STATEMENT BY Mr. BOBBY J. PITTMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, PRIVATE SECTOR AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

DURING THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE LOAN AND GUARANTEE AGREEMENTS CONCERNING THE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION NETWORK REHABILITATION AND RESTRUCTURING PROJECT

Honourable Minister of Development and Industrial Cooperation,
Mr. Managing Director of Société Tunisienne de l’Électricité et du Gaz
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a real pleasure for to be here among you, on behalf of Donald KABERUKA, President of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), on the occasion of singing the loan and guarantee agreements extending 47.57 million Euros to Société Tunisienne de l’Électricité et du Gaz (STEG) to finance the Electricity Distribution Network Rehabilitation and Restructuring Project. Allow me, Honourable Minister, to warmly congratulate you and the STEG Managing Director for the smooth collaboration that prevailed between all government departments and STEG staff involved in this project and our Institution, in the course of mounting this operation.

Honourable Minister, Mr. Managing Director, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This project is the eighth Bank operation in the electricity sub-sector in Tunisia. The Bank is proud to pursue such fruitful cooperation which has contributed to generalizing access to electricity in Tunisia, making STEG a reference on
electrification on the whole African continent. I would like to congratulate Mr. Managing Director for the quality of electricity service that I personally enjoy as a STEG subscriber.

Honourable Minister, Mr. Managing Director, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The purpose of this project is to further enhance the already remarkable performance of the electricity distribution network. It is with pleasure that we accompany you in your effort to modernize the electricity infrastructure to meet the needs of your efficient economy and an increasingly demanding clientele.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our appreciation of the excellent cooperation between the African Development Bank Group and Tunisia, and to reassure you, Honourable Minister, of the Bank Group’s willingness to continue to support your country in building a more efficient economy and improving the living standard of its population.

Thank you for your kind attention.