



**8<sup>TH</sup> STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING FOR THE ABIDJAN-LAGOS  
CORRIDOR HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
Accra, 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2017**

**COMMUNIQUE**

1. The Eighth Steering Committee Meeting for the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Program was held on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 at the La-Palm Royal Beach Hotel in Accra, Ghana.
2. The primary objective of the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting was to review the progress of implementation of the key tasks relating to project management, development and institutional issues as contained in the Final Communique from the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Steering Committee Meeting held in March 2017.
3. The 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee 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,
  - Togolese Republic
4. Also in attendance were representatives from the five ECOWAS Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Member States, the ECOWAS Commission, ECOWAS Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU) and the Africa Development Bank (AfDB).



5. The proceedings of the Ministerial Meeting covered the following issues:
  - a) Ratification of Project Treaty & Signing of the Financing Agreement
  - b) Establishment of the ALCOMA and Related Legal & Institutional Documents
  - c) Experts Meeting Report and Proposed Draft Documents
  - d) Trade and Transit Facilitation Needs Assessment
  
6. Having considered the draft documents presented by the Chairperson of the Experts Meeting, the Honorable Ministers hereby agree as follows:
  - a) **Ratification of Project Treaty:** The Meeting noted the progress made by Benin in the ratification of the Treaty being the only country yet to ratify the Treaty and invited the ECOWAS Commission to support the Government of Benin in the process.
  - b) **Signing of the Financing Agreement:** The ECOWAS Commission and the African Development Bank were invited to intervene in order to fast track the signing of the Financing Agreement by Ghana and Nigeria through their Diplomatic and official channels.
  - c) **Establishment of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Management Authority (ALCoMA) and Related Legal and Institutional Documents:** Noted the documents presented and approved the following:
    - The institutional design for the ALCoMA subject to the changes that may be proposed and agreed
    - Adoption of Option 2, which is a phased start-up of ALCoMA with only the key function and incremental addition of functions as the programme progresses in order to save cost.
    - Adoption of the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for the creation of ALCoMA.
  - d) The ECOWAS Commission will officially forward the final versions of the IGA and other institutional documents to the Steering Committee Members for their consideration and consultation with their respective Ministers of Justice and eventual signing of the IGA.
  - e) **Hosting of ALCoMA:** The ECOWAS Commission will write to Corridor Member States communicating the requirements for hosting ALCoMA indicating a period within which interested countries should apply for consideration by the Steering Committee.
  - f) **Location of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU):** The Steering Committee requested the ECOWAS Commission to write to all Corridor Member States on the justifications for locating the PIU in Abidjan in the first place and then state the reasons for proposing the relocation of the PIU for consideration at the next Steering Committee Meeting.



- g) **Communication & Information Sharing:** The Steering Committee acknowledged with appreciation the work done in the development of the Project web-based communications platform for all project stakeholders to ensure free flow of information and effective communications. They also recommended the inclusion of historical records and documents related to the Project to be posted on the website.
- h) The Steering Committee also commended the video clip prepared for communication and marketing which highlighted the Corridor's objectives and benefits. However, they requested a balanced presentation from Member State entities interviewed in the video. They particular advised inclusion of interviews of Corridor Member State experts and Port CEOs.
- i) The next Steering Committee Meeting will take place in October 2017 in Abuja, Nigeria. The ECOWAS Commission will communicate the final date to the Steering Committee by the end of August 2017.
7. Lastly, the Honorable Ministers express their profound gratitude to **His Excellency Nana Akuffo-Addo, the President of the Republic of Ghana**, the Government and People of Ghana for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to them during its stay in Ghana.

**Done at Accra, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017**



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