



DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE FOR PIDA WEEK 2020

THEME - New decade, new realities, new priorities – positioning PIDA and infrastructure development in Africa's continued growth and economic recovery

December 7 -11, 2020 (TBC)
South Africa (virtual)

1. Background

The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) is the African Union's (AU) strategic framework for regional and continental infrastructure development, guiding the continental infrastructure development agenda, policies, and investment priorities. It provides a framework for engagement with Africa's development partners on the provision of regional and continental infrastructure, and facilitates the physical, economic and social integration of the continent in support of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

PIDA brings together continental infrastructure initiatives and regional master plans into one coherent infrastructure investment programme with an implementation strategy and portfolio of projects for prioritised implementation, the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PIDA- PAP). PIDA- PAP covers the four key infrastructure sectors of transport, energy, ICT and transboundary water resources, and the first iteration of the PIDA- PAP (PIDA-PAP 1) comprises more than 400 projects in 51 cross-border programmes for implementation until end of 2020.

While progress is being recorded in PIDA implementation, there are numerous challenges affecting the pace of implementation, such as the lack of finance; lack of capacity for project preparation; limited involvement of the private sector in infrastructure projects; and the need to address governance issues and create an enabling legal, policy and regulatory environment, amongst others.

PIDA Week was inaugurated in 2015 as a forum to bring together key stakeholders in the implementation of the PIDA programme. It provides an opportunity for stakeholders to review and reflect on progress in the implementation of the programme; discuss ways to overcome the key challenges and advance possible solutions; share lessons learnt and identify ways to improve implementation.

The first PIDA Week was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire under the theme "Accelerating Infrastructure Implementation for Africa's Integration". The second event in 2016 focused on job creation and was themed "Creating Jobs through Regional Infrastructure Development". The Third PIDA Week (2017) maintained the emphasis on job creation and economic transformation through its theme, "Regional Infrastructure Development for Job Creation and Economic Transformation". The Fourth PIDA Week in 2018 focused on "Realising Africa's Integration through Smart Infrastructure and Good Governance", while in 2019 the Fifth PIDA Week in Cairo, Egypt, was convened under the theme, "Positioning Africa to deliver on Agenda 2063 and Economic Integration through multi - sectoral approaches to infrastructure development".

PIDA Week has since progressed into a critical forum for accelerating infrastructure implementation in Africa, but also to link infrastructure to the key themes of development of regional integration, transformative economic growth and job creation.

2. Value Proposition

Since its inception in 2015 PIDA Week has evolved and grown to become the flagship advocacy and marketing event for the PIDA programme and specifically projects in need of financing. The format of the event provides an opportunity to engage and exchange information on PIDA in particular and

infrastructure development in general. PIDA Week also takes into account the mandate of AUDA-NEPAD for program delivery across various sectors underpinned by infrastructure and is thus positioned to deliver value internally and externally by promoting a multi-sectoral ‘corridor approach’ that links all sectors to infrastructure development and stimulates spatial economic development.

As in past years, PIDA Week 2020 will:

- a) Provide a platform to advocate and market PIDA as part of the recommended strong communications strategy to communicate progress on priority PIDA projects and facilitate sharing of lessons and experiences on the implementation of PIDA projects
- b) Provide a transactional Platform for member states developing PIDA Projects to mobilise resources for project preparation from Project Preparation Facilities, Market Sounding of projects under preparation, showcase projects going into procurement and structuring to developers and financiers.
- c) Showcase spatial economic development opportunities along the PIDA Corridors in Industry, Trade & Commerce, Mining, Agriculture, Health, Education etc.
- d) Develop and foster linkages with External Stakeholders - As a continental initiative, PIDA provides a common framework for African stakeholders to build the infrastructure necessary to integrate the continent physically, economically and socially, offering opportunities to boost intra-African trade, create new jobs for Africa’s growing population and improving overall socio-economic development on the continent.

PIDA Week 2020 will be hosted by the Government of South Africa under the auspices of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). The theme for PIDA Week 2020 is “New decade, new realities, new priorities – positioning PIDA and infrastructure development in Africa’s continued growth and economic recovery”¹

3. PIDA Week 2020

3.1. Overview

PIDA Week 2020 takes place amidst the backdrop of global economic and social uncertainty. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, prospects of economic growth on the continent were uncertain, with most countries struggling to achieve growth. With the expected negative impact on Government funding arising from the threat of a sustained downturn in economic activity and revenue collection, spending on infrastructure is likely to diminish significantly in the short- to medium-term. Over the medium-term, governments are likely to view infrastructure as a major stimulus mechanism for economic recovery and growth. The impact on cross-border trade has also been affected with member states shutting down borders and in some cases applying trade restrictions that have affected supply chains inbound and outbound with the regions recording trade deficit in volumes

The 2020 PIDA Week conference aims to bring together international and regional expertise from multiple stakeholders to deliberate on the issues around infrastructure delivery in Africa, and in particular, those related to PIDA. It will focus on how Africa can lead the way in the delivery of infrastructure in a post-COVID era, supporting the economic and social imperatives of the continent in the digital age. It is also coming at a pivotal moment in the history of PIDA, when the programme is transitioning from the first phase (PIDA PAP I) to the second phase (PIDA PAP II), which will be launched during the AU Head of States summit in January 2021 to 2030.

¹ Working title – to be refined in consultation with stakeholders

In addition to the typical issues impacting on infrastructure delivery on the continent, PIDA Week 2020 will consider thematic issues such as:

- Infrastructure priorities in the PIDA PAP II
- Post-COVID 19 infrastructure financing, delivery and resilience
- The critical role of infrastructure for the economy for the implementation of AfCFTA
- COVID-19 impact of reduced economic growth and changes in investment and exports patterns on the continent
- The likely transformation in demand for and consumption of transport, energy, ICT and social infrastructure.

3.2. Objectives

The main objectives of PIDA Week are to:

- Provide a platform to showcase and deliberate on inclusiveness in infrastructure development in Africa through the PIDA Integrated Corridor Development Approach
- Showcase progress made in the implementation of PIDA projects and related initiatives and share lessons and experiences on the implementation of PIDA projects
- Showcase the PIDA project pipeline to Project Preparation Facilities, Development Finance Institutions, Private Developers and Institutional Investors.
- Provide an opportunity for project owners and stakeholders to network, mobilise resources for proposed and ongoing projects, address crucial issues around policy and project enabling environment, hence accelerating project implementation
- Showcase possible economic development opportunities along the PIDA Corridors as presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in various sectors as a necessary tool for continental integration towards boosting intra-African trade, job creation and economic development on the continent
- Provide an opportunity for air transport stakeholders to exchange ideas on operationalization of the Single African Air Transport as one of AU flagship projects and its role in the recovery of the Air Transport industry post COVID-19.

As has been the case in previous events, stakeholders will be invited to hold parallel events linking to PIDA Week 2020.

3.3. Theme and sub-themes

Sub-themes:

- The Future Role of Infrastructure in driving continental integration and post COVID economic recovery
- Delivering PIDA results through strong partnerships for sustainable infrastructure financing and development i.e. opportunities for PPFs, DFIs, PDs and Investors
- Environment, climate change and related disasters impact on infrastructure in Africa
- The relationship between peace and security on Africa's infrastructure development
- The central place of AfCFTA in infrastructural development
- The critical role of the 4th Industrial Revolution and Artificial Intelligence in realising sustainable infrastructure in Africa
- Importance of the Single African Air Transport Market in the recovery of the air transport sector in particular and the African economy in general

- Strengthening the regulatory framework of the SAATM through the development of a YD/SAATM Dispute Settlement Mechanism

3.4. Outcomes

The anticipated outcomes from the PIDA Week are :

- Provide a platform for advocacy of implementation of priority PIDA Projects as part of an enhanced communications strategy to act as a catalyst for Africa to attain and deepen Economic Integration and the relevant targets set under Agenda 2063.
- Mobilise resources for project preparation is conduct market sounding for more advance projects
- Facilitate cross sectoral linkages to continental Infrastructure Projects and facilitate sharing lessons and experiences on the implementation of PIDA projects.
- Promote private sector participation in PIDA and provide a market place to showcase PIDA Projects

4. PIDA Week 2020 Programme and Structure

The event will be hosted by the Government of South Africa but will be delivered primarily as a virtual conference with provision for in-person attendance for local participants² for key sessions, subject to local regulations.

4.1. Conference duration and structure

The proposed structure is a virtual conference with sessions spread over 5-days and arranged to suit the virtual hosting for up to 750 participants in plenary sessions and 100 participants in parallel sessions.

The first day will be dedicated to the opening session, keynote addresses and main speakers, who will continue with their presentations on to the second day. Parallel breakout sessions will be interspersed within the program during the next two two days, covering specific relevant PIDA thematic areas of interest. Each parallel session will take place over 1.5 hours with a maximum of three presentations and discussant comments.

Considering that the event will be virtual with participants spread across multiple time-zones, it is proposed to limit the daily duration of events to be between 10:00 and 18:00 SAST. This will help to maximise participation from the various stakeholders at times that are mutually convenient.

4.2. Programme Outline

The general outline proposed for PIDA Week 2020 is as follows:

- Day 1 (Monday)
 - Morning: Up to 4 parallel sessions (1.5 hours each). These are proposed by interested partners and stakeholders
 - Afternoon: official opening, presentation of PIDA 2020 report, High level panel on PIDA Week theme
- Day 2 (Tuesday) – Plenary sessions on sub-themes (4 sessions, 1.5 hour each)

² Subject to confirmation after discussion with host country

- Day 3 (Wednesday) – Spotlight on PIDA projects, PIDA implementation (6 sessions, 1 hour each)
- Day 4 (Thursday)
 - Morning: Report-back session on key outcomes and recommendations
 - Afternoon: presentation of communique, official closing
- Day 5 (Friday) – Virtual project site visits and host-country showcase (TBC)

In addition, pre-events and side-events are organized by PIDA partners and stakeholders in the days leading up to PIDA Week.

The detailed programme once finalised will be available on the PIDA Week 2020 website www.aupida.africa/pw2020

4.3. Target Audience

PIDA Week targets the participation of key stakeholders in infrastructure and related thematic areas including:

- AU Member states
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- Regional Power Pools (RPPs)
- Regional Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEs)
- European Union
- Africa Development Bank (AfDB)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Africa Renewable Energy Initiatives (AREI)
- The African Energy Commission (AFREC)
- PIDA Project owners
- AFUR members
- Project developers
- Government officials
- National and Regional Development Banks, Private Equity & Debt investors
- Project Preparation Funds
- Law firms, Advisory and Auditing Firms
- Institutional Investors: Pension Funds, Insurance Companies, Commercial Banks, Mutual Funds, Hedge Funds & Sovereign Wealth Funds, Guarantee and Risk Mitigation Instrument Providers
- Public Private Partnership Units
- Investors, Business Executives & Entrepreneurs
- Multilaterals & Development Finance Institutions
- Regional Economic Communities & Institutions
- Utilities and Regulatory Bodies
- Industry Sector Specialists
- Media
- Logistics / Supply Chain Companies
- Academic & Research Bodies
- Civil Society
- Allied Industries (Cement, Iron, Steel Producers, Construction Companies)
- International Development Partners

4.4. Outputs

The conference will result in a PIDA Week Report that will contain observations and recommendations. It will also produce a ‘think-piece’ to be shared with participants on general issues arising from the PIDA Week.

A PIDA Week Communique will be drafted under the leadership of the AUDA-NEPAD, submitted for consultations during the conference, and presented at the closing plenary for adoption.

5. Dates and Venue

PIDA Week 2020 will be a virtual event hosted from South Africa and will take place from December 7-11, 2020.

