



OPENING REMARKS BY

DR TOMAZ AUGUSTO SALOMÃO

SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

READ ON HIS BEHALF

BY

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DIRECTOR, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES,

SADC SECRETARIAT

AT

SERENA POLANA, MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

27 NOVEMBER 2012

Head of Delegation of the African Development Bank and Director, NEPAD and Regional Integration, Mr Alex Rugamba, and your delegation;

Representatives of the Co-Chairs of NEPAD IPPF Oversight Committee and ICA, Germany and the United states of America respectively;

Representative of the African Union, Mr Baba-Mousa Aboubakari and Your Delegation;

Representative of NEPAD NPCA, Mr Adama Dean;

Representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa;

Heads of Delegations from the Regional Economic Communities;

Representatives of Regional Bodies and Related Stakeholders here present;

Colleagues from the SADC Secretariat

My Dearest Colleagues, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

All Protocols Observed;

I am deeply honoured, and indeed humbled, to stand before you and deliver some Opening Remarks on behalf of the Executive Secretary of SADC, His Excellency, Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão, who is unable to be with us, on account of urgent but pre-arranged Summit business. I bring you kind greetings from his good offices. He however expressed the hope that he can count on your understanding regarding his regrettable absence this morning.

Allow me at the outset, to welcome all of you to the SADC region, Mozambique and Maputo in particular, and I would wish to express our gratitude to the Bank and partners for having accepted our kind invitation to host this all important annual meeting here in the City of Maputo, Mozambique. I would wish to first and foremost, pay tribute to the Government and People of Mozambique for having put such wonderful facilities, epitomized by the Polana, at our disposal, and the legendary hospitality that we have enjoyed since our arrival at Mavalane International Airport, Maputo.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentleman,

The moment is opportune for us to trace our steps back, and review why the NEPAD IPPF and the ICA were established. I recall that in March, 2005, a milestone meeting was held in Abuja,

Nigeria, following the disquiet the African continent expressed relating to slow pace of implementation of infrastructure projects. A critique of the then process of implementation of infrastructure in Africa was undertaken, premised on the then NEPAD Short Term Action Plan (STAP), through concerted efforts of AFDB, NEPAD, UNECA, the RECs. There was broad consensus, that the key constraint towards deployment of infrastructure was the lack of a credible pipeline of bankable projects which could raise the appetite of would be investors. As a key outcome of the Abuja Round Table, under the leadership of the NEPAD Heads of State Implementation Committee and related Pan African Institutions, supported by the RECs, a decision was taken for the continent to focus on project preparation, for which resource mobilization was undertaken to achieve this objective, and this gave birth to the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Fund. We are very grateful to our partners who have provided the much needed resources to facilitate project preparation, and since then, commendable progress has been made with implementation of infrastructure across the continent.

Our International Cooperation and Development Partners;

We note with great pride, that through a broad-based consultative process, a continental blue print, namely, the Programme of

Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), was completed and adopted by the AU Assembly in January, 2012. Following its adoption, all the RECs and Member States rallied around this programme, on the basis of which Africa agreed to cooperate on the implementation of infrastructure. PIDA, as a continental framework, no doubt defines our destiny as a continent. On our part, as the SADC region, Summit adopted the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), which fully elaborates SADC's priority projects, informed by our strategic framework, which Master Plan speaks to and continues to be informed by PIDA. I am aware, other Regional Economic Communities have developed Master Plans that define their trajectories for development, and would therefore, want to urge our partners to lend their support towards project preparation and investment based on these Master Plans, underpinned by PIDA.

In an effort to further scale up implementation of Africa's Infrastructure, and to strengthen resource mobilization and coordination, the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa was inaugurated. I personally participated in the London Inaugural Meeting in London in October, 2005, with great hope, excitement and expectations. The moment is therefore opportune for us to take stock of achievements seven years on.

My Dearest Colleagues and Friends;

In an effort to rationalize our operations arising from overlapping Membership involving COMESA, EAC and SADC, we have established the framework of the Tripartite, which continues to champion key transport, energy, water and ICT Projects, a process that is set to promote the realization of the African Economic Community, as espoused by the Abuja Treaty, and the Lagos Plan of Action. I would therefore like to urge you, to prioritise these projects, especially transport and energy, whose impact in addressing supply side constraints, physical and non physical barriers to trade is well celebrated.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am also confident, that I shall have occasion to meet with most of you during the forthcoming meeting of the ***Friends of the Tripartite*** on Friday, 30th November, here in Maputo, and take the opportunity to share some perspectives around infrastructure financing gaps within the Tripartite Framework.

As I seek to conclude my remarks, let me take this opportunity to commend NEPAD IPPF for the excellent work that it continues to

undertake in promoting the rolling out of infrastructure in the region. I am confident that through the unparalleled generosity of our partners, there would be enhanced allocations for project preparation and development, as well as downstream investment, for our priority flagship projects. I look forward to a sustainable partnership between the continent and members of both ICA and NEPAD IPPF.

I wish you a pleasant stay in Maputo, excellent deliberations and a happy landing back home with your families.

Thank you for your attention

Muito Obrigado;

Merci Beaucoup;

Kanimambo;

God Bless You!