



THIRD MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE ABIDJAN-LAGOS HIGHWAY PROJECT Yamoussoukro, 10th December, 2013

COMMUNIQUE

1. The third meeting of the Steering Committee of the Abidjan-Lagos Highway Corridor Development Project was held on 10th December, 2013 at Hotel President in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire.
2. The meeting was convened in compliance with the directives of the Heads of State and Government of the five Countries involved in the Project (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria) on the margins of the 43rd meeting of ECOWAS Summit in Abuja-Nigeria on 18th July, 2013. They also directed that they should be briefed on the margins of subsequent Summits with the next one scheduled to be held in January, 2014.
3. 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.

Also in attendance was the Mayor of the City of Yamoussoukro. Representatives from the AfDB, Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) and Osprey Investments Ltd were also present as technical and development partners.

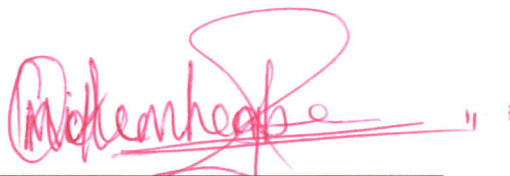
4. The Steering Committee subsequently considered the report submitted by the Legal and Road Infrastructure Experts on the first review of the Rules of Procedure. They also considered other key issues including:
 - a) Options for funding to fast-track the project implementation;
 - b) Way forward for design studies;

- c) Joint request to the AfDB ; and
 - d) Signing of finalized Project Treaty.
5. Regarding the Rules of Procedure, the Steering Committee considered the draft Rules of Procedure in terms of the following:
- a) The structure and designations of the various organs,
 - b) The relationship between the various management organs and other Regional Transport Facilitation Committees
 - c) The location of the permanent secretariat and its mandate
6. It was generally agreed that the immediate need is for a framework to ensure the construction of the Highway as envisaged by the Heads of State and Government. The proposed organs must therefore come with very clear mandates and functions consistent with the phases of the project.
7. Regarding the designation of the Corridor Management Organs, it was agreed that the structure and their functions should reflect the various phases and components of the project from the construction phase to the management phase. To this end, the Steering Committee as established by the Presidents will oversee the construction phase and be part of the governing Board of the Authority together with other Ministers as may be determined by the Heads of State.
8. On the issue of the management of the Corridor after construction, it was advised that the permanent organ should be referred to as the "Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Management Authority". In terms of its location, it was agreed that the principles of centrality, accessibility and section of the corridor in each country, should be key considerations. However, the decision of its location will ultimately be taken by the Heads of State.
9. Regarding options for resource mobilization and funding to ensure the speedy commencement of the project and to serve as a commitment to attract public and private sector investors and financial institutions, the Steering Committee agreed as follows:
- (i) Member States to contribute seed money totaling **US\$50million** for the implementation of the Project.
 - (ii) Mandate the ECOWAS Commission to engage partners such as the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) and Roughton International to submit proposals for the provision of transaction advisory services for the implementation of the project.
 - (iii) In addition, the Commission was mandated to continue discussions with partners such as the African Development Bank and Osprey Investments on funds mobilization from external partners and the private sector for the project.

10. Regarding the funding request to the African Development Bank, the Steering Committee mandated ECOWAS to finalize the joint request for the signature of the respective Ministers of Finance, to complement the request submitted to the AfDB by the ECOWAS Commission on behalf of the five (5) countries.
11. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in Cotonou, Benin on a date to be communicated to members. Before that, the ECOWAS Commission was asked to prepare all the necessary documents in consultation with the Chairman, in preparation for the consultation meeting with the Heads of State and Governments in January, 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
12. Lastly, the Steering Committee and Justice Ministers expressed their profound gratitude to **His Excellency, Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, the Government and People of Côte d'Ivoire for the warm welcome and authentic African hospitality extended to it during its stay in Yamoussoukro.

Done at Yamoussoukro, this day, 10th December, 2013

The Chairman



**Honourable Arc Mike ONOLEMEMEN
For the Steering Committee**