



African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

KEY NOTE ADDRESS

Transboundary PIDA Water Programme Stakeholder Workshop:

**Honourable Eng Jean B Mutabazi, Director Infrastructure of
the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMESA**

**Honourable Thomas Banda representative of the Executive
Secretary of African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW),**

**Honourable Dr Kuiru Tjipangandjara, Chair of the Board of the
Global Water Partnership (GWP)**

**Honourable Alex Simalabwi, Executive Secretary of the
Global Water Partnership (GWP)**

**Dear Representative of Project owners/ sponsors/
Implementing authorities or official representatives**

Distinguished invited guests

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

Firstly, let me welcome you come to this important event in our calendar to discuss and agree on PIDA transboundary water projects. Our aim to is support and facilitate the movement of project forward.

Secondly, I deliver this address on behalf of Mr Symerre Grey -Johnson who is unable to join for this

programme. He conveys his sincere apology and wishes us a successful consultative workshop.

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am aware that all of you are very busy people, but you saw it fit to respond to our call to come to this workshop. It is a great honour and pleasure for the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to co-host this Stakeholder Consultation meeting which over the next three days will attempt to build consensus towards our transboundary water programme.

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

In 2012, the African Heads of State and Government adopted the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). PIDA is a programme of the African Union (AU) implemented by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD). The PIDA Priority Action Plan (PIDA PAP) comprises 51 cross-border programmes covering four sectors transport, energy, trans-boundary water resources management and ICT.

In November 2017, the NEPAD Agency and the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) with support from the Government of Germany through GIZ – commissioned a review of the implementation of transboundary water projects under PIDA. According to the review water projects showed little progress compared to projects in other PIDA focus areas: ICT, Energy, and Transport. According to the evaluation, several factors contribute to the lack of progress. One of the key challenges is inadequate information on the priority water projects, including lack of information on the status and blockages associated with their implementation.

To address these gaps, the AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with Global Water Partnership (GWP) has established 'NEPAD PIDA Water Programme' commencing from 2019 until 2024 with the following objectives of providing support in the following two areas: i) Assist in early stage preparation of selected projects; ii) Facilitate the financing of these water projects.

The NEPAD-PIDA water Programme goals can only be achieved if the application of the water-food-energy nexus approach through transboundary hydropower projects in realizing tangible regional development benefits is addressed. Furthermore, the programme has been designed to develop the long-term goal of cultivating collaborative arrangements; mobilising partnerships; leveraging expert knowledge and experience in international water issues; and fostering a broad stakeholder reach in Africa to support the acceleration of transboundary water infrastructure project implementation.

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

Bearing in mind the transboundary nature of water projects, these challenges can only be addressed effectively by ensuring that all stakeholders work together in partnership. It is however, important for us to admit that partnership does not come easy; unless we provide incentives for countries and regions of Africa to work together to address transboundary water related issues, it will not be possible for us to deliver on the goals of the PIDA Water programme. In order for us to succeed, we must do this by learning from international best practices and promote adaptation and scale-up effective approaches. I am delighted to note that the today work we are embarking on transboundary water projects is consistent with the theory of change of the ongoing AUDA-NEPAD reforms. This is also in line with the spirit of our partnership because it will enable the continent to draw our own lessons from our failures and achievements, and for us as Africans to take responsibility for replicating our success stories; to map out a path for sustainable governance of our transboundary water projects; as well as guide our development partners to work with us on critical investment areas.

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is within the above spirit, that AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with you, would like to see

the PIDA water programme achieve the following:

- (i) to recognize and prioritize transboundary water projects for further action
- (ii) improve the investment outlook for the PIDA-PAP transboundary water projects;
- (iii) enhance private sector, development partners and Member States involvement in support of regional water infrastructure development to drive industrialisation, job creation and progress towards SDGs;
- (iv) raise profile of water-food-energy nexus, and integrated bundled investment approaches in climate resilience projects;
- (v) achieve governmental regional cooperation through transboundary water projects in an effort toward building peace, preventing conflict and promoting regional integration; and
- (vi) contribute to improvement in local communities' quality of life.

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

The outcomes of this workshop will complement NEPAD Agency's on-going transformation that has created a catalytic environment that will deepen the dialogue around Africa's development. In that regards, The primary purpose of the workshop is to ensure all PIDA-PAP transboundary Water and Energy projects promoters, coordinating entities; RECs; RLBOs; including funding and implementing partners are given an opportunity to present their respective projects. Additionally, our workshop will be for us to provide guidance on how relevant projects can meet the PIDA criteria and next steps to be followed. Finally, agreement must be reached by the workshop on the production of project information memoranda (PIMs) for at least three projects.

I am confident we have the relevant experts and resources in the room to make sure the above objectives are realized.

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

At this point, let me now in a very special and humble way convey the sincere thanks of the AUDA-NEPAD Agency, to COMESA, that has continuously and tirelessly shared our African vision by hosting this stakeholder Consultations, but also in collaboration with GWP and all the representatives in this room being key partners on the transboundary water agenda. It is on this note that I wish to reconfirm NEPAD Agency's commitment to collaborate with all our partners, in the success of this new journey that we are embarking on.

It is now my singular honour to wish you fruitful deliberations. I thank you for your attention.