

## **AUC Comments on the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Infrastructure Trust Fund**

Generally, the Mid-Term Evaluation report of the Infrastructure Trust Fund (ITF) has comprehensively addressed all the key issues and identified the main weaknesses of the ITF which need to be resolved or improved. The report has also taken note of important developments with particular regard to the adoption of PIDA and the outcome of the AICD study.

As far as regional infrastructure is concerned, the AUC would like to underscore the need for aligning the project eligibility criteria addressed under sections 2.3 and 7.1 with that of PIDA in order to ensure congruence in the projects financed by the ITF with those of the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PIDA-PAP) and RECs' Master Plans.

It would also be opportune to explore the possibility of improving coordination between African stakeholders and ITF bodies through the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa (IAIDA) which is the decision-making and implementation mechanism for PIDA (7.2.7, 7.2.10 and 7.2.12).

Under 6.2.4, "Addressing the governance structure" the report reads:

"The functioning of the existing Steering Committee for the EU-Africa Partnership for Infrastructure offers room for improvement. EU Delegations in African countries and RECs need to have a more formalised and frequent interaction with the ITF (PFG in terms of projects, and PSC in terms of coordination and strategy) given their key role both on the ground and in regional priority and strategy setting."

It should be re-worded to read as follows:

"The functioning of the existing Steering Committee for the EU-Africa Partnership for Infrastructure offers room for improvement. EU Delegations in African countries, RECs **and the African Union Commission** need to have a more formalised and frequent interaction with the ITF (PFG in terms of projects, and PSC in terms of coordination and strategy) given their key role both on the ground and in regional priority and strategy setting.