

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
13–17 March 2017
Lomé, TOGO**

DRAFT DECLARATION OF LOME

<p>DECLARATION OF THE FIRST SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TRANSCONTINENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND TOURISM</p>
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We, the Ministers in charge of Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism, meeting in Lomé, Republic of Togo, on 17 March 2017, as part of the **First Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism**, organized by the African Union Commission in collaboration with the Government of Togo to consider strategies for strengthening the financing of the aforementioned sectors;

CONSIDERING:

1. The Treaty establishing the African Economic Community adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991;
2. The Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in Lomé on 11 July 2000, especially its Articles 14 to 16, which stipulate that the African Union Commission should in particular coordinate policies in the fields of Energy Transport, Communication and Tourism sectors;
3. The Declaration: Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XVIII) adopted by the Eighteen Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2012 which adopted the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) as the single policy and strategic framework for the development of infrastructure in Africa;
4. The Decision: Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) reconfiguring the existing STCs and created one on Transport, transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism;

UNDERSCORING :

1. 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);
2. The importance and role of regional infrastructure in political, economic and social development as well as the integration of Africa, in a bid to deepen its participation in the global economy;
3. The need of the African Member States to achieve the overall objective of accelerating continental integration through effective implementation of programmes and projects of the Union;
4. The potential of regional infrastructure development as a key leverage to create jobs;
5. The need to unlock the institutional and financial constraints in order to strengthen national and regional capacities and to increase the participation of national financial institutions in financing the infrastructure projects, notably the Priority Action Plan of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA-/PAP) to be implanted until 2020 and other AU flagship projects under the AU Agenda 2063;

CONCERNED BY:

1. The low level of development of infrastructure and transport, energy and tourism services in Africa as well as the high cost and low quality of energy, transport and tourism services in Africa in terms of availability, cost sustainability and security and consequently the poor access of African populations to modern services;
2. The multiplicity of rules, regulations and standards as well as the complexity of administrative procedures between African countries which hinder integration of interregional networks in the continent;
3. The huge financing needs and the low level of resources mobilized at the national, regional and continental levels for the preparation, implementation and maintenance of regional infrastructures;
4. The unprecedented challenges posed by climate change and the risks to attaining the objectives of Agenda 2063 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

RECALLING:

1. The AUC role to coordinate, and facilitate the harmonization of policies, regulations and standards for infrastructure and services on the African continent;
2. The central role of the Regional Economic Communities in the implementation of programmes and projects for the coordination and development of transport, energy and tourism infrastructure and services;
3. The primary role of AU Member States to incorporate continental policy, strategic and regulatory frameworks into national systems as well as implement regional and continental infrastructure projects in their territories.
4. The establishment of Africa Climate Resilient Investment Facility by the AUC, the Economic Commission for Africa, the World Bank and the African Development Bank to strengthen the capacity of African institutions and the private sector to plan, design, and implement infrastructure investments that are resilient to climate variability and change
5. The Paris Agreement on climate change provides an opportunity to turn climate change challenges into development opportunities. The implementation of the Agreement was launched during COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco from 7 to 18 November 2016

For the Transport Sector

TAKE NOTE OF;

1. The progress made in the establishment of Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and its current membership of 19 Member States;
2. The challenges encountered in the process of having the Yamoussoukro Decision Regulatory and Institutional Texts aligned and published after the January 2015 AU Summit;

3. The progress made on the implementation of the Abuja Safety Targets and activities undertaken by AFCAC and AFI States to meet the Safety Targets set by the Ministers in Abuja in July, 2012 through the Abuja Declaration and endorsed by the Heads of State of the African Union.
4. The provisions of the AU Constitutive Act and the Convention on international civil aviation which support the vision of one single sky facilitating the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of a single African air transport market, the introduction of an African passport issued by Member States, capitalizing on the global migration towards e-Passports, the Public Key Directory (PKD) and Advanced Passengers Information (API), and the abolishment of visa requirements for all African citizens in all African Countries by 2018; and
5. The Updated plans of the Transport Sector 2017-2019;
6. The progress made in the implementation of EGNOS in Africa project and capacity building of the JPO;
7. The contribution and importance of the African Road Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA) in mobilizing finance for the maintenance of roads and hence sustainable development and effective integration of Africa
8. The lack of oversight and coordination mechanism for a harmonious development of the railways sector in Africa.
9. The progress made in the implementation of Continental Project Number 3 on the Design of Smart Corridors which includes Efficiency Monitoring System which will be piloted in two corridors.
10. The progress in the dissemination of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Road Standards and Norms for Trans Africa Highway Standards (TAHs) and The African Road Safety Charter through workshops held in Abuja, Rabat and the one to be held in Nairobi in April 2017.
11. The outstanding lack of full force of the African Maritime Transport Charter since its adoption in 2010.

AFFIRM;

1. The need for improvement of aviation security by implementing of the UN Security Council Resolutions 2178 and 2309 on countering terrorist threats to civil aviation and adopt the ministerial Declaration and targets on aviation security and facilitation in Africa as well as the need for updating Aviation Safety Targets in Africa by adding among others targets related to air navigation taking into account the establishment of specific programmes aimed at enhancing aviation infrastructure development for alignment with the objectives set out under the AU Agenda 2063, the African Civil Aviation Policy, the ICAO's Global Aviation Safety and Global Air Navigation Plans.

INVITE;

1. The Executing Agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision to consult with the AUC and the Monitoring Body of the YD in establishing the necessary institutions for the Dispute Settlement Mechanism and resubmit a revised draft text on Dispute Settlement Mechanism;
2. All African member States to join the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) for those who have not done so.

REQUEST;

1. AUC and the relevant AU Organs in charge of counter terrorism such as African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and AFRIPOL in coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), INTERPOL and other international partners to support the implementation of the Aviation Security and Facilitation Targets and Action Plan for Africa and the Windhoek Declaration and targets on Aviation Security and facilitation in Africa;
2. To refer the above Institutional and Regulatory Texts for expedited adoption through the AU process as recommended by the AUC Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC);
3. AUC to consider granting ARMFA the status of Specialised Agency of the African Union;
4. AUC to take the necessary measures to revive and strengthen the Union of African Railways (UAR) as a Specialised Agency of the African Union in harmonising policies, strategies, regulations and standards for the railways industry as well as coordinating regional and continental railways programmes;
5. RECs and/or Corridor Management Institutions (CMI) to work with relevant stakeholders and development partners to convert their corridors into smart corridors guided by the SMART Corridor Definition and Characteristics provided.
6. Member States to speed up ratification of the African Maritime Transport Charter to enable it to enter into full force.

RECOMMEND;

1. Launching of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) in June 2017;
2. The adoption of the revised functions of the Monitoring Body of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) of 1999 as provided for in the Article 9.2. The revised functions will now replace Annex 2 of the same decision
3. The endorsement of the Windhoek Declaration and targets on aviation security and facilitation in Africa by the next AU Assembly;

4. The organization of the Third Annual ICAO World Aviation Forum in Africa within the framework of PIDA and in coordination with ICAO, NPCA, AfDB and UNECA this year with focus on aviation infrastructure development and financing in Africa;
5. The revision of the Abuja Safety Targets considering new timeframes, emerging issues in safety and new Air Navigation Performance Indicators for Africa.
6. The adoption of the aligned Regulations on Competition in Air Transport Services within Africa, Regulations on the Protection of Consumers of Air Transport Services and regulations on the Powers and Functions of the Executing Agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision;
7. The AUC to establish a continental cost benefit study and strategy on the implementation of the SBAS project in Africa; taking into consideration existing initiatives in the implementation of EGNOS in Africa; and
8. Member States to implement the Intergovernmental Agreement on Road Standards and Norms for Trans Africa Highway Standards (TAHs) and Roadmap for accelerating the implementation of African Road Safety Action Plan that was adopted at the Third African Road Safety Conference jointly organized by ECA and AUC in Addis Ababa in July 2015. In particular, ECA and AUC with the African Transport Policy Programme to develop a minimum set of road safety indicators to ensure comparability between African countries

For the Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure

TAKE NOTE OF:

1. The PIDA- PAP Implementation progress report;
2. The AU 2063 Agenda and its First 10 year Implementation Action Plan as well as the AfDB's new initiative high five ;
3. The study conducted by the Africa region office of the International Union of Railways - Union Internationale de Chemin de Fer (UIC) – on the revitalisation of railway in Africa by 2040 and adopted by the African Union.

INVITE;

1. AUC and NPCA to conduct and make available by end of 2017, a comprehensive Mid-term Review in order to take stock on the successes and weaknesses in the implementation process of the PIDA PAP;
2. The partners including the African Development Bank, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the European Union to provide technical and financial support in achieving this study;
3. AUC and NPCA to pay attention to the emerging needs and priorities including climate change resilient infrastructure, job creation as well as Agenda 2063 aspirations for the current and next phases of the implementation of PIDA;
4. All African Stakeholders to enhance co-ordination of the various institutions (Member States, RECs, AUC, NPCA, international partners and the private

sector) involved in PIDA to avoid duplication, ensure greater synergies and effective utilisation of scarce resources;

5. The African Union to setup a mechanism for the operationalization of the UIC study for the implementation of the selected projects.

REQUEST;

1. Member States to develop strong ownership of PIDA PAP projects and include them in their national budgets and plans;
2. Member States to mobilize technical and financial resources for the implementation of the PIDA-PAP until 2020.
3. Member States to propose new regional projects for the second PIDA Priority Action Plan from 2020-2030.
4. Member States strongly urge to contribute and sustain project preparation and development for PIDA PAP project by making financial contributions to the Service Delivery Mechanism and the NEAPD IPPF as tools to create capacity for early stage project preparation and delivery of bankable infrastructure projects to attract investments.
5. Member states to adopt an integrated corridor approach to infrastructure development and maintenance that is multi-sectorial by involving private sector participation and promotes innovative structuring and financing.
6. Member states encouraged to creates a conducive investment climate by formulating and harmonising legal and regulatory frameworks to unlock private sector investment in trans boundary infrastructure projects
7. Member States to undertake measures to strengthen capacities in member states and regional economic communities in project preparation, structuring, negotiation and management of Public-Private Partnerships
8. Member States to develop strong and effective Project Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks and for the development of trans-boundary infrastructure projects throughout the project cycle and to make available information and data on infrastructure projects as inputs for job estimation;
9. Member States to engage in strategic partnerships with key private sector actors, civil society and Centres of Excellence to promote vocational training, internships, and transition-to-work initiatives in energy infrastructure development
10. Member States to support the capacity building and access to funding of African SMEs, so that they qualify for infrastructure tenders and can provide supplies for infrastructure projects
11. Encourage African countries to give preferential treatment to African companies when bidding in construction tenders in particular projects financed by African institutions;
12. Member States to launch project finance training programs to enable African consulting companies to provide the required project finance support for infrastructure development (e.g., financial advisory, legal support to set up institutional and legal structures, negotiate contracts with suppliers of equipment and services, arrange for equity/debt finance and risk mitigation structures);

13. AUC to convene a dedicate resource mobilization round table involving key donors and MS for the purpose of ensuring that adequate financial resource for projects preparation;

14. AUC and NPCA to:

- a. Finalise and disseminate the Job Creation Toolkit to estimate and track labour market effects of regional infrastructure programs
- b. Provide a practical guide for project implementers on how to integrate skills development and employment promotion in the infrastructure project lifecycle
- c. Support the creation of a Platform that matches African Infrastructure Projects with African Suppliers, enabling project sponsors, governments, development partners, African Civil Society and the private sector to collaborate in needed interventions

For the Energy Sector

TAKE NOTE OF;

1. The efforts of Member States in the implementation of regional energy infrastructure projects.
2. The “New Deal in Energy for Africa” launched by the African Development Bank aimed at achieving universal access to energy by 2025.
3. The efforts made and the achievements since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Geothermal Energy in 2009 and the operationalization and challenges of the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility, as well as the technical and financial support provided by the international development partners.
4. The progress, achievements and challenges in the implementation of the AUC programme on “Bioenergy Development in Africa” over the last five (5) years.
5. The implementation progress and the achievements of the AUC Initiative on “Harmonized Continental Policy and Regulatory Frameworks in the Electricity Sector”.
6. The progress achieved by the African Energy Commission (AFREC) in developing the African Energy Information System and making it available for use by the African Member States, RECs and specialized institutions.
7. The efforts of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) and its partners in developing and updating the “Atlas of Africa Energy Resources”.
8. The submission of the Ad-HOC Report on “Electrification and Connectivity to Post Offices” by the AUC as requested by the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies (STC-CICT-1) ((Decision EX.CL/Dec.900 (XXVIII) Rev.1) for consideration.
9. The role of standardization and conformity assessment as a means to make the Smart Grids concept more available and flexible to integration of renewable energy for African utilities and populations.
10. The successful implementation of several initiatives led by regional and international institutions and partners that add value to the energy sector in Africa.
11. The hydropower potentials that could be exploited to provide affordable and sustainable power to support industrialization in Africa.

AFFIRM;

1. The role of AUC and the GRMF programme in encouraging public and private investors as well as public private partnerships to develop geothermal prospects for power generation in Eastern Africa.
2. The role of AUC and its Continental and Regional Partners in consultation with Member States to ensure the harmonization of policies and regulatory frameworks in the electricity sector.
3. The roles of the AUC, UNECA and NPCA in ensuring the coordination and implementation of the Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines at the continental, regional and national levels.
4. The role of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Action Agendas as a suitable implementation framework for SDG7 at the national level and platform for coordination of partners.
5. Our commitment to support the development, functioning and operation of the African Energy Efficiency Indicator Database by committing our institutions to full and substantive involvement in the implementation and operation of this Database.

ADOPT;

1. The AUC Strategy Document and Action Plans towards the implementation of the Initiative on “Harmonised Continental Policy and Regulatory Frameworks in the Electricity Sector.
2. The AUC Ad-HOC Report on “Electrification and Connectivity to Post Offices” as referred by the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies (STC-CICT-1).
3. The Green Mini-Grid (GMG) Africa strategy highlighting the policy and regulatory measures to be undertaken to scale-up the deployment of mini-grids in Africa.

REQUEST;

1. The AUC, NPCA and UNECA to (a) review and/or develop Regional Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines and Action Plans for the Regional Economic Communities; and (b) Create a finance and Projects Preparation Facility to assist private and public sector project developers in Bioenergy development.
2. The Member States to fully support the New Deal on Energy, as a programme to accelerate access to energy on the continent.
3. The AUC and its partners to mobilize resources to accelerate the operationalization of the Geothermal Centre of Excellence and to extend the technical and financial assistance to other African Member States.
4. The AUC to create a platform for sharing of best practices and experiences in the implementation of energy projects.
5. The AUC in collaboration with all relevant Pan African Continental and Regional Institutions to: (a) Establish a Continental Coordination Unit and implement the Action Plans of the Initiative on “Harmonised Continental Policy and Regulatory Frameworks in the Electricity Sector”; and (b) Mobilise funding to provide technical assistance to Member States, RECs and Regional Power Pools in the implementation of the Action Plans.

6. The SE4ALL Africa Hub to continue its coordination and facilitation role for the implementation of SE4ALL in Africa and to place a particular focus on mobilizing support towards implementation of the priorities identified in the Action Agendas and Investment Prospectuses.
7. The AUC and its Partners to provide political and technical support to Member States to ensure the connectivity of post offices in rural electrification programmes.
8. The AUC, the AfDB, the NPCA and other regional and continental organizations to mobilize the necessary financial and technical resources to implement the project on “African Energy Efficiency Indicator Database”.
9. The AUC to plan, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the existing and new energy initiatives that add value to the energy sector in Africa by contributing to sustainable energy access, energy security and energy efficiency in the African energy sector.

RECOMMEND;

1. The Member States to support the development of the African Energy Efficiency Indicator Database, establish their individual national energy databases and provide all kinds of assistance, especially providing reliable energy data and related information, timely and consistently, and preserve the spirit of partnerships for the implementation of this project.
2. The Member States to provide support to the implementation of the AUC Initiatives on: (a) The Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility; (b) The programme on Bioenergy development in Africa; (c) The harmonized Continental Policy and Regulatory Frameworks in the Electricity Sector; and (d) the Green Mini-Grids (GMGs) Africa strategy.
3. The Member States and Institutions to join and support AFSEC as a platform for active participation in the process of standardization and conformity assessment.
4. The Member States to set-up national Coordination Units to facilitate the implementation of the SE4All Action Agendas.
5. The AUC and its partners to improve the procedures of awarding grants and disbursement of funds in the GRMF Programme and to accelerate the establishment of the Africa Geothermal Centre of Excellence for research and development as well as capacity building targeting both public and private sector experts in African countries.
6. The AUC and the AfDB to: (a) Accelerate the implementation of the AREI; (b) request Member States to integrate the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) framework into their national development plans; and (c) continue to monitor and track projects implementation in Member States.
7. The AUC and AfDB to support Member States in the development of hydropower infrastructures.
8. The AUC to extend its utmost financial and political support for the successful implementation and operation of the African Energy Efficiency Indicator Database.
9. The Member States to integrate the concept of the Clean Energy Corridors into their national renewable energy and climate change agendas as well as the process of creation of a sustainable and low-carbon power markets.

10. The Member States to seize the opportunities of off- and mini-grid solutions in providing access to rural areas. The Member States to transform their utilities through reforms addressing tariff issues, losses and operational inefficiencies conducive to attracting more private sector involvement.
11. The Member States to recognize large hydropower systems as renewable energy.

For the Tourism Sector

TAKE NOTE OF;

1. AU Agenda 2063 ten year implementation plan and Agenda 2030 for sustainable development
2. AU/NEPAD tourism action plans and the 2014 Seychelles tourism communiqué
3. The challenges facing tourism development in the continent

AFFIRM;

1. The need to make Africa the preferred tourism destination, first for fellow Africans then the rest of world.
2. The importance of the tourism sector as key to addressing our respective development priorities, including poverty eradication.

INVITE;

1. The AUC and NEPAD to spearhead the implementation of the tourism action plans.
2. Partners including UNECA and donors to provide the necessary technical and financial support to the development of the sector with a view to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.
3. All African tourism stakeholders to work together towards ensuring that the sector's potential is realised in the continent.

REQUEST;

1. **Member States** to prioritise the tourism sector as an important economic sector for the realisation of the Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030
2. **Member States** to ensure that they undertake necessary measures to ease the movement of people within the continent
3. **Member States** to develop appropriate tourism products for the African tourist markets and to enhance their regional tourism marketing efforts
4. **Member States** to take the all necessary measures to ensure safety and security of the continent
5. **Member States** to share best practices

URGE;

1. **Member States** to allocate a sufficient amount of their national budgets towards the development of the tourism sector.

2. **Member States** to ensure that their respective destinations are appropriately competitive particularly in terms of quality and standards, price competitiveness, accessibility and safety and security.
3. **Member States** ensure the establishment of a conducive policy and regulatory environment.
4. **Member States** to establish a tourism fund geared towards supporting indigenous tourism entrepreneurship.
5. **African Development Bank** to consider extending necessary support towards the development of tourism infrastructure and related infrastructure

RECOMMEND THAT;

1. **AUC** in partnership with **Member States, RECs** and **all African tourism stakeholders**, ensure that the proposed African Tourism Organization is in line with AU Agenda 2063 10 year plan is established by March 2018;
2. A Directorate or Unit on Tourism be established in the structures of the AUC before December 2018 in order to provide policy support and coordination to the proposed African Tourism organisation.

DECIDE;

1. That the formulation of the AU Continental Tourism Framework to which member States should align their national tourism strategies in line with Agenda 2063 be urgently developed within one year of this declaration.

For Rural and Remote Areas

TAKE NOTE OF;

1. The urgency to provide adequate infrastructure in rural and remote areas in order to improve and enhance the quality of services and promote activities which are crucial to jobs creation, access to quality education and healthcare services
2. The AUC proposed Initiative to develop an integrated approach in unlocking access to basic infrastructure and services including energy, transport, water and ICT for rural and remote areas in Africa;

REQUEST;

1. The AUC to prepare a Strategy Paper and Action Plans for unlocking access to basic infrastructure and services including energy, transport, water and ICT for rural and remote areas in Africa

INVITE;

1. Member States and Development partners to provide technical and financial support to this initiative

In conclusion

APPEAL TO:

1. Member States of the African Union and Regional Economic Communities to strengthen inter-African and continental cooperation in the infrastructure sectors;
2. Member States to mainstream climate change into infrastructure planning and implementation; and further calls on member States to enhance efforts to invest in climate information and services
3. The various key regional and international partners including the African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the World Bank and the European Union to continue supporting the infrastructure development programme in Africa;
4. Member States to formulate harmonized policies and regulations for infrastructure development promoting the use of local content and industrial integration to create local jobs particularly for the youth, strengthen African Medium and Small Enterprises and ensuring technology transfer through vocational training;
5. AUC and NPCA to Develop and pilot the integrated corridor approach to link industrial hubs and rural areas, promote regional value chains thus creating new employment opportunities and test a methodology to estimate and track labor market effects of regional infrastructure programs.

REQUEST:

The African Union Commission to submit this Declaration to the next Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union for consideration and adoption

Done in Lomé, Togo, on 17 March 2017