CONCEPT NOTE

THE SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION

SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TRANSCONTINENTAL & INTERREGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND TOURISM

STC-TTIET

THEME: DEVELOPING SMART INFRASTRUCTURE TO BOOST AFRICA’S CONTINENTAL TRANSFORMATION AND INTEGRATION

Cairo, Egypt

14th – 18th April 2019
I. BACKGROUND

1. The African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is organizing the second meeting of the African Union (AU) Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism (STC-TTIIEET) which is scheduled to be held in Cairo, Egypt from the 14th to the 18th April 2019.

2. The STC-TTIIEET is the Ministerial decision-making organ of the African Union for the transport, energy, tourism sectors as well as overall infrastructure development matters. It was established with other similar sectoral organs initially as the Committee on Transport Energy and Communications under Article 25 of the African Economic Community Treaty (the Abuja Treaty) adopted by the Assembly of the Organisation of the African Unity (OAU) in 1994 and, subsequently, under Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted by the AU Assembly in 2000. It was finally reconfigured into the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism in February 2009 by the AU Assembly through its decision: Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII).

3. Replacement of the sector specific Ministerial conferences with STCs is aimed at fostering multi-sector dialogues and, hence, formulation of comprehensive development strategies for the concerned sectors. STCs are expected to provide a platform for all stakeholders including the private sector and academia to share knowledge, experiences and solutions to common challenges in the development of the concerned sectors.

4. In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the STC meets biennially (once every two years). Institutional arrangement of the STC, its Sub-Committees and working groups enables all stakeholders to be adequately informed and involved in the implementation and reporting mechanisms of the STC Plans of Action. The first meeting of the STC took place from 13th to 17th March 2017 in Lomé, Togo under the generous hosting of the Government of the Togolese Republic.

5. The current Bureau of the STC-TTIIEET is as follows:

   Chair : Togo (West Africa), Transport Sector
   1st Vice-Chair : Mauritania (North Africa), Energy Sector
   2nd Vice-Chair : Zimbabwe (Southern Africa), Tourism Sector
   3rd Vice-Chair : Ethiopia (East Africa), Energy Sector
   Rapporteur : Congo (Central Africa), Transport Sector

II. THEME AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SECOND STC-TTIIEET MEETING

6. The first session of the STC-TTIIEET rallied around the theme: Financing Infrastructure in Africa. The second session proceeds to focus on the development of transport and energy infrastructure as well as tourism towards the achievement of specific AU Agenda 2063 goals. To underscore this direction, the theme selected for the second session of STC-TTIIEET is:

   “Developing SMART Infrastructure to boost Africa’s Continental Transformation and Integration”
7. During the last two years following the conclusion of the first session of the STC-TTIET in Lomé, Togo, the AUC has further refined and updated the STC sectoral Plans of Action developing their monitoring and evaluation mechanism. In that regard, the Bureau of the STC and the three STC Sub-Committees (Transport, Energy and Tourism) held meetings in July 2017 (Bureau), December 2017 (Transport), March 2018 (Energy) and October 2018 (Tourism) to review implementation, consider and update the Plans of Action. Furthermore, various working groups and experts’ meetings have taken place on implementation of specific activities in the STC Plans of Action.

8. In the transport sector, the most prominent was the meeting of the Ministerial Working Group on the Single African Air Transport Market (MWG-SAATM) which addressed most issues in the Air Transport Action Plan of the STC. Other meetings involved the Railway Working Group and the Oversight Committee on implementation of the African Maritime Transport Charter. In November 2018, a continental workshop was organised to consider the draft continental transport policy as well as some key road and air transport instruments.

9. In the energy sector, technical meetings on various ongoing programmes were held. Under the Geothermal Development Programme, Oversight Committee meetings of the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) including the successful launch of the 5th Application Round. The programme for “Harmonised Regulatory Framework for Electricity Market in Africa” organised several technical meetings to discuss ongoing activities which include piloting the implementation of a continental transmission tariff model and development of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS). Technical workshops were held in relation to the Africa Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines under which Regional Development Strategies and Investment Plans are being developed. Workshops were also organised for new programmes namely Small Hydropower Development, Solar Energy Policy Framework and Renewable Energy in African Island States.

10. The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), which serves as the reference programme for regional and continental infrastructure development in Africa, continues to contribute to the success of regional integration. Since the adoption of PIDA in January 2012, notable achievements have been recorded in all four sectors of Energy, Transport, ICT and Trans-boundary Water, ranging from establishing institutional and operational structures to projects preparation and implementation. In 2018, together with its partners, the AUC has been able to record some successes towards the implementation of the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PAP), which resulted in the creation of 112,900 direct jobs and 49,400 indirect jobs. Meanwhile, the first phase of PIDA-PAP is set out for implementation up to 2020 and the AUC has concluded the procurement of the services of a consulting firm to carry out an independent review of its implementation to date. The PIDA-Week meeting held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in November 2018, initiated the steps of defining the PIDA-PAP 2 process, taking into consideration gender mainstreaming, climate resilience and basic infrastructure access to remote and rural communities.

11. In the tourism sector, a working group of tourism experts was convened at the headquarters of the AUC in December 2018 to finalise the draft Continental Tourism Strategic Framework and draft Statutes on the establishment of the African Tourism Organisation. The first meeting of the Sub-Committee on Tourism held in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2018 called for speeding up implementation of the two priority activities in the Tourism Action Plan of the STC. A continental validation workshop for these key instruments of the tourism sector has been scheduled in March 2019.
12. Therefore, it would be acknowledged that the second session of the STC-TTIIET is taking place in a context abound with a wealth of decisions, actions and information tailored to the goals of the STC. In that regard, the session will focus on actions undertaken and planned for implementation of agreed activities rather than on conceptual and brainstorming exchanges. To that end, the main objectives of the second session will be, first and foremost, to evaluate implementation of the updated STC Plans of Action as well as address the challenges and, finally, agree on the way forward.

13. The specific objectives are:

- Election of the Bureau of the STC-TTIIET for the 2019-2021 period;
- Consideration of the Reports and key recommendations of meetings of the Sub-Committees and working groups on Transport, Energy and Tourism as well as of the PIDA organs;
- Consideration of the implementation status of the Plans of Action of the STC-TTIIET;
- Consideration of the infrastructure needs of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) with a view to identifying joint actions of the STC-TTIIET and STC on Trade, Industry and Minerals (STC-TIM);
- Consideration and recommendation of specific initiatives (special programmes, policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks) to be submitted for adoption by the AU Assembly;
- Consideration and adoption of updated STC Plans of Action for 2019-2021; and
- Adoption of a Ministerial Declaration on the commitments of the meeting.

III. AGENDA

EXPERTS’ MEETING: 14TH – 16TH APRIL 2019

A. FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Preliminaries

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

Plenary Working Sessions

1. Consideration of the infrastructure needs of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) with a view to identifying joint actions of the STC-TTIIET and STC on Trade, Industry and Minerals (STC-TIM);

   - Overview report of the AUC
   - Reports of stakeholders: RECs, specialised institutions and partners as specified in each action including specific commitments;
   - Update on the STC PIDA Action Plan
3. Consideration of Reports and key recommendations of the PIDA organs.

B. THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSIONS: ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

B.1 ENERGY

   - Overview report of the AUC
   - Reports of stakeholders: RECs, specialised institutions and partners as specified in each action including specific commitments;
   - Update on the STC Energy Action Plan

2. Energy Market Development and Investments Promotion
   - Regional Geothermal Program and Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility Operationalization;
   - Africa Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines Implementation;
   - AUC Initiative on Harmonized Regulatory Framework in the Electricity Market in Africa;
   - Small Hydropower Development and Solar Energy Policy Framework (SEPF)
   - Renewable Energy in African Island States (REAIS)

3. Partnerships
   - Africa Energy Commission (AFREC)
   - AU Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
   - African Development Bank (AfDB)
   - Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI)
   - Africa EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)
   - International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
   - African Electrotechnical Standardization. Commission (AFSEC)

B.2 TRANSPORT

   - Overview report of the AUC
   - Reports of stakeholders: RECs, specialised institutions and partners as specified in each action including specific commitments;

2. Consideration of the Reports and key recommendations of the Continental Workshop on Transport Policy and other transport working groups.

   i) Air Transport
      - Status of implementation of the Priority Action Plan of the African Single Air Transport Market (SAATM);
      - Consideration of implementation status of the Abuja Aviation Safety Targets including ANS and the Windhoek Aviation Security and Facilitation Targets for Africa;
      - Status of the CBA study for SBAS for Africa;
      - Update on the Air Transport Action Plan
ii) Railway Transport
   - Status of the Vision 2040 for Railway Revitalisation in Africa;
   - Status of the Union of African Railways;
   - Status of the Continental High-Speed Railway Network (CHSRN) flagship project;
   - Update on the Railway Transport Action Plan

iii) Road Transport and Corridors
   - Status of the Smart Corridors project;
   - Status of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Road Standards for Trans-African Highway;
   - Update on the Road Transport Action Plan.

iv) Maritime Transport
   - Status of the African Maritime Transport Charter;
   - Implementation Status of the study on enhancement of Ports Capacity and Efficiency for Economic Growth in Africa;
   - Update on the Maritime Transport Action Plan.

B.3 TOURISM

   - Overview report of the AUC
   - Reports of stakeholders: RECs, specialised institutions and partners as specified in each action including specific commitments;
   - Update on the Tourism Action Plan.

2. Consideration of the Continental Tourism Strategic Framework;

C. SECOND PLENARY SESSION

- Consideration and adoption of Updated Action Plans
- Consideration and adoption of the Experts’ Report

D. CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE EXPERTS’ MEETING

MINISTERIAL MEETING: 17TH – 18TH APRIL 2019

A. PRELIMINARIES:
   - Opening Ceremony;
   - Procedural matters:
     - Election of the STC-TTIIEET Bureau for 2019 – 2021
     - Adoption of Agenda and Work program.

B. WORKING SESSIONS:
   1. Consideration of the Report of the Experts’ Meeting;
2. Consideration and adoption of updated STC Plans of Action for 2019-2021;
3. Adoption of a Ministerial Declaration on commitments of the meeting.

C. CLOSING CEREMONY

IV. EXPECTED RESULTS

14. The main expected results are:

1. A new Bureau of the STC-TTIET for the 2019-2021 period;
2. Status Reports on the implementation of the STC Plans of Action including recommendations on the way forward;
3. Updated STC Plans of Action for 2019-2021;
4. A Ministerial Declaration with high level commitments on implementation of the STC Plans of Action.

15. The adopted Ministerial Declaration, Ministers’ Report and the STC Plans of Action for the 2019-2021 arising from the deliberations of meeting will be submitted to the AU Summit for consideration and endorsement.

V. PARTICIPATION

16. In line with the structure of STCs, the following entities will be invited to the meeting:

1. Ministers and experts from the AU Member States who are responsible for the following sectors: Transport, Energy, Tourism and Infrastructure sectors
2. NEPAD Agency (AU Development Agency)
3. Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
4. Specialised Agencies and Institutions
5. Partner organisations including: AfDB, UNECA, UNWTO, EU, World Bank, etc.
6. Academia;
7. Private Sector and Civil Society.

VI. VENUE AND DATES

17. The Second Ordinary Session meeting of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism will be held in Cairo, Egypt from 14th to 18th April 2019.