

AFRICAN UNION

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**THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TRANSCONTINENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND TOURISM
Lomé, Togo, 13th – 17th March 2017**

**DRAFT
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TRANSCONTINENTAL AND
INTERREGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND
TOURISM**

GENERAL PROVISION

The Executive Council,

Having regard to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and in particular Article 14, 15 and 16,

Having regard to Decisions Assembly/Dec.227 (XII) and Assembly/Dec. 365 (XVII) on Specialized Technical Committees,

HAS ADOPTED THESE RULES OF PROCEDURE:

RULE 1 Definitions

In these Rules:

- (a) **“Assembly”** means the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union;
- (b) **“Chairperson”** means the Chairperson of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism;
- (c) **“Commission”** means the Secretariat of the African Union;
- (d) **“Constitutive Act”** means the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
- (e) **“Executive Council”** means the Executive Council of Ministers of the African Union;
- (f) **“Member State”** means a Member State of the African Union;
- (g) **“STC”** means a Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union;
- (h) **“Union”** means the African Union established by the Constitutive Act;
- (i) **“Vice-Chairpersons”** unless otherwise specified, means the Vice-Chairpersons of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism.

RULE 2 Status

The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism is an Organ of the Union in accordance with Article 5 (1) (g) of the Constitutive Act. It shall be responsible to the Executive Council.

RULE 3 Composition

1. The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall be composed of Ministers in charge of Transport, Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism from Member States.
2. The session of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism is preceded and prepared by a meeting of

Experts from Member States responsible for sectors falling within the areas of competence of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism. The meeting of Experts shall be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by relevant provisions of these Rules.

RULE 4

Accreditation

Delegations of Member States to sessions of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall be duly accredited representatives of Member States.

RULE 5

Powers and Functions

1. In addition to the functions provided for in Article 15 of the Constitutive Act of the Union, the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall inter-alia:
 - a) consider critical issues and challenges relating to the development of continental transport, infrastructure, energy and tourism networks and related services and make recommendations on appropriate remedial actions;
 - b) elaborate continental policies, development strategies as well as programmes and projects of the Union on transport, infrastructure, energy and tourism sectors and submit them to the Executive Council and Assembly for their consideration;
 - c) ensure oversight, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of decisions taken by the policy organs of the Union on sector and sub-sector policies, programmes and projects;
 - d) ensure coordination of programmes and projects undertaken by various regional, continental and international partners in collaboration with the African Union for the development of Africa's transport, infrastructure, energy and tourism networks and related services;
 - e) monitor relations with international partners and recommend adoption of advocacy strategies for championing Africa's interests in the fields of transport, infrastructure, energy and tourism in the global economy;
 - f) submit to the Executive Council either on its own initiative or at the request of the Executive council reports and recommendations on the implementation of AU programmes in transport, infrastructure, energy and tourism sectors;
 - g) carry out any other functions assigned to it by the Executive Council or the Assembly.

2. The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism may set up Sub-committees and temporary working groups, as it deems necessary.
3. The functioning, mandate, composition of such Sub-committees and temporary working groups shall be determined by the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism.

RULE 6

Venue

1. The Ordinary Sessions of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union.
2. In the event the session is held outside the Headquarters of the Union, the host Member State shall be responsible for all extra expenses incurred by the Commission as a result of holding the session outside the Headquarters.
3. In conformity with Rule 5 (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, Member States offering to host sessions of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall not be Member States that are under sanctions and shall be required to meet pre-determined criteria, including adequate logistical facilities and a conducive political atmosphere.
4. Where two (2) or more Member States offer to host a session, the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall decide on the venue by simple majority.
5. Where a Member State that had offered to host a session of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism is unable to do so, the session shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union, unless a new offer is received and accepted by Member States.

RULE 7

Convening of Sessions

The Commission will be responsible for convening and servicing all the meetings of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism.

RULE 8

Quorum

The quorum for a Ministerial session of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall be two-thirds majority of the Member States eligible to vote. The quorum for meetings of the Experts, Sub-committees or temporary working groups of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall be a simple majority.

RULE 9
Ordinary Sessions

The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall meet in ordinary session once every two (2) years.

RULE 10
Agenda of Ordinary Sessions

1. The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall adopt its Agenda at the opening of each session.
2. The Provisional Agenda of an ordinary session shall be drawn up by the Commission in consultation with the Bureau of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism and may include item (s) proposed by Member States. The Commission shall communicate the provisional agenda and the working documents to Member States at least thirty (30) days before the opening of the session.

RULE 11
Other Agenda Items

Any additional agenda item, which a Member State wishes to raise at a session of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism, shall only be considered under the agenda item "Any Other Business". Such agenda items shall be for information only and not subject to debate or decision.

RULE 12
Extraordinary Sessions

1. The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism may meet in an extraordinary session at the request of the policy organs of the Union, the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism, any member state, upon approval by a two-thirds majority of the Member States subject to the availability of funds.
2. The extraordinary sessions shall be held in conformity with Rule 6 above.

RULE 13
Agenda of Extraordinary Sessions

1. The Commission shall communicate the Provisional Agenda and working documents of an extraordinary session to Member States at least fifteen (15) days before the opening of the session.
2. The Agenda of an extraordinary session shall only comprise of the item(s) requiring the urgent attention of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism.

RULE 14

Open and Closed Sessions

All the sessions of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall be closed. However, the STC may by simple majority, decide whether any of its sessions shall be open.

RULE 15

Working Languages

The working languages of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall be those of the Union.

RULE 16

Bureau

1. The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall, on the basis of balanced sectoral representation, rotation and geographical distribution, elect, after due consultations, a Chairperson and other members of the Bureau, namely, three (3) Vice-Chairpersons as well as a Rapporteur.
2. The Members of the Bureau shall hold office for a period of two (2) years.
3. The Bureau will meet once every year.

RULE 17

Duties of the Chairperson

1. The Chairperson shall:
 - a) preside over all the proceedings of the Ordinary and Extraordinary sessions;
 - b) open and close the sessions;
 - c) submit for approval the records of the sessions;
 - d) guide the proceedings;
 - e) submit to a vote matters under discussion and announce the results of the vote taken;
 - f) rule on points of order.
2. The Chairperson shall ensure order and decorum during the proceedings of the sessions.

3. In the absence of the Chairperson or in case of a vacancy, the vice-Chairpersons or the Rapporteur in order of their election shall act as the Chairperson.
4. The Chairperson shall attend the sessions of the Executive Council and the annual meeting of the Bureaus of all STCs.

RULE 18

Attendance and Participation

1. In accordance with Rule 4, the Ministers in charge of Transport, Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall attend and participate personally in the sessions. In the event that they are not in a position to attend personally, duly accredited representatives shall represent them.
2. The Representatives of the Organs of the Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) shall be invited to attend the sessions of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism.
3. The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism may invite, as Observer, any person or Institution to attend its sessions. Such observer may be invited to make oral or written interventions but shall not be entitled to vote.

RULE 19

Majority Required for Decisions

1. The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall take all its decisions by consensus or, failing which
 - a) at the Ministerial level, by a two-thirds majority of the Member States eligible to vote;
 - b) at the Experts' level, by a simple majority of the Member States eligible to vote
2. Decisions on questions of procedure shall be taken by a simple majority of Member States eligible to vote.
3. Decisions on whether or not a question is one of procedure shall also be determined by a simple majority of Member States eligible to vote.
4. Abstentions by a Member State eligible to vote shall not prevent the adoption by the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism of decisions by consensus.

RULE 20

Amendment of Decisions

1. A proposed decision or amendment (s) thereof may at any time, prior to it being submitted to a vote be withdrawn by the initiator.
2. Any other Member State may reintroduce the proposed decision or amendment that has been withdrawn.

RULE 21

Point of Order

1. During deliberations on any matter, a Member State may raise a point of order. The Chairperson, in accordance with these Rules, shall immediately decide on the point of order.
2. The Member State concerned may appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson. The ruling shall immediately be put to a vote and decided upon by simple majority.
3. In raising a point of order, the Member State concerned shall not speak on the substance of the issue under discussion.

RULE 22

List of Speakers and Use of the Floor

1. The Chairperson shall, subject to Article 23 of the Constitutive Act, during the debate, grant the use of the floor in the order in which the speakers indicate their intention.
2. A delegation or other invitee shall not have the floor without the consent of the Chairperson.
3. The Chairperson may, during the debate:
 - a) read out the list of speakers and declare the list closed;
 - b) call to order any speaker whose statement deviates from the issue under discussion;
 - c) accord the right of reply to any delegation where in his/her opinion a statement made after the list is closed justifies the right of reply; and
 - d) limit the time allowed to each delegation irrespective of the issue under discussion, subject to sub Rule 4 of this Rule.
4. The Chairperson shall, on procedural questions, limit each intervention to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

RULE 23

Closure of Debate

When a matter has been sufficiently discussed, the Chairperson shall close the debate at his/her discretion.

RULE 24
Suspension or Adjournment of the Meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a Member State may move for the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted. The Chairperson shall immediately put such motion to a vote.

RULE 25
Order of Procedural Motions

Subject to Rule 21, the following motions shall have precedence in the order listed below, over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

- a) suspend the meeting;
- b) adjourn the meeting;
- c) adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- d) close the debate on the item under discussion.

RULE 26
Voting Rights

1. Each eligible Member State shall have one vote.
2. Member States, subject to sanctions under Article 23 of the Constitutive Act, shall not have the right to a vote.

RULE 27
Vote on Decisions

After the debate has been closed, and there is no consensus, the Chairperson shall immediately put to a vote the proposal with all the amendments. The vote shall not be interrupted except on a point of order related to the manner in which the vote is being taken.

RULE 28
Vote on Amendments

1. The Chairperson shall put all amendments to vote when there is no consensus.
2. A proposal shall be considered as an amendment to a text if it adds or removes therefrom.

RULE 29
Methods of Voting

The methods of voting shall be determined by the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism.

RULE 30
Reports and Recommendations

The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism shall submit reports and recommendations arising from its deliberations to the Executive Council for consideration.

RULE 31
Implementation

The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism may lay down guidelines and supplementary measures to give effect to these Rules.

RULE 32
Amendments

The STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism may propose amendments to these Rules to the Executive Council for consideration.

RULE 33
Entry into Force

These Rules shall enter into force upon their approval by the Executive Council.

Adopted by the.....Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held.....