



African Union

DRAFT

CONCEPT NOTE

**THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

ON

**TRANSPORT, INTERCONTINENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURES, ENERGY AND TOURISM**

THEME: FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE IN AFRICA

Lomé, Togo, 13th – 17th March 2017



I. BACKGROUND

The African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Togo, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is organizing the first meeting of the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism which will be held in Lomé, Togo from 13 to 17 March 2017 and includes the All Africa Energy Week (AAEW) and the Pan-African Investment Forum for Transport, Energy and Tourism.

The Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), which constitute an important technical organ of the AU, were established under Article 25 of the African Economic Community Treaty (the Abuja Treaty). With the transformation of the OAU into the AU, the STCs were carried over by the Constitutive Act of the African Union under Articles 14 to 16.

The STCs are expected to work in close collaboration with the various departments of the AUC so as to provide well-informed inputs in their areas of specialization to the work of the AU Executive Council. They should also, be involved in monitoring development programmes implementation by the AUC and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Therefore, the early operationalization of the STCs becomes imperative, given the overall objective of accelerating continental integration and the importance attached to the effective implementation of programmes and projects of the Union. To this end, the Assembly of the Union adopted The Decision: Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) reconfiguring the existing STCs and created one on **Transport, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism**. The STC will meet on a biennial basis.

II. THEME AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STC 2017 MEETING

The STC sessions will focus on the following theme:

“Financing Infrastructure in Africa”

The overall objective of the STC meeting is to assess progress and to achieve concrete advances in the financing of major infrastructure, notably those in the Priority Action Plan of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA/PAP), through decisions and consensus on investing in the preparation, structuring, implementation and risks mitigation of climate resilient infrastructure projects.

The specific objectives are:

- Consideration and adoption of the Rules of Procedures of the STC;
- Establishment of the STC Bureau and Sub-Committees;
- Consideration of the implementation status of the Decisions and Declarations adopted at the previous ministerial conferences and African Union (AU) Assembly sessions on transport, energy and tourism;
- Evaluation of the progress made by regional and international institutions in financing the energy, transport and tourism sectors projects, notably PIDA/PAP and regional projects and other AU flagship projects under the AU Agenda 2063;
- Analyse constraints and how to strengthen national and regional capacities and to increase the participation of national and regional financial institutions in financing

the development of the three sectors (domestic and regional financial resource mobilization);

- Adoption of Strategies on making Africa the Preferred Destination for Tourism under the AU Agenda 2063;
- Adoption of infrastructure programs and initiatives as well as action plans to be undertaken up to the next STC meeting at national, regional and continental levels; and
- Adoption of a Ministerial Declaration with Recommendations drawn from experts report and Action Plans.

AGENDA

EXPERTS' MEETING

A. FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Preliminaries:

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Procedural Matters
 - Setup of the Meeting Bureau
 - Adoption of Agenda and Work programme

Plenary Working Sessions

1. Consideration of the STC Rules of Procedures
2. Innovative Financing and Domestic Funds Mobilization Strategies;
3. Financing of major intercontinental, interregional and national infrastructure projects in the energy, transport and tourism sectors: opportunities and challenges;
4. Strengthening and promoting national and regional capacities for projects preparation;
5. Update on the implementation of the PIDA/PAP and the Way Forward;
6. Regional Infrastructures as a Catalyst for Job Creation in Africa;
7. AU Agenda 2063 and UN-SDGs

B. THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSIONS: ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

B.1 ENERGY

1. Electricity Market Development and Investments Promotion

- AUC Initiative on Harmonized continental Regulatory Framework in the Electricity Sector

- Regional Geothermal Program and Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility Operationalization.
- Africa Bioenergy Policy framework and Guidelines Implementation
- Africa Green Regional Energy: Efficient, New and Creditworthy Off-taker (Africa GreenCO) Initiative

2. New Initiatives, Strategies and Renewables

- AfDB New Deal on Energy for Africa
- Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and its operationalization phase
- SE4ALL and Global tracking Framework (The African Chapter)
- Green Mini Grid Africa Strategy and Rural Electrification
- Electricity Smart Grid.

3. Partnerships, Database and Flagship projects

- Successful Flagship Regional Energy Projects and Lessons Learned
- Africa EU Energy Partnership
- Oil and Gas: New Resources Discoveries and Investments and Benefits for Africa
- Africa Energy Information system and database;
- Atlas of Africa Energy Resources;
- Africa Clean Energy Corridors

B.2 TRANSPORT

1. Progress **Reports** on the implementation of adopted policies, programmes, projects and decisions
2. **Air Transport:**
 - The future of the African Single Air Transport Market (SAATM) under the AU Agenda 2063
 - SAATM and Regulatory Texts
 - Consideration of the Windhoek Ministerial Declaration on Aviation Security and Facilitation
 - Review of the Abuja Aviation Safety Targets including ANS
3. Railway Transport: Vision 2063 of the African Integrated High-Speed Railway Network (AIHSRN)
4. Road Transport **and Corridors:**
 - Smart Corridors for Transforming Africa's Trans-border Infrastructure and Trade Facilitation
 - African Action Plan for the Global Decade of Action on Road Safety
 - Financing road infrastructure development and maintenance
 - Vienna Action Plan
5. Maritime Transport:
 - Validation of the Annexes to the Lomé Charter
 - Increasing African Ports Capacity and Efficiency for Economic Growth

B.3 TOURISM

1. Progress Report on the implementation of adopted policies, programmes, projects and decisions;

2. Tourism Flagship projects;
3. Enhancing Africa's tourism competitiveness;
4. Harmonisation of Tourism Strategy in the Continent;
5. Tourism and Security in Africa;
6. Investing and financing tourism in Africa;
7. Update of Tourism Action Plan.

C. SECOND PLENARY SESSION

- **Adoption of the Experts' Report**

D. Closing Ceremony of the Experts' Meeting

PAN AFRICAN INVESTMENT FORUM AND MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE

Topic: Enhancing private sector participation in infrastructure financing.

Discussions to focus on:

- Investment climate, legal and regulatory frameworks in Africa
- Institutional stability aspect;
- Investment in infrastructure for job creation in Africa;
- Skills enhancement;
- Contribution of private investments and PPPs including SMEs;
- New and innovative financial instruments.

MINISTERIAL MEETING: 17TH MARCH, 2017

A. Preliminaries:

- Opening Ceremony
- Procedural matters
 - Adoption of Agenda and Work program

B. Working Sessions:

- Consideration and adoption of the STC Rules of Procedures and establishment of the STC Sub-Committees;
- Consideration of the Experts' Meeting Report;
- Consideration and adoption of the STC Action Plan and Ministerial Declaration.

C. CLOSING CEREMONY

EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results are: the adoption of the Rules of Procedures of the STC, establishment of the STC Bureau and Sub-Committees, a **Ministerial Declaration** with recommendations drawn from the **Experts' Report** and sectorial **Action Plans** for infrastructure projects. The ministerial declaration, report and action plans arising from the deliberations of meeting shall be submitted to the Executive Council for consideration.

PARTICIPATION

In line with ongoing STC meetings, we expect participants from the Ministries responsible for Transport (i.e. Air, Road, Railway and Maritime Transport), Energy and Tourism sectors in all African Union Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Regional Development Banks and Financial Institutions, the continental specialized organizations, Academia, Private Sector and Civil Society. In addition representatives from the Development partners and International organizations involved in energy, transport and tourism development will also attend.

VENUE AND DATES

The First Ordinary Session meeting of the STC on Transport, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism will be held in Lomé, Togo from 13 to 17 March 2017.