



NATIONAL STATEMENT FOR THE 2023 HLPF

18 JULY 2023

President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, South Africa and Africa as a continent, like other regions and nations of the globe are working to rebuild economies after the devastating effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Before the outbreak of COVID-19, some countries like South Africa were already experiencing slow growth and rising unemployment; therefore, the pandemic worsened an already dire situation. The unprecedented impact of the pandemic forced countries to redirect infrastructure budgets and put the flow of investments on hold.

As Governments, we continue to provide the necessary services to our citizens, but the success of rebuilding relies on all of us working together. In this instance, Mr President, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) become even more relevant and crucial. The private sector has proven in many ways, that partnerships and collaboration, using social responsibility policies in our countries, leads to investment and the creation of jobs. In his State of the Nation Address (SONA) earlier this year, the President of South Africa HE Ramaphosa called for all those in the Building Sector in the country, to accelerate the implementation of infrastructure projects already yielding great achievement in different sectors and areas of our economy.

As countries across the globe seek practical ways to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple crises, it also presents an unprecedented opportunity to reset the global economy on a pathway towards a more equitable, environmentally sustainable and low-carbon emissions trajectory.

As a continent, Africa is on track in implementing the Africa Free Trade Agreement, which seeks to create a single market for goods and services of almost 1.3 billion people across Africa and deepen the economic integration of Africa, attracting global investments, boosting trade and providing better jobs which will reduce poverty in Africa.

The World Bank estimates that the Trade Agreement will increase Africa's income by \$450 billion by 2035. This will also deepen Africa's trade relations with the international community, stimulating economic recovery in the short and long-term. It aims to improve implementation of infrastructure in sectors like energy, transport, information and communication technologies, water and sanitation, and social infrastructure, which aligns with 10 of the 17 SDG's.

As part of the long term national, regional and global planning on infrastructure financing mechanism, the South African government in collaboration with the private sector developed a new methodology of planning and project preparation, referred to as the Sustainable Infrastructure Development (SID) methodology, which evaluates projects and programmes to advance and align the National Development Plan 2030, Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the United Nations SDGs.

Some of the vehicles established to accelerate the achievement of infrastructure development in our country are: the Infrastructure Fund, the Water Partnership Office, hosted by the Development Bank of Southern Africa as well as the National Water Resource Infrastructure Agency which will focus on funding water infrastructure.

In closing, we call on all countries to promote a strengthened and revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, with developed countries taking the lead in fulfilling the obligations made during previous multi-lateral engagements.