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An enabling transport infrastructure is fundamental for boosting trade for the world's largest free trade area: the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

And yet we know that there is a huge financing gap when it comes to developing infrastructure in Africa.

The African Development Bank estimate that gap to be between \$68 and \$108 billion annually.

That supply of finance is simply not readily available to the land-locked developing countries. And that is why it is important to utilize public private partnerships.

Governments and the private sector working together, each bringing their own unique strengths and focus.

But, PPPs do not happen on their own.

You need a certain capacity to negotiate, design and effectively monitor the proper implementation of any given project.

There is also a need for an enabling policy and the right legal and regulatory framework.

I commend Botswana for the efforts that you have already made to improve the PPP infrastructure investment climate.

The PPP Policy and Framework has created a solid environment aimed at encouraging and attracting the private sector for infrastructure and service delivery.

Your National Development Plan 11 also underscores the important role of PPPs in delivering infrastructure projects.

I hope that this training workshop will help you build on this existing progress.

With the wide range of expertise on offer, I am sure that this training will equip you with new skills and knowledge.

I hope it fires your imaginations about new road, railway and air infrastructure that can enhance connectivity of your country.

I must thank a number of partners for supporting this workshop:

The World Bank  
The Development Bank of Southern Africa  
and  
UNCTAD

Also, thanks to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund* of the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund.

The United Nations as a whole, and my Office in particular, will continue to support your efforts in the implementation of:

The Vienna Programme of Action  
the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and  
the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and Africa's Agenda 2063.

I wish you a successful workshop.

I thank you.