



FIRST MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE ABIDJAN-LAGOS HIGHWAY

Abuja, 15 July 2013

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The First meeting of the Steering Committee of the Abidjan-Lagos Highway was held on 15 July 2013 in Abuja, Nigeria.
2. The meeting was convened by the ECOWAS Commission and the Chairman of the Steering Committee, Honorable Minister of Works of Nigeria, His Excellency **Arc. Mike O. ONOLEMEMEN**.
3. Indeed, in their last Summit, the Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 25th May 2013, directed ECOWAS Commission in collaboration of the Chairman of the Steering Committee to meet all the stakeholders to brainstorm on the legal and institutional arrangements, the Terms of Reference for the feasibility studies, the project timeframe, the funding mechanism and resources mobilization.
4. This Meeting was convened in compliance with these instructions, and was attended by the following Infrastructure, Works, Finance and Justice Ministers or their duly mandated Representatives:
 - Republic of Benin;
 - Republic Côte d'Ivoire;
 - Republic of Ghana;
 - Federal Republic of Nigeria;
 - Togolese Republic.
5. The following Institutions/Agencies also attended to the meeting: African Development Bank (AfDB), ECOWAS Bank of Investment and Development (EBID), West African Power Pool (WAPP), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), the Economic and Commercial Office of China Embassy in Nigeria and the Organization of Lagos-Abidjan Corridor (ALCO).

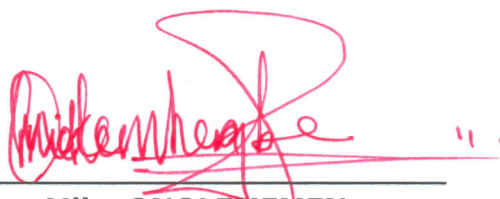
6. The Meeting welcomed the Decision of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to direct the ECOWAS Commission to focus its efforts on the success of the project mainly its feasibility, legal and institutional framework, timeframe, resources mobilization and funding mechanism.
7. The Steering Committee's Meeting subsequently considered the report submitted by Beneficiary States' Experts on the various issues discussed concerning , in particular:
 - a) Legal and institutional arrangements;
 - b) Terms of reference of the studies;
 - c) Project timeframe;
 - d) Funding mechanism and resources mobilization;
 - e) Recommendations
8. Concerning the legal and institutional framework, the Meeting approved the signing of a Treaty between the beneficiary States and directed the ECOWAS Commission to facilitate the finalization of documents for signature and ratification. The Meeting also adopted the proposed organizational scheme that is the creation of a Project Steering Committee, a Project Delivery Team and a Corridor Development Authority. On these issues, the Meeting directed the ECOWAS Commission to draft the manual of procedures on the organization, functions and mandate of the different organs created.
9. Regarding the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the feasibility studies, the Steering Committee adopted the studies in phases as follows: (i) Phase 1: technical, economic, social and environmental feasibility study and (ii) Phase 2: detailed engineering studies. To this end, the Committee set up an Experts Committee to review the TORs before end of July 2013.
10. Concerning the project timeframe, the Committee adopted the timeframe aiming to start constructions by 2014. It urges all stakeholders to do their best to meet such objectives.
11. Regarding the funding mechanism and the resources mobilization, the Committee agreed on the fact that to attract more investors, it is better to undertake a feasibility study including different modes of funding. Consequently, it directs the ECOWAS Commission to send a request to the AfDB to fund the feasibility study, due to the regional dimension of the project and the fact that it is on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Priority Action Plan.
12. The Steering Committee approved the idea to select one of AfDB, World Bank or AFC for advisory services in finance and project management.



13. Consequently, the Ministers' Meeting adopted the following Recommendations:
- To undertake a feasibility study as preliminary for any funding issues;
 - To urgently finalize the Treaty for signature and ratification;
 - To look for sustainable funding sources;
 - to engage the services of AfDB, World Bank or AFC as financial and project management advisers ;
 - To request through BRICS (Brazil, India, China, South Africa) members, particularly China and India and any other funding agency.
14. The Steering Committee Meeting respectfully requests the Authority of Heads of State and Government to approve the aforementioned Recommendations.
15. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on 11th October 2013 in Accra, Ghana.
16. Lastly, the Ministers' Meeting expresses its profound gratitude to **His Excellency, Goodluck EBELE JONATHAN**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Government and People of Nigeria for the warm welcome and authentic African hospitality extended to it during its stay in Abuja.

Done at Abuja, this 15th day of July 2013

The Chairman



Arc Mike ONOLEMEMEN

For the Steering Committee