

MEETING OF THE ABIDJAN-LAGOS HIGHWAY PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. A meeting of the Steering Committee of the Abidjan-Lagos Highway Project (Highway Project) was held on 4th November, 2016 at the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire, Abidjan, Republic of Cote D'Ivoire.
2. The opening ceremony was marked by three statements delivered by the ECOWAS President, the Minister for Power, Works and Housing of Nigeria and Chairman of the Steering Committee and finally, by the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire. They all highlighted the importance of the Project and urged the various stakeholders to undertake a rapid implementation of this flagship project.
3. The objective of the meeting was to accord an opportunity to all stakeholders to be updated on latest progress on the HighwayProject and make recommendations to revive the activities of the Steering Committee mandated for the effective implementation of the Abidjan – Lagos Highway Development Programme.
4. This meeting was attended by the following Ministers of Infrastructure/ Public Works/ Transport:
 - Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
 - Republic of Ghana;
 - Federal Republic of Nigeria;
 - Togolese Republic.

The Minister of Infrastructure and Transports of the Republic of Benin, who could not attend the meeting and sent his apology.

5. The meeting of the Steering Committee reviewed and discussed the following points:
 - a. Progress on Ratification of Treaty
 - b. Current Status and Perspective of the Highway Project Development Study
 - c. Project Financing



6. Regarding the implementation of the Treaty, it was noted that the five Member States are yet to ratify the Treaty. However, all five Member States are making efforts to ensure that the Treaty is ratified.
7. Concerning the current status of the Highway Project, it was recognized that a number of Member States are undertaking interventions on certain sections of the Highway Project in the form of feasibility studies and actual upgrading works.
8. With regard to the Project Financing, it was noted that financing for the Study has been secured from the African Development Bank based on the following distribution:
 - (i) ADF Loan of UA3.0 Million distributed equally to the Republic of Ghana, Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Republic of Benin;
 - (ii) UA2.0 Million ADF Grant, distributed equally to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and the Togolese Republic; and
 - (iii) UA4 Million ADF Grant to the ECOWAS Commission, totalling UA9.0 Million, to finance part of the Study for The Abidjan – Lagos Highway Project Development.

In addition, the Bank successfully mobilized a 9.13 Million Euro grant from the EU Commission (Africa Investment Facility window) bringing the total financing in favour of this important study to UA16.28 Million (US \$22.72 Million).

9. The Steering Committee took the following decisions:
 - a. In order to improve the governance of the Steering Committee, Côte d'Ivoire was chosen as the Vice Chairman of the Committee to enable the above-mentioned committee to achieve its assigned objectives.
 - b. The Steering Committee will be convened on the last Thursday and Friday of every quarter to monitor and evaluate progress on the Highway Project development. The Steering Committee will meet as follows:
 - Togo: 30th-31st March 2017
 - Ghana: 29th- 30th June 2017
 - Nigeria: 28th- 29th September 2017
 - Benin: 7th- 8th December 2017

In the event these above-mentioned dates fall on a holiday, the host country will notify the Steering Committee in due time and the meeting will be held a week later.

- c. The Steering Committee decided to set up a Project Implementation Unit, which will have focal persons to drive local issues in each Member State. The Unit will be based in the ECOWAS Permanent Representation in Abidjan and will include a representative (Technical Expert) from each Member State. The ECOWAS Commission will write to each Member State to seek the appointment of the representative.



10. Finally, the Steering Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. The ratification of the Treaty should be done by **30th March 2017**.
 - b. The five Member States and the ECOWAS were invited to take necessary measures to ensure signature/ratification (if applicable) of their respective Financing Agreements with AfDB for the execution of the Study by **December 15th, 2016**.
 - c. The Study Delivery Team will convene on **28th-30th November 2016** in Abidjan to propose the specific timelines for the implementation of studies and works.
 - d. Each country must establish the right of way of the Highway Project traversing their territory using its internal mechanism to address local environmental and social issues.
 - e. Member States undertaking Feasibility Studies on sections of the Highway Project are requested to provide details on these studies to ensure synergy with the upcoming AfDB funded Study and avoid duplication of effort.
 - f. The Steering Committee strongly recommends that the Bank considers using a restricted tendering procedure for the recruitment of the Consultants in charge of undertaking the Highway Project Development Study.
11. Finally, the meeting of the Steering Committee expressed its deep gratitude to **His Excellency M. Alassane OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire** for the warm welcome and genuine African hospitality that was shown to them during their stay in Abidjan. The Ministers also expressed their congratulations to the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire on the successful organization of the meeting.

Done in Abidjan on 4th November, 2016

For the Steering Committee



H.E. Babatunde Raji FASHOLA, SAN
Chairman of the Steering Committee