

MINUTES OF THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN ROAD MAINTENANCE FUND ASSOCIATION (ARMFA)

Held in Libreville, Gabon, on December 17, 2003

1. Election of the Chairman of the General Assembly

The delegates elected Mr. Assiba ASSOUMOU-GUENOU, General Director of the Togo RMF as chairman of the session.

Mr. Jerome OBI ETA, former Minister of Public Works of Cameroon was elected facilitator of the general assembly.

Mr. Henry CHIPEWO from Zambia was elected as the rapporteur.

2. Preliminary observations

The Chairman opened the session at 3.30 pm by thanking the delegates for the confidence they had shown him by electing him Chairman. He also thanked Mr. ETA for having accepted to be the facilitator of the general assembly, asking him to use his vast experience to manage the debates.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The delegates adopted the proposed agenda.

4. Roll call

A roll call was then carried out. Sixteen countries were represented as members while one was present as an observer as indicated in the official attendance list of the meeting.

5. Discipline of debates

The delegates agreed that all mobile phones should be switched off during the meeting and that each speaker should have no more than three minutes so that all the items of the agenda could be dealt with.

6. Draft strategy plan

The delegates decided that the consideration and adoption of the draft strategy plan should be carried forward. To this effect, they mandated the Executive Secretariat to look into the said proposals and to table them, for consideration and adoption, at the next general assembly.

7. Consideration and adoption of the Statutes

After a long debate, the delegates adopted the draft Statutes resulting in the creation of the association, ARMFA, after various amendments. The delegates mandated the facilitator and the Zambian delegate to produce a final version in the two official languages of ARMFA. The Executive Secretariat was given the responsibility of ensuring that the articles are in conformity with international law.

8. Election of an Executive Committee

In reconnaissance of the remarkable work done by the Gabonese RMF and the government of Gabon in organizing and hosting the first general assembly, the delegates elected Gabon as the first President of the Association. They also elected Zambia as first Vice President in keeping with the statutes, given that this country is in Southern Africa and is English speaking.

They further elected Côte d'Ivoire as second Vice President still in keeping with the Statutes as this country is represented by a female delegate.

The post of Auditor of the association was attributed to Cameroon.

9. Subscription by members

The delegates decided that membership subscriptions should be fixed at US\$2,000 per annum, payable during the first quarter of every year starting from 2004, the payment currency being the US Dollar. The accounting period begins the 1st of January and ends the 31st of December.

10. Declaration of the General Assembly

The delegates mandated Chad, Cameroon and Mali to draft the final communiqué as well as the resolutions of the general assembly to be distributed at the end of the conference. The delegates also charged the Executive Secretariat to draft a motion of thanks to the government of Gabon for having hosted the meeting.

11. Date and place of the meeting

The delegates decided that the next meeting should be held in April/May 2004 in Lomé, Togo. This event should coincide with the AGEPAR meeting, which should be held during the same period and in the same place.

12. Speech of the new President

In his inaugural speech, the President of ARMFA, Mr. LEYAMA, thanked the delegates for the confidence they had placed in him by choosing him as the first President of the Association. He promised to make every effort so that the Association be constituted and recognized by as many institutions and governments as possible, for the RMFs to draw maximum advantage of their adhesion to the association.

13. Closing of the meeting

The agenda having been exhausted, the President closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

Libreville, December 18, 2003