



**THIRD MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
OF THE ABIDJAN-LAGOS HIGHWAY
Accra, 20 September 2013**

COMMUNIQUE

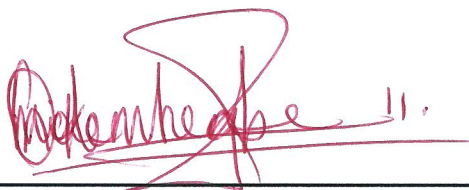
1. The third meeting of the Steering Committee of the Abidjan-Lagos Highway Corridor Project was held on 20th September 2013 at the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel in Accra - Ghana.
2. The meeting was convened by the Steering Committee through the Chairman, Honorable Minister of Works of Nigeria, His Excellency **Arc. Mike O. ONOLEMEMEN**.
3. The meeting was convened in compliance with the directives of the Presidents and Heads of States and Governments (HOSG) of member States involved in the Project (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria) at the margins of the 43rd meeting of ECOWAS Summit in Abuja-Nigeria on 18th July, 2013. In this meeting of the HOSG in Abuja, the Chairman of the Committee was instructed to report the progress of the project to the Presidents in all their Summits, with the next Summit scheduled to be held on 25th October, 2013 in Dakar, Senegal.
4. This Meeting was attended by the following Infrastructure/Works 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 Steering Committee's Meeting subsequently considered the report submitted by Beneficiary States' Experts on the various issues as follows:
 - a) Terms of reference of the studies ;
 - b) Legal and institutional arrangements;
 - c) Study Time frame;
 - d) Funding mechanism and resources mobilization;
 - e) Recommendations

6. Regarding the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the feasibility studies, the Steering Committee adopted the draft Terms of Reference as follows: (i) the limit of the design life span should be removed and left for the consultant to propose an appropriate economic design life with options of various scenarios (ii) Proceed to develop the Tender documents for the recruitment of consultants for the Study.
7. Regarding the funding mechanism and the resources mobilization, the Committee underscored the need for Member States to contribute some seed money to support feasibility and design studies as a sign of their commitment to attract investors and financial institutions.
8. Regarding the acquisition of the right of way, payment of compensation and resettlement matters, it was agreed that Member States should immediately commence the necessary processes to acquire same. They agreed that in the spirit of the project being implemented as a single unit with a supra-national status, the cost of compensation will be covered jointly under the project.
9. With respect to the proposal from the African Development Bank, the Committee agreed to immediately prepare a joint request to the Bank for the funding of the feasibility and design studies.
10. In connection with the Treaty, the Meeting accepted the draft Treaty and agreed to address the document to their respective Ministers of Justice for further consultations. Consequently, they gave the Legal experts three (3) weeks to further consider the draft Treaty and finalize at a meeting at the ECOWAS Commission on 10th October, 2013.
11. Regarding the proposals from African Finance Corporation and Osprey Investment it was agreed that the principle of transparency should guide the selection of financial advisors. Consequently, the Steering Committee Meeting adopted the following Recommendations:
 - a) The Steering Committee will coordinate issues relating to the mobilization of funds.
 - b) Consultations will be made with the relevant Ministers when necessary, to facilitate the implementation of the project.
 - c) Engage the services of a Transaction Advisor for the project through competitive bidding processes, to assist in efficient packaging of the project and to bring all financing structures together for smooth implementation.
 - d) The ECOWAS Commission to expedite the submission of additional information as a basis for the proper appraisal of the project as follows:
 - Cost of the study including cost of meetings
 - Indicative implementation schedule for the study
 - Funding request duly endorsed by concerned Member States
 - Revised TOR to be circulated to Development Partners for information
 - Draft the relevant tender documents for the studies

12. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire at a later date to be communicated to members. It was resolved that the Steering Committee Meeting will hold at least once every quarter on a rotational basis among Member States.
13. Lastly, the Ministers' Meeting expresses its profound gratitude to **His Excellency, John Dramani Mahama**, President of the Republic of Ghana, the Government and People of Ghana for the warm welcome and authentic African hospitality extended to it during its stay in Accra.

Done at Accra, this 20th day of September, 2013

The Chairman



**Arc Mike ONOLEMEMEN
For the Steering Committee**