

**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

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**CONFERENCE OF ENERGY MINISTERS OF AFRICA (CEMA)**

**EXTRAORDINARY SESSION ON PIDA**



**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 15 December 2011** – An Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Energy Ministers of Africa (CEMA) hosted by the Department of Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union Commission (AUC) held today at the Hilton Hotel, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, deliberated on and adopted a declaration as well as the final Programme of Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) study

that will in turn be submitted to the upcoming AU Assembly of Heads of States and Government in January 2012.

Jointly undertaken by the AUC, the African Development Bank and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), PIDA is an initiative launched on July 24<sup>th</sup> 2010 focusing on the development of a strategic framework, an Infrastructure Development Programme and an Implementation strategy and process.

The Extraordinary Session was chaired by the CEMA bureau chair Eng. Mohamed Moussa and moderated by Mr. Aboubakari Baba Moussa, Director of Infrastructure and Energy of the AUC.

In his opening remarks, the representative of the African Development Bank reaffirmed the institutions' commitment to support the PIDA initiative and highlighted the positive impact it has had throughout the continent in terms of growth and infrastructure development.

On her part, Mrs Elham Ibrahim, Commissioner in charge of Infrastructure and Energy of the AUC warmly welcomed the representatives and reiterated PIDA's vision to

develop efficient, reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly infrastructures. She further stressed the need for commitment of all African stakeholders and the importance of a clear institutional architecture for the implementation of PIDA.



Following the opening ceremony, presentations were made on the PIDA study, outlining the Priority Action Plan, reporting on the current continental standing and providing long term outlooks in terms of energy and infrastructure. The presenters further highlighted the importance of regional and continental collaboration and the need for sustainable and environmentally conscious socioeconomic and financial frameworks.

Key strategies and projects such as Hydro, Solar and Geothermal Power aiming to enhance existing infrastructures, energy production and consumption as well as to promote growth, integration and development, highlighted in the PIDA programme and report, were highlighted during the discussions. Numerous observations in regards to finance and prioritization of projects were similarly raised and further deliberated.

It is in this context that the Extraordinary Session, concerned by the low level of development of energy infrastructure, the high cost and low quality of energy services in Africa in terms of availability, security and access as well as the low level of regional integration of energy networks and the huge financing needs for energy infrastructure in the coming ten years, adopted a binding declaration.

The declaration commits all stakeholders to promote the development of renewable energy resources; pool efforts to speed up implementation of the PIDA programmes based on the PIDA study and the Priority Action Plan (PAP); accelerate the facilitation of intra-Africa energy trade; set up an adequate institutional framework for the development of major integrative hydroelectric power projects and high capacity oil refineries as well as gas and oil pipelines; strengthen the African specialized institutions in energy sector, regional power pools and regulatory agencies and to take necessary measures to ensure sustainable financing and management of the energy sector.

The declaration further details recommendations to Heads of States and Government to adopt the PIDA programme; include it in national priorities and support and encourage its implementation with the active involvement of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States and Specialized Institutions..

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