



WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL/CEO OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE CONCESSION REGULATORY COMMISSION (ICRC), BARR. J A.M. OHIANI, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE AFRICA PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP NETWORK (AP3N) SUMMIT, HELD AT THE TRANSCORP HILTON, ABUJA, ON 4-5, JULY, 2022

Protocols

Your Excellencies

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my singular honour and privilege to welcome you all to this important Summit on infrastructure financing organised by the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) in collaboration with the Africa Public-Private Partnership Network (AP3N), and I would like to thank most profoundly the Secretary to the Government of the Federation for his unwavering support and encouragement, and to our sponsors for making this event a reality. I would equally like to thank our distinguished guests, facilitators, and all the participants who came from far and near to honour our invitation.

2. Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, the theme of this Summit – “*Financing Africa’s Infrastructure through PPP*”, is not only apt but very timely, in view of the critical role played by PPPs in the transformation of global economies, and the need to galvanize available resources in the private sector to grow and develop the African economy.

3. As you may be aware, the establishment of the AP3 Network followed a series of discussions amongst some African PPP Units championed by Nigeria and Uganda in 2018 during the Global Infrastructure Hub (GIH) conference for the launch of the Contract Management Tool held here in Abuja at Transcorp Hilton, which was attended by many PPP Units and PPP practitioners across Africa. At that Conference it was resolved that Ms. Beatrice Florah Ikilai from Uganda and Eng. Chidi Izuwah (of the blessed memory) from Nigeria should champion the establishment of the AP3N with support from Heads of Africa PPP Units and other practitioners across the continent. The intention is to have a network of PPP experts across the

African continent to develop Africa infrastructure solutions and share experiences based on international best practices for infrastructure and service delivery.

4. During this period, regional PPP Networks were established across the globe bringing together PPP experts to share experiences and knowledge, and provide enduring solutions for infrastructure and service delivery under a PPP arrangement. It was also during this time the World Association of PPP (WAPPP) Units and practitioners, based in Geneva Switzerland was established.

5. The vision of APPPN is to have a network of PPP experts across the African continent to find concrete solutions to bridge infrastructure gap in the continent by bringing together PPP Units, professionals and experts across the continent to design, develop, and implement infrastructure projects in tune with global best practices for infrastructure and service delivery.

6. We believe that this continental body needs to continually provide the avenue for interactions and networking amongst African PPP practitioners, in order to have a common Body of Knowledge. This is especially so, as we have our peculiar circumstances and we need to deal with our infrastructure and service provision challenges with respect to our ways, while keeping a watchful eye on global trends and developments.

7. This Investment Summit is coming at a time when the continent is gradually coming out of the COVID 19 pandemic, which dealt series of blows to investment portfolios and decisions; as well implementation of on-going infrastructure service delivery projects. The Pandemic also affected the ability of governments to finance the much-needed public projects, with its attendant record of dwindling revenue.

8. Our country was not spared from these challenges; however, there is the growing need to salvage our projects which are under implementation on one hand while developing bankable and viable PPP projects for investment on the other hand. The innovative structuring of PPP transactions through globally accepted competitive and transparent processes cannot be over-emphasized; especially as the initiative is in support of our 2021 to 2025 Mid-Term National Development Plan, which projects the use of private sector financing to achieve about 85% of our NGN 348.1 Trillion (about USD 830 Billion) Plan

9. It may interest this esteemed audience to note some of our accomplishments in Nigeria, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- i. In 2021, we published a pipeline of 51 eligible and bankable PPP projects, worth over USD 17 Billion. This list contains the projects from different economic sectors which have been granted the Outline Business Case Compliance Certificates, but which did not have identified bidders.
- ii. For 2022, ICRC intends to gazette a pipeline of 53 eligible and bankable PPP projects, worth about USD 22 Billion, very soon.

- iii. As at May 2022, there are 77 post-contract PPP projects under implementation at the ICRC Projects Disclosure Portal (www.ppp.icrc.gov.ng or www.icrc.gov.ng). The portal is the first disclosure portal in the world, established in collaboration with the World Bank.
- iv. As at May 2022, there are 197 pre-contract projects at different phases of project Development and Procurement at the ICRC website (www.icrc.gov.ng).
- v. Between 2010 (following the inauguration of our Governing Board) and 2021, under the regulatory guidance of the ICRC, the Nigerian Government has approved PPP projects worth more than USD 9 Billion.
- vi. ICRC has issued 128 Outline Business Case Compliance Certificates to date. These are certified bankable projects, to enable them proceed to Procurement phase
- vii. ICRC has also issued 50 Full Business Case Compliance Certificates to date. These are projects to be submitted to our Federal Executive Council (Cabinet) preparatory to their Commercial and Financial Closures
- viii. The Nigeria Public-Private Partnership Network (NPPPN) was established in 2011 through collaboration between the ICRC, Lagos state PPP office, and the Nigerian Infrastructure Advisory Facility (NIAF) to create a platform for all States (sub-nationals) Heads of PPP units nationwide and meets quarterly, under the Chairmanship of the Nigeria Governors' Forum. ICRC acts as the Secretariat
- ix. The Public Private Partnership Units Consultative Forum (3PUCF) was established in 2013 as a forum designed to provide a platform for Heads of PPP Units in Federal MDAs for knowledge and experience sharing; ensuring symmetry of effort towards institutionalizing FGN PPP programme, provision of training and educational intervention among others, and meets quarterly, under the Chairmanship of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation. ICRC also acts as the Secretariat
- x. We established in 2019, a PPP Capacity Building arm known as the Nigeria Institute of Infrastructure and Public Private Partnership (NII3P), to focus on PPP trainings for MDAs some of which include the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced PPP Courses. Others include short Infrastructure Development Courses, the APMG – CP3P (Examination) course, and the Master of Business Administration (MBA) in PPP; in collaboration with the Malaysian University of Science and Technology.

10. The key in the 21st century is for governments to enhance the investment environment for national level investment for local and foreign investors, and look to innovative financing mechanisms that promote local capital markets, private sector risk, and rely on regulatory systems to balance investor and consumer requirements.

11. With fiscal and budgetary funding constraints plaguing governments across the continent,

the *cold reality* is that **private participation in infrastructure is an economic necessity**, rather than an optional financing solution, as hitherto considered. Partnership between the public and private sectors for the financing, design, build, maintenance of infrastructure and delivery of associated services is absolutely necessary for Africa governments to meet the need for modern and efficient infrastructure, and for reliable cost-effective delivery of public services.

12. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Governments all over the world, including the Africa continent, have come to recognize that the collaboration between public and private sectors is crucial to securing dependable and sustainable funding for infrastructure and reducing the pressure on fiscal budgets. PPP arrangements have engendered acceleration of infrastructure provision, faster implementation of projects, and reduced whole life costs of projects. Incidentally, appropriate frameworks for PPPs are already in place and activated in most African countries including Nigeria, and these are expected to contribute to addressing the infrastructure deficit and operational constraints.

13. No doubt, this Summit on financing Africa's infrastructure through PPP offers all of us the unique opportunity to have the details, the direction, the options, and focus on infrastructure financing , and to share our thoughts, knowledge, and experiences on its key areas with a view to having a better understanding of infrastructure financing and administration to boost the African economy

14. It is therefore my honour and privilege to once again welcome, His Excellency, the Secretary to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, our distinguished guests, facilitators, and all participants present here today to the Summit, as we enjoin you to participate actively in all the activities lined up for the two-day programme. I must not fail to encourage you to take advantage of your presence to enjoy the beautiful scenery of our Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Finally, it is my expectation that we will leave this Summit more enriched on the PPP programmes and practices in Nigeria

Thank you and may God bless Nigeria and Africa.

J. A. M Ohiani
Ag. Director General
July 4, 2022