



**7TH MINISTERIAL STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING FOR THE ABIDJAN-LAGOS
CORRIDOR HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Lome, 31st March, 2017**

COMMUNIQUE

1. The Seventh Ministerial Steering Committee Meeting for The Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Program was held on 31st March, 2017 at the PAC, Conference Centre of ECOBANK Transnational Incorporated in Lome Togo.
2. The primary objective of the meeting was to review the progress of implementation of key tasks contained in the Final Communiqué from the 6th Ministerial Steering Committee Meeting held in November 2016.
3. The Meeting was attended by the following Road Infrastructure/Works Ministers or their duly mandated Representatives:
 - Republic of Benin
 - Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
 - Republic of Ghana
 - Republic of Nigeria, and
 - Togolese Republic
4. Also in attendance were representatives from the five ECOWAS Member States, the ECOWAS Commission, ECOWAS Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU), Africa Development Bank (AfDB) and the Consultants working on the Legal and Institutional Arrangements for the Corridor Management Authority.

5. The proceedings of the Ministerial meeting covered the following issues:
 - a) Ratification of Project Treaty & Signing of the Financing Agreements
 - b) Establishment of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
 - c) Study Delivery Team
 - d) Timelines for the Feasibility and Engineering Design Study
 - e) Experts Report and Proposed Draft Documents

6. Having considered the draft documents presented by Chairperson of the Experts meeting, the Honorable Ministers hereby agree as follows:
 - a) Ratification of Project Treaty: Encouraging progress has been made since the last Steering Committee meeting with two (2) of the Member States ratifying. The remaining Member States yet to ratify largely due to delays encountered as a result of changes in Government, are in advanced stages of ratification and have given their firm assurances to complete the process by end of June, 2017.
 - b) Signing of the Financing Agreement: Acknowledged the signing of the Financing Agreement by two Member States and the ECOWAS Commission. Honorable Ministers representing Member States who are yet to sign assured the meeting of their commitment to sign their respective Agreements before the next meeting of the Steering Committee in early July, 2017.
 - c) Establishment of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU): The Steering Committee approved of the recommendation of the Experts to keep the Member State Nominees to the PIU based in their respective countries instead of permanently deploying them to Abidjan. The Steering Committee also approved the funding of the Member States PIU Nominee from the Project on a Per Diem basis and such other supplements as each Country may provide for its Nominee.
 - d) Timelines for the Feasibility and Engineering Design Study: Applauded the clear timelines set by Experts. Adopted the timeline subject to peculiarities of Member States to ensure that it is respected.
 - e) Urge Members of the Study Delivery Team (SDT) and PIU take strong ownership and commitment of the project to ensure the respect of the set timeline. They underscored the importance of all Member States working as a unit and not as individual countries.
 - f) Communication/Information Sharing: The Team of Experts to work with the AfDB and ECOWAS Commission to develop a Project web-based communications platform for all project stakeholders to ensure free flow of information and effective communications.

- g) Based on the set timeline, all contract award processes are expected to be concluded by the end of 2017, therefore, contract signature for the Feasibility and Detailed Engineering Design Studies is expected early January, 2018
- h) Next Steering Committee meeting will take place from July 4-7, 2017 in Accra Ghana. In view of the magnitude of the Corridor Project and the workload involved in review progress of all components, the Steering Committee agreed to a 3-Day period for subsequent Experts meeting.
7. Lastly, the Honorable Ministers express their profound gratitude to **His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, the President of the Togolese Republic**, the Government and People of Togo for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to it during its stay in Togo.

Done at Lome, this 31st day of March, 2017



Honorable Babatunde FASHOLA
Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Nigeria
(Chairman)