

Talking points PIDA Energy Conference

Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Your excellency Mme Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, distinguished Director for Infrastructure and Energy, dear guests, ladies and gentlemen, all protocols observed.

It is a long and interesting journey, started in July 2010, that has brought us together here today

The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) will change, has already started to change, the way Africa looks at its infrastructure and plans it for the next generation of Africans. It will:

- Provide economic growth and development
- Jobs for the young
- Fulfill the potential of our rich continent

Compared to its predecessor continental plans and programs, PIDA has been designed as a bottom-up approach:

- Based on solid macro-economic and technical analysis
- Through extensive consultations at all levels: technical, regional and political level

Energy is, in value terms, the most prominent sector of all 4 sectors considered by the study. Progress in this sector will allow us to transform what is now called the “dark continent” and propel it into a bright future.

You have in front of you the results of 18 months of technical work and political consensus building

They carry strong messages and a priority action plan up to 2020 and a longer list of important projects that countries commit to implement up to 2040

It has been an immense honor and pleasure for the African Development Bank to have been invited to support the African Union Commission and play the role of Executing Agency for the PIDA study. Indeed, none other than the premier infrastructure financier on the continent could play this role and we thank you for the confidence put in the African Development Bank.

We hope that we can get your endorsement on the energy specific aspects of the study, in order to bring your recommendations to the AU Summit in January, here in Addis.

We thus wish you fruitful deliberations and thank you for your attention.