Background Note

The European Investment Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank are organizing the 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum on behalf of all the MDBs (African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Islamic Development Bank, New Development Bank, and the World Bank Group, in close partnership with the United Nations. The theme of the forum is “Delivering Inclusive and Sustainable Infrastructure”.

The objective of the Forum is to enhance public and private sector infrastructure investment; the Forum has been mandated by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the UN as part of the SDG Implementation Program. The Forum will take place at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington on April 22nd during the World Bank Group-International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings.

Key Objectives of the Forum

The objective of this Forum is to improve alignment and coordination between established and new infrastructure initiatives as well as among multilateral and national development banks, national institutions and the private sector in order to bridge the ‘infrastructure investment gap’ and to facilitate the implementation of sustainable, accessible and resilient infrastructure for developing countries.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the chairmen of the G-20 and the G-77 will make the Opening Addresses. Under the overarching theme “Delivering Inclusive and Sustainable Infrastructure”, eight breakout sessions will be chaired by the MDBs, organized in collaboration with national development banks and partners. These break-out sessions will examine best practice on leveraging and mobilizing public and private resources as well as improving planning and implementation through enhanced partnerships.

There will also be High Level Plenaries lead by the MDBs and the UN, including civil society. The High-Level Closing Plenary will present the Outcome Statement and Way Forward from the Forum, reflecting the priorities of the SDGs, the programs of the MDBs and of the G-20.