

**DECLARATION ON THE PROGRAMME FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA
Doc. EX.CL/702(XX)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 January 2012,

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 Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl. 1 (XII) of our Twelfth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2009 which resolved to support the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) as the unique strategic and sectoral framework in Africa;

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

Considering that infrastructure demand will increase continuously given the population growth and economic perspectives;

Recognizing the need to speed up development of infrastructure and associated services in Africa and to put in place harmonized sectoral policies and programs;

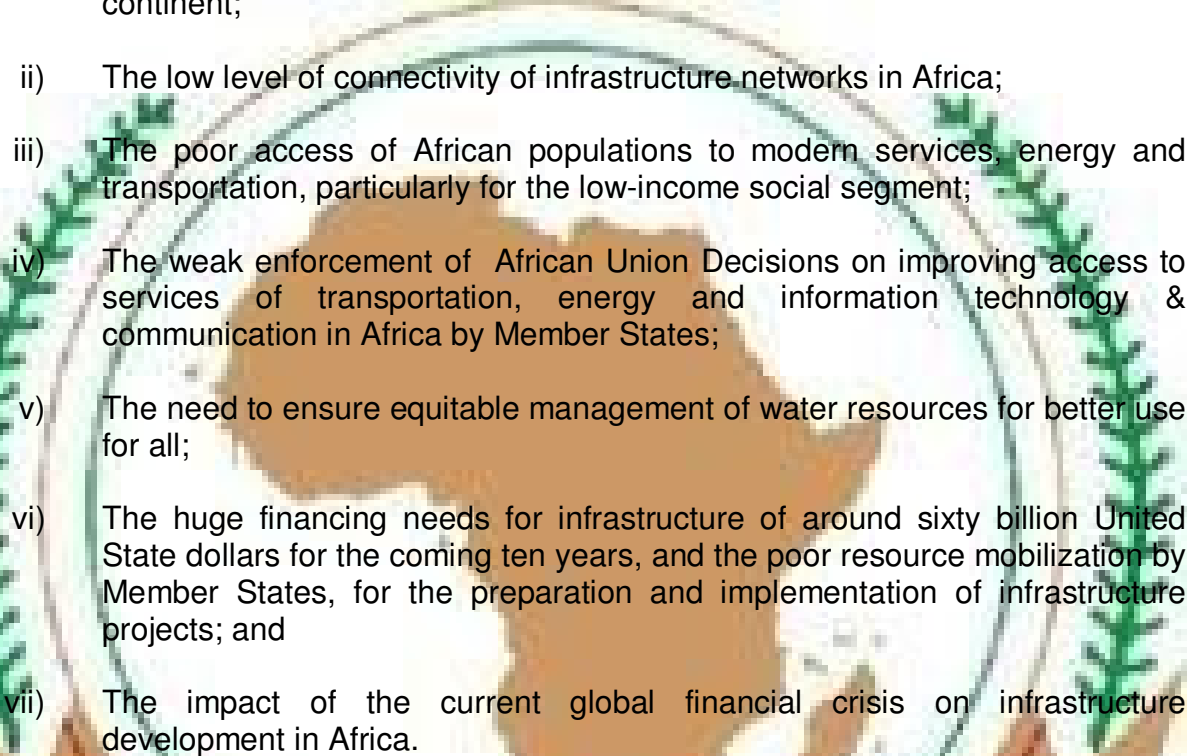
Recalling that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) constitutes an African initiative and an African Union programme aimed at ensuring poverty reduction and sustainable development for which infrastructure is the cornerstone;

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

- (i) The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA);
- (ii) The Africa - European Union Partnerships on Infrastructure and Energy, as defined in the Joint Africa/European Union Strategy (JAES);
- (iii) The Presidential Infrastructure Championship Initiative;
- (iv) The Special Fund of the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF); and
- (v) The African Water Facility (AWF).

Taking note of the report on the conclusions of PIDA formulation, in accordance with Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl. 1 (XII);

Concerned by:

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- i) The enormity of the infrastructure gap, the high costs and low quality of transport, energy, water and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services in Africa, which seriously affect the competitiveness of the continent;
 - ii) The low level of connectivity of infrastructure networks in Africa;
 - iii) The poor access of African populations to modern services, energy and transportation, particularly for the low-income social segment;
 - iv) The weak enforcement of African Union Decisions on improving access to services of transportation, energy and information technology & communication in Africa by Member States;
 - v) The need to ensure equitable management of water resources for better use for all;
 - vi) The huge financing needs for infrastructure of around sixty billion United State dollars for the coming ten years, and the poor resource mobilization by Member States, for the preparation and implementation of infrastructure projects; and
 - vii) The impact of the current global financial crisis on infrastructure development in Africa.

Underscoring:

- i) The decisive role of the Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and the Specialized Institutions in the implementation of programmes for infrastructure development in Africa, in coordination with Member States;
- ii) The need to establish an institutional architecture for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes for infrastructure development in Africa;
- iii) The need for active participation and strong involvement of the private sector in infrastructure development in Africa.

1. REAFFIRM:

- i) Our determination to pool our efforts to develop integrated, reliable and efficient infrastructure networks of transport, energy, telecommunications ICT and trans-boundary water, as well as their associated services;
- ii) The urgent need to enhance access to transport, energy and water infrastructure and services, for the majority of the African population as well as access to electronic applications (e-gov, e-education, e-health);
- iii) The importance for African financial institutions, to spare no effort to better support the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa;
- iv) The need to fully involve the private sector in infrastructure development in Africa.

2. UNDERTAKE TO:

- i) Promote harmonization of regulations and standards to ensure interconnection, efficient operations and security of networks, and market development;
- ii) Establish an appropriate institutional framework for the development of major integrative projects and carry out the necessary reforms to ensure their better operation and maintenance;
- iii) Contribute financially to the Special Fund of the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility and the African Water Facility;
- iv) Increase public financing of infrastructure and promote public-private partnerships to speed up infrastructure development;
- v) Enhance 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;
- vi) Develop new and renewable energy resources in order to provide clean, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly energy as well as nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in order to sustainably meet Africa's long-term energy needs;
- vii) Accelerate the construction of missing links and the development and modernization of railways, and increase of ports capacity;

- viii) Accelerate the facilitation of inter-State transport through the harmonization of laws and simplification of transit procedures to promote efficiency and safety of transport operations in Africa;
- ix) Work together for the full and diligent implementation of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision;
- x) Give high priority to environmental protection, and to transport and energy safety and security, within the framework of the sustainable development of infrastructure and related services;
- xi) Develop regional and continental Telecommunication/ICT broadband networks and ensure access to submarine cable resources for all Member States, in order to achieve an African Information Society and an integrated digital economy;
- xii) Focus on joint programmes for the management of shared water resources.

3. RESOLVE TO:

- i) Approve the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the institutional architecture for its implementation;
- ii) Include in our national priorities, the various projects and programmes contained in the Priority Action Plan(PAP) of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and ensure that sufficient resources are committed to the preparation and implementation of these projects;
- iii) Undertake institutional reforms, both legal and regulatory , conducive to the creation of a favourable business climate for private investment in infrastructure;
- iv) Promote innovative financing mechanisms reflecting a real commitment by Africa to speed up infrastructure development on the continent.

4. INVITE the Commission to take all the necessary measures to:

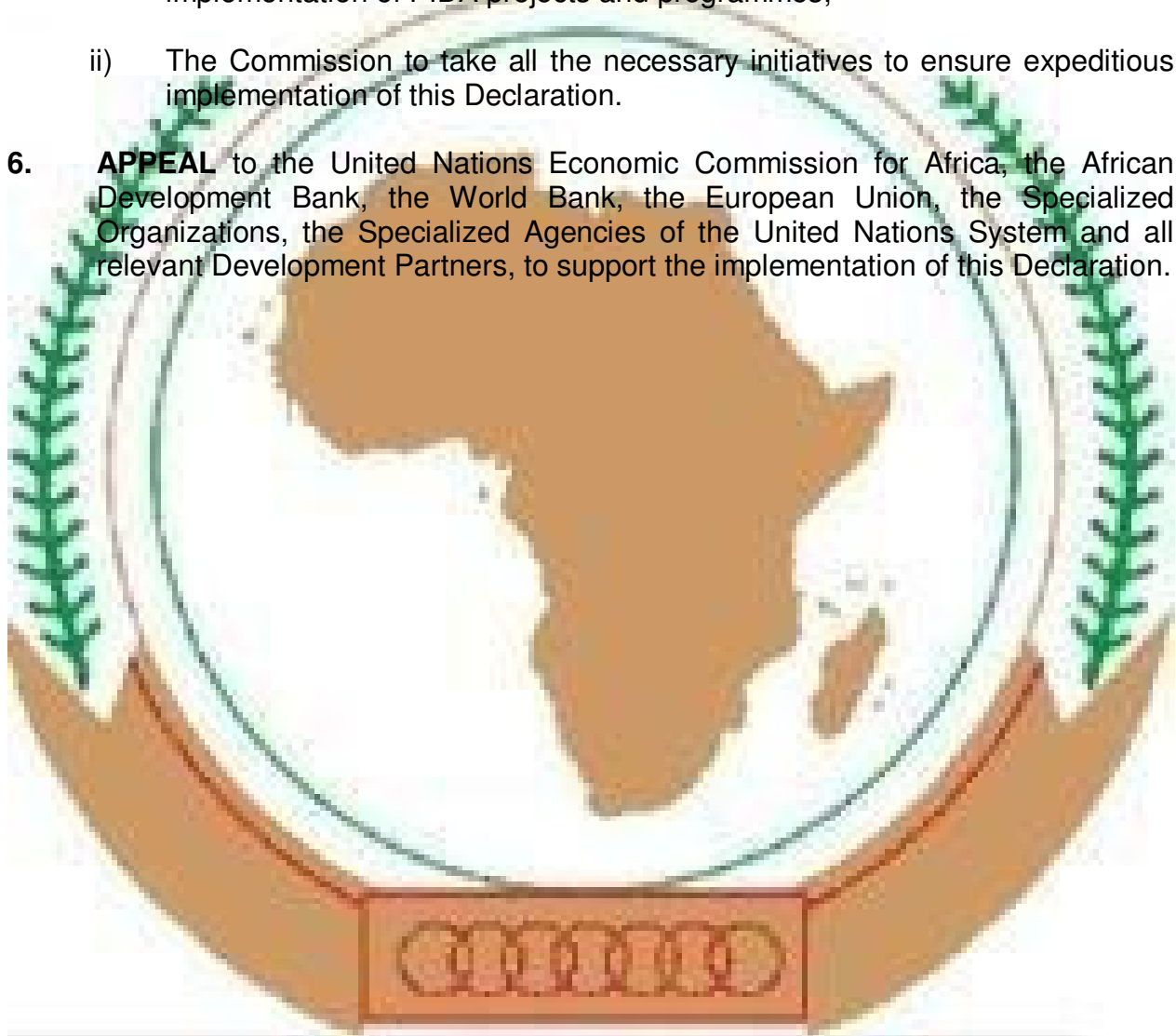
- i) Ensure, in coordination with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) , the speedy implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and to report annually thereon;
- ii) Proceed with the expeditious implementation of the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa;
- iii) Define the modalities of Member States contributions to the Special Fund of the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility and the African Water Facility;

- iv) Prepare in coordination with the NPCA, an Annual report on PAP implementation status.

5. URGE:

- i) Member States, the Regional Economic Communities the Commission and NPCA to strengthen African and international cooperation in the implementation of PIDA projects and programmes;
- ii) The Commission to take all the necessary initiatives to ensure expeditious implementation of this Declaration.

- 6. APPEAL** to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Union, the Specialized Organizations, the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations System and all relevant Development Partners, to support the implementation of this Declaration.



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