Joint EU-Africa Strategy
Reference Group on Infrastructure

(Transport, ICT, Energy and Water)

Addis Ababa, 25-26 February 2016

Statement for the College to College (C2C)

We, African and EU partners, will reinforce our cooperation on infrastructure, in order to reduce poverty, foster **sustainable development and inclusive growth and strengthen continental integration.** We will respond to the evolving global context by incorporating emerging policy issues that have a direct impact on our Infrastructure priorities, in particular Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the outcomes of COP 21 and the 2015 Africa-EU Valletta Summit on Migration. The EU will allocate 20% of its entire development portfolio for climate change purposes and will support the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda by incorporating relevant SDGs in sectoral actions, notably Transport, ICT, Energy, Urban Development and Water. In particular, we will address challenges related to climate change resilience, adaptation and mitigation, safety and security, jobs and growth, urbanisation, gender and the new heights attained by migration. The Programme for Infrastructure Development for Africa – PIDA – will continue to orient our strategic cooperation towards innovative solutions to facilitate and accelerate infrastructure delivery in Africa with the aim to significantly contribute to Agenda 2063.

We will deepen policy dialogue, promote sector reforms, strengthen the enabling environment, foster sustainable investments and job creation including through the development of innovative financing mechanisms under the EU blending framework and the Africa50 investment approach. We will work on programmes that enhance the multi-sectoral approach and create stronger links between infrastructures, and other sectors, in particular, the nexus water-energy-food security, energy-transport-climate change, and ICT-energy-transport-urban development (smart cities). Building an institutional capacity with a clear vision on how to prepare, prioritize, finance and

efficiently implement infrastructure projects will further be anchored in our strategic cooperation.

We will set our vision on **transport** by formulating a white paper, and related guidelines, that reconciles current and evolving transport challenges. We re-iterate our commitment to working towards reducing the transport costs and the cost of doing business in order to enhance Africa's competitiveness, increase Africa's market share of the global trade and intra-African trade. We shall develop smart and multimodal transport corridors. We shall initiate complementary road safety programmes aimed at reducing road accidents and deaths. Efforts shall be continued and intensified towards improving aviation and maritime safety and security as well as developing and deploying the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) in a modular approach into Africa. In the urban context support shall be given to the development of national urban transport policies as well as Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP).

On **energy** we will continue the fight against energy poverty and climate change by addressing challenges related to access, sustainability and affordability of energy services. In this context, we will support the development of renewable energy in Africa, also making use of innovative financing schemes. We will continue to reinforce political dialogue to improve ownership and commitment from EU and Africa. We will support energy sector policy and regulatory reforms in partner countries and regions, and harmonisation efforts at regional/continental level, in order to create an environment conducive to investments, through instruments such as the EU Technical Assistance Facility. We will support initiatives such as the "Lighting Up and Powering Africa" by AfDB and ElectriFI by the EU that will boost private sector participation. We will work with African cities on energy efficiency, urban planning and transportation issues by promoting the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa initiative.

In the **water** sector, we will continue working on the strategic directions agreed at the 2014 EU-Africa summit, in particular multipurpose water infrastructure. We will help to attain the Africa Water Vision by 2025 through joint African-EU support to the implementation of African Ministers' Council on Water Work Programmes and related priorities and we will strengthen the reporting mechanism in line with the SDGs. We will promote multi-sector investment through a nexus approach, support the cooperative management of transboundary water resources in Africa and improve capacity and skill development to enhance employment, notably by building on existing knowledge and experience. In this context, we will reinforce synergies with relevant activities and programmes and support initiatives such as the NEPAD Centres of Excellence in water sciences and technology and the strengthening of the African River Basin Organisations for sustainable cross-border hydraulic infrastructures.

In **ICT**, we will continue to work on the three strategic directions, namely:

a) the harmonisation and alignment of the appropriate aspects of e-communications policies and regulatory frameworks between Africa and the EU, including cyber-security, safeguarding human rights and data protection. An important target in this process will be the modernisation of radio spectrum management;

b) the interconnection of Research and Education Networks through e-infrastructures;

c) the enhancement of ICT capacities for all, including skills and literacy.

Furthermore, we shall endeavour to reap the full dividend from the development of the global digital economy, the single most important driver today for innovation, competiveness and growth. This entails to significantly increase access to ICT, striving to provide universal and affordable Internet connectivity through developing Public Private Partnerships and seeking synergies with other infrastructure operations; facilitating and promoting digital entrepreneurship, e-transformation initiatives, innovation, trust and confidence in the use of ICTs and truly inclusive multi-stakeholder model of internet governance.

Since ICT is one of the key drivers of governmental, economic and societal changes, we agree to further explore on how to establish a coherent overarching strategy to streamline the take up of digital technologies in development cooperation in the mid-term, in areas such as governance, education, health, agriculture, finance and gender.