



**9TH STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING FOR THE ABIDJAN-LAGOS
CORRIDOR HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Abuja, Nigeria, 10th November, 2017**

COMMUNIQUE

1. The Ninth (9th) Steering Committee Meeting for the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Program was held on 10th November, 2017 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel in Abuja, Nigeria.
2. The objective of the Meeting was to review the progress of implementation of the key tasks relating to project preparation, financing, management and institutional issues as contained in the Final Communique from the 8th Ministerial Steering Committee Meeting held in August 2017.
3. Gracing the opening ceremony was His Excellency Professor Yemi Osinbajo SAN, GCON, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Also in attendance was His Excellency Marcel Alain de Souza, President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Ebrima Faal, the Country Director of the African Development Bank and Mr. Bashir Mamman, the President of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID).
4. The 9th Steering Committee Meeting was attended by the Ministers in charge of Road Infrastructure/Works of the Corridor Member States as follows:
 - Republic of Benin
 - Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, represented by Mr. Lancina Beh Coulibaly, Technical Advisor to the Minister of Economic Infrastructure
 - Republic of Ghana
 - Republic of Nigeria
 - Togolese Republic
5. Also in attendance were representatives from the five ECOWAS Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Member States, the ECOWAS Commission, ECOWAS Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU), the Africa Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union, USAID and EBID.

6. All Speakers expressed the importance of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Program and pledged their continued commitment to ensuring the successful implementation of the Corridor Highway Program.
7. The proceedings of the Ministerial Meeting covered the following issues:
 - a) Presentation & Discussions on Experts Meeting Report
 - b) Status of Ratification of the Project Treaty & Signing of the Financing Agreements
 - c) Update on the Activities for the Establishment of the ALCoMA and Related Matters
 - d) Location of the Headquarters of the ALCoMA
 - e) Location of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
8. Having considered the draft documents presented by the Chairperson of the Experts Meeting, the Honorable Ministers hereby agree as follows:
 - a) **Presentation & Discussions on Experts Meeting Report:** The Steering Committee acknowledged the good work by the Technical Experts and noted the revised time schedules for the various procurement activities. They urged the ECOWAS Commission and the Bank to play their respective roles in expediting the various process and adhere to the agreed timelines.
 - b) **Ratification of Project Treaty:** The Meeting noted and commended the progress made by Benin in the ratification of the Treaty being the only country yet to ratify. The Steering Committee urged Benin to continue pursuing its ratification and complete the process before the next Steering Committee Meeting.
 - c) **Signing of the Financing Agreement:** Ghana assured the Meeting to have the Loan Agreement signed before the end of 2017. The ECOWAS Commission and the African Development Bank were invited to continue following up with Authorities to ensure the timelines are respected.
 - d) **Establishment of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Management Authority (ALCoMA) and Related Legal and Institutional Documents:** All Members States will review the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and related legal documents submitted by the ECOWAS Commission, consult with their respective Justice Ministers and prepare for the signature of the IGA before the next Meeting.
 - e) **Hosting of ALCoMA:** Corridor Member States will submit their proposals to host the ALCoMA to the ECOWAS Commission and a report will be prepared by the Commission for consideration at the 10th Steering Committee Meeting. The agreed recommendations will be submitted to the Heads of State of the Five (5) Corridor Countries for a selection to be made.

- f) **Location of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU):** In order to ensure the effective operation of the PIU and avoid delays due to the potential communication gap between the Execution Agency which is the ECOWAS Commission and the Unit, the Steering Committee unanimously agreed to locate the PIU in Abuja where the ECOWAS Commission Headquarters is based.
- g) **Training in English and French Languages:** The Steering Committee tasked Technical Experts, the ECOWAS Commission and the AfDB to make arrangements for language lessons in French and English for Honorable Ministers and Project Focal Persons to acquire some knowledge in both languages to facilitate project implementation.
- h) The next Steering Committee Meeting will take place in March, 2018 in Cotonou, Benin. The ECOWAS Commission will communicate the final date to the Steering Committee by the end of January, 2018.
9. Lastly, the Honorable Ministers expressed their profound gratitude to **His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**, the Government and People of Nigeria for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to them during its stay in Nigeria.

Done at Abuja, this 10th day of November, 2017



Honourable Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN
Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Federal Republic of Nigeria
(Chairman)