

## **Summary Second briefing on the 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum**

23 January 2017, UN Headquarters, New York

Bridging the infrastructure gap is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. To help close the global gap in infrastructure investment, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda established the Global Infrastructure Forum, led by the multilateral development banks. The annual Forum aims to improve alignment and coordination among established and new infrastructure initiatives, multilateral and national development banks, national institutions, development partners and the private sector.

The inaugural forum was hosted by the World Bank in April 2016, in close cooperation with the United Nations. The 2017 Forum will be hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) during the Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank Group, in Washington, D.C. on 22 April 2017.

In preparation for the 2017 Forum, UN DESA organized a briefing to UN Member States and other stakeholders in New York on 23 January. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) reported on progress in preparations for the 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum. It was the second such briefing, and was attended by over 80 participants, including Member States, civil society, and UN agencies.<sup>1</sup>

### **Theme: Delivering Inclusive and Sustainable Infrastructure**

The EIB and IDB presented the outline of the 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum on the theme of “Delivering Inclusive and Sustainable Infrastructure.” The Forum intends to cover a wide range of topics from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including the mobilization of private finance for infrastructure, which is seen as increasingly important.

The Forum will build on the successful format established in the inaugural Forum in 2016; it will be opened with a Plenary, with the heads of the MDBs, as well as the UN. The plenary will be followed by two rounds of four breakout sessions, in which all MDBs are participating. In line with the AAAA, the UN system, regional and national institutions will also contribute, so that relevant experience in different countries and regions can be leveraged:

#### *First Round of Breakout Sessions:*

- “Sustainable Infrastructure in Practice”
- “Financing Sustainable Infrastructure and Climate Action in Cities”
- “The Key Role of National Development Banks in facilitating a Sustainable Energy Mix”
- Building Quality Infrastructure in Africa

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<sup>1</sup> The webcast of the second briefing is available online [<click here>](#)

### *Second Round of Breakout Sessions:*

- “MDB Risk Mitigation: Filling the Gaps”
- “Infrastructure as an Asset Class”
- “Better Project Preparation”
- “Energy Finance in Africa”

In between the eight break-out sessions, two high-level plenaries will be organised, one plenary “Welcome to the Future - A New Perspective” and one “Challenges in relation to infrastructure investments and the Role of MDBs”. The closing session will discuss conclusions and next steps. The Forum intends to identify best practices related to sustainable infrastructure. Building on last year’s discussions, it will address: data collection to better inform decisions on investment; better planning and prioritizing of infrastructure; improved accountability and asset management; improved financial instruments that are capable of responding to the needs of markets; as well as other areas of concern such as disclosure and transparency. The MDBs will issue an outcome statement showing progress made with respect to the commitments made last year.

### **Participation and Registration**

The GI Forum is intended for delegates from governments; ministries of finance and infrastructure, multilateral agencies; public entities such as national development bodies and agencies involved in policy, financing and advising on infrastructure development; United Nations agencies; civil society; and private banks, investors, and infrastructure developers.

Participation to the forum is by invitation only. Invitations will be sent out around end of February. Due to room capacities, EIB and IDB encourage all delegations to register a maximum of three delegates. The organisers underlined that there will be no particular criteria to limit the participation of CSOs. More information can be found on the dedicated [website](#) of the Forum.

### **Next steps**

The IDB and EIB emphasized that preparations for the 2017 Forum will continue to be carried out in an inclusive manner, in cooperation with the UN system through UN-DESA, and involving Member States, national institutions, development partners, the private sector and civil society. A third and final briefing at the United Nations is scheduled for 30 March 2017. More information will be posted on the [website](#) of the Financing for Development Office of UN DESA. The outcomes of the Global Infrastructure Forum will eventually be presented at the ECOSOC forum on Financing for Development follow-up.