

AFRICAN UNION

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***WORKSHOP ON CONTINENTAL TRANSPORT POLICY, THE
AFRICAN ROAD SAFETY ACTION PLAN (2011-2020) AND
AIR TRANSPORT INSTRUMENTS***

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

19th – 23rd November 2018

DRAFT

CONCEPT NOTE

Department of Infrastructure and Energy

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I- BACKGROUND

1. Transport is an indispensable element of development and socio-economic growth. As vital engines of economic integration, transport infrastructure and services constitute a precondition for facilitating trade and the movement of goods and persons, hence, accelerating growth and poverty reduction. Given the challenges of globalization, Africa is lagging significantly behind in the development of regional trade due to, particularly, lack of reliable and adequate transport. Indeed, the existing transport networks for trade are largely outward-looking and poorly integrated.
2. It is to be acknowledged that transport networks and services throughout Africa have been steadily extended and improved over the last two decades. Still, there is a considerable task ahead to ensure that transport contributes substantively to achieving socio-economic transformation of Africa in the coming 50 years as set out in the Agenda 2063. Undertaking such a complex task requires making a long term projection with clear vision, objectives and means. In April 2014, African Ministers for Transport adopted the Malabo Declaration on Transport Sector Development in Africa which requested the African Union Commission (AUC), among others, to elaborate a long-term transport strategy for the continent to respond to the transport challenges of Agenda 2063.
3. In response, the AUC has prepared a draft transport policy paper, which sets out a common framework for delivering integrated and sustainable transport at continental, regional and country level. The approach encompasses all transport modes: road, rail, air, maritime and inland waterways as well as issues of urban mobility and all services for the movement of people and goods. It provides for options for reinforcing public-private partnership and relations with the development partners. The draft paper was presented to the first meeting of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Transport of the AU held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in December 2017 where it was agreed to finalise and validate the Continental Transport Policy framework for adoption by the AU policy organs by the end of 2018..
4. This workshop is the first step towards the adoption of the policy document by the Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Trans-continental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism (STC-TTIIET). It gives the opportunity to experts of the Member States, RECs, Specialised Institutions and other key stakeholders to validate the document before its consideration and endorsement by the STC-TTIIET followed by its submission to the next AU Summit for adoption.
5. Similarly, and in connection with the recommendation 64/225 of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 2nd October 2010), adopting a Plan of Action for Road Safety for the 2011-2020 Decade of Action, the African Ministers of Transport, at their Conference in November 2011 in Luanda, also adopted the African Road Safety Action Plan. The conference also adopted the Luanda Declaration which, among others, proclaimed the third Sunday of November which currently is the World's Remembrance Day for road accident victims as the African road safety day and asked the AUC to prepare an African Road Safety

Charter. On the other hand, the AUC and UNECA were also made responsible for following up and reporting on implementation of the continental road safety instruments including organising regular meetings on road safety in Africa to that end. The Luanda Declaration was endorsed by the 18th Summit of the African Union, held in January 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

6. It is now close to the end of the implementation of the Action Plan and therefore an appropriate time to ask the following key questions: to what extent have the activities in the Action Plan been implemented? What results have been achieved? What are the challenges in the implementation of the Action Plan and how can these challenges be overcome?
7. The Continental workshop will provide a platform to answer these questions. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to examine other continental initiatives in road transport. For instance, the African Heads of State and Government adopted the Intergovernmental Agreement on Standards and Norms for the Trans-African Highways (TAH) network in 2014. The Agreement has an annex on “Road Safety Guidelines for TAH Road Infrastructure and Safety Management”. There is a need to discuss implementation modalities for the road safety component of the TAH Agreement as well as the African Road Safety Action Plan within the framework of the African Road Safety Charter.
8. During the 30th Ordinary Summit of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Single African Air Transport Market was established on 28/29 January 2018. The number of countries that have subscribed to the solemn commitment has risen to twenty-six (26), namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo and Zimbabwe. The decision establishing the SAATM, Assembly/AU/Dec.665 (XXX), request the African Union Commission to expedite completion of the activities on the SAATM Road Map, ensure awareness and dissemination of key continental aviation frameworks especially the Yamoussoukro Decision Regulatory and Institutional Texts, the African Civil Aviation Policy (AFCAP) as well as undertake capacity building of Member States and RECs on application and domestication of those instruments.
9. Some key outstanding activities on the SAATM road map include (a) Formulation of an External Policy Guidelines and Binding Clauses for negotiation of Air Services Agreements with non-African states and regions and (b) Revision of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism for the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision. Previously, the African Union Commission had adopted guidelines for the negotiation of air service agreement with the EC and EU Member States. Based on these guidelines, the African Union Commission has drafted new guidelines for negotiation of air service agreements with third countries and/or regional blocks such as US, and China.. The Commission has also initiated a study to redraft the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the Yamoussoukro Decision. Therefore, the Continental workshop will also provide a platform for the air transport experts to consider these two instruments and recommend them to the STC-TTIIET.

II- OBJECTIVES

10. The overall objectives are:

- ✓ Validate the continental transport policy;
- ✓ Assess implementation the African Road Safety Action Plan, and
- ✓ Validation of Air Transport related instruments: External Policy on Air Services Agreement and the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the Yamoussoukro Decision.

11. The specific objectives are as follow:

I- Continental transport policy

- i) Review the continental transport policy document
- ii) Make the improvements required in the document to allow for its consideration by the STC-TTIIET Subcommittee on Transport

II- Road safety

- i) Determine the extent to which member States have implemented the African Road Safety Action plan including ratification of the African Road Safety Charter;
- ii) Identify the challenges to the implementation of the Action Plan as well as the remedial measures, focusing on key strategic issues related to road safety management with emphasis on data management; infrastructure; vehicle roadworthiness; road user behaviour; and post-crash management;
- iii) Adopt recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Action Plan;
- iv) Discuss short to medium term plans by partners to support the implementation of road safety activities in African countries.

III-Air Transport Instruments

- i) Review the draft External Policy Guidelines and Binding Clauses for Negotiation of Air Services Agreements with non-African states and regions;
- ii) Review the draft Dispute Settlement Mechanism and proposed institutions;
- iii) Make the improvements required in the document to allow these instruments to be considered by the STC-TTIIET.

III- OUTCOMES

12. In line with the specific objectives of the Continental workshop, the expected outcomes are as follows:

- ✓ Adoption of the document of the continental transport policy;
- ✓ Information on the extent to which African countries are implementing the African Road Safety Action Plan;

- ✓ Knowledge of the challenges to the implementation of the Action plan as well as the Road Safety annex of the Intergovernmental agreement for the harmonisation of norms and standards of TAH;
- ✓ Adoption of recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the African Road safety action Plan as well as expedite ratification of the African Road Safety Charter;
- ✓ Recommendation on the draft External Policy Guidelines and Binding Clauses for negotiation of Air Services Agreements with non-African states; and
- ✓ Recommendation on the draft Dispute Settlement Mechanism.

IV- ATTENDEES

13. The Ministries responsible for Transport, Public Works and Civil Aviation, Civil Aviation Authorities as well as the Civil Society are concerned by issues to be considered by the workshop. Therefore, experts of the Member State and RECs in the following domains are specifically expected to participate at the workshop: (a) Transport Planning and Policy Experts, (b) Road Transport Safety Experts and (c) Air Transport Legal Experts.
14. In that regard, the African Union Commission will sponsor three (3) Experts per Member State to cover the three domains: (a) Transport Planning and Policy (b) Road Transport Safety and (c) Air Transport Legal. The Commission will also sponsor one expert from each Regional Economic Community. Member States and RECs are urged to support participation of more experts as considered necessary covering the various issues to be discussed.
15. Besides the African Union Commission, the following institutions will also be invited to participate:
 - The NEPAD Agency;
 - The African Development Bank;
 - The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa;
 - The Regional Economic Communities;
 - The African Civil Aviation Commission;
 - African Civil Aviation Authorities of Member States
 - The African Airlines Association
 - Eligible African Airline Companies
 - The Union of African Railways;
 - The Pan African Association for Ports Cooperation;
 - Union of African Shippers' Councils;
 - Regional and international specialised institutions
 - Development Partners.

V- DATE AND VENUE

16. The continental workshop will be held at the African Union Commission's Headquarters in Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA, from 19th to 23rd November 2018.

17. CONTACTS

18. For further information relating to this Workshop, please contact the following Staff:

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