

President Paul Kagame arrived in Dakar, Senegal and was hosted to a tête-à-tête discussion on regional, continental, and global affairs by the Senegalese President Macky Sall at the Presidential Palace on Wednesday evening.

President Kagame is in Senegal for the 2nd Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure Development, a forum to secure funding for regional infrastructure projects under the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), an AUDA-NEPAD initiative.

Kagame, who is also the Chairperson of the AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, will deliver remarks and take part in a presidential roundtable alongside his host and African Union Chair President Macky Sall of Senegal, President Faure Gnassingbé of Togo, African Union Commission Chair Moussa Faki Mahamat, among others.

The Summit is held under the theme "Maintaining the momentum towards world-class infrastructure in Africa", and calls for the development of world-class infrastructure and the mobilisation of funds from both the private and public sector towards priority regional infrastructure projects.

The Summit takes place as the African continent continues to face infrastructure gaps. At present, 600 million people on the continent do not have access to electricity while only 28% of Africans were connected to the internet at the end of 2020.

Development of infrastructure is an important driver of progress. As it stands, the lack of reliable infrastructure in energy, telecommunications, and transport networks have a negative effect on growth and business productivity in Africa.

The 2nd Dakar Summit highlights the need to scale-up Africa's financial resource mobilisation, and provides a unique high-level platform to convene and engage African leaders, businesses, regulators and policy makers on the challenges and opportunities of infrastructure projects across the continent.