APPEAL to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Union and all development partners to support the implementation of this Declaration.

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