

# Foreword

We are privileged to present the Infrastructure Action Plan (IAP) for South Sudan. This flagship report is the outcome of an exemplary intensive and rich dialogue with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS), Development Partners and other key Stakeholders, including the private sector.

South Sudan became officially independent on 9 July 2011. It is the newest African country faced with not only unique challenges, but also opportunities. The economic base is currently narrow, with a heavy dependence on the oil sector. The country has undergone decades of war, underdevelopment and other calamities that contributed to the fragility of its institutional, economic and social structures. The country has one of the lowest social development indicators in Africa.

At the same time, South Sudan is endowed with abundant natural resources, including a large amount of mineral resources, aquatic and forest resources as well as fertile rain-fed agricultural land that is potentially irrigable to allow all-year cropping. The most pressing challenge of South Sudan is the urgent need for State building in a context of persistent internal and external threats to peace and security.

We share the view that the country will need to diversify its economy and promote inclusive growth, by improving the management of oil resources, building the requisite institutional capacity and continuously working towards creating the conditions for internal cohesion and regional stability. In this regard, rehabilitating and developing the dilapidated infrastructure offer great opportunities.

In this context, the IAP should be seen as part of the broader Bank's contribution to peace and state building efforts in South Sudan and the region. This flagship report is also part of a series of analytical work designed to strengthen the Bank's knowledge base in order to effectively assist Regional Member Countries (RMCs), particularly those in fragile situations. The IAP represents a key instrument for planning and programming, resource mobilization, policy dialogue and aid coordination for infrastructure development.

It is our hope that the IAP will go a long way in serving these overarching objectives, as it has already been used as a key guiding tool in the preparation of the South Sudan Development Initiative (SSDI), the successor to the South Sudan National Development Plan (SSDP).



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