



PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

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NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative

African and OECD high-level representatives to discuss advancing investment policy reform and mobilising investment in transport infrastructure in Africa

Kampala, 5 December 2008: The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are to support African countries in advancing investment policy reform and mobilising investment in transport infrastructure at the **NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative's Annual High-level Meeting / Expert Roundtable**, which will take place in Kampala, Uganda, on 10-11 December 2008.

Hosted by the Government of the Republic of Uganda and jointly organised by the NEPAD and OECD, the event aims to make the most of best practices that will support NEPAD countries in implementing investment policy reforms. It will bring together high-level political actors, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the private sector, development partners and technical experts from African and OECD countries. It builds on the outcomes of the Initiative's previous roundtables (Lusaka 2007, Brazzaville 2006 and Entebbe 2005), and is held in two parts:

Day 1: the Initiative's **2008 Annual High-level Meeting "Advancing Investment Policy Reform in Africa"** brings together ministerial and top-level African actors key to investment policy reform and explores measures for improving countries' investment climates. It seeks to engage the business community as an agent for development and will discuss how investment reform can take advantage of Africa's peer review process (APRM) as well as of multilateral policy tools such as the *Policy Framework for Investment (PFI)*.

Day 2: the **Expert Roundtable on investment in road infrastructure and regional integration** aims to draw on national experience and best practices to identify the factors that are holding investment back in African countries' transport sector. Focus will be placed on the role played by regional integration in overcoming these obstacles, and on the guidance offered by the *OECD Principles for Private Sector Participation in Infrastructure*. Regional initiatives for improving transport infrastructure will particularly be investigated in the East African context, given East Africa's vast potential for cross-border growth and the recent concentration of pro-investment policy reforms in the region.

"While African decision-makers are facing important challenges in relation with the current financial crisis, they can also address them thanks to investment policy reform" says Ambassador Olukorede Willoughby, NEPAD Acting CEO. "High-level meeting on the first day will be driven by strong African ownership in advancing investment policy reform."

"Compared with other sectors, private participation in road transport infrastructure in Africa has been relatively low," says Mario Amano, OECD Deputy Secretary General. "The Expert Roundtable on the second day will outline how to address this issue, taking advantage of innovative policy expertise and country experiences."

Prof. Semakula Kiwanuka, the Honourable Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Investments) of the Republic of Uganda said: “Uganda is well placed to contribute to these discussions, as a reform-oriented country, as well as being a member of the East African Community where regional integration is rapidly moving forward.”

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NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative

The NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative aims to support African countries in improving their capacity to identify and implement concrete policy reforms that strengthen the investment environment for growth and development. The Initiative takes advantage of the OECD peer learning method and investment instruments of co-operation such as the Policy Framework for Investment (PFI), the most comprehensive multilaterally-backed investment policy instrument.