



DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

MEDIA ADVISORY

**SIDE EVENT: AFRICAN WOMEN IN INFRASTRUCTURE
NETWORK (AWIN)**

INVITATION TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

WHAT: The African Women in Infrastructure Network (AWIN) side event/ panel discussion is will take place within the framework of the Second Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism, (STC-TTIET).

WHEN: **Tuesday 16 April 2019 at 11:00am.**

WHERE: Cairo, Egypt (Triumph Luxury Hotel)

WHO: The African Union Commission (AUC) and The African Union Development Agency (AUDA - NEPAD) will organize the AWIN side event.

The speakers on the side event panel discussion include:

- **H.E. Hon Ms. Prisca Mupfumira**, Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Zimbabwe;
- **H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid**, African Union Commission (AUC) Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy;
- **Ms. Maya Morsy**, Egyptian Political Scientist and Specialist in Public Policy;
- **Dr. Inge Baumgarten**, Director, GIZ Office to the African Union

OBJECTIVES:

With the commitment of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to ensure gender responsive infrastructure planning and governance in all programmes and investments, the objective of the side event is to deliberate on the proposed concept of AWIN and provide insight on proposed approaches and expected strategic engagement principles with African Nations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) partners.

Background:

The African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa – PIDA (Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XVIII)) in January 2012, as the reference programme for regional and continental infrastructure development in Africa. PIDA implemented through a partnership between the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa covers four main sectors including transport, energy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and trans-boundary water.

Within the wider PIDA framework, gender responsive approach is not yet adequately addressed. The gap, to some extent, has strongly affected the engagement of women in the sector. Though the number of female engineering graduates has risen in the previous years, only a small fraction of them are able to take up careers/jobs in the various infrastructure sectors¹. This paints a blurry picture for the future as a sector of the population and African women remain an under-utilized economic force necessary for the continent's socio-economic development as well as the optimization of its potential.

Journalists are invited to attend and cover the side event on Tuesday 16 April 2019 at 11:00am.

For more information about the second meeting of the STC-TTIET, please contact

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