

OUAGADOUGOU DECLARATION FOR THE EFFECTIVE REMOVAL OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS ON AFRICAN INTER-STATE CORRIDORS

WE, Ministers of Transport and Infrastructure, meeting in Ouagadougou on 5 November 2007 at the Annual General Assembly of the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme (SSATP) to launch the second Development Plan and identify a list of priority actions for 2008,

Reaffirming their endorsement of the Almaty Program of Action of 2003, addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries;

Reaffirming the Declaration of African Ministers of Transport and Infrastructure adopted in Addis Ababa in April 2005 on the importance of transport in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Reaffirming the Bamako Declaration of 17 November 2005 made at the SSATP Annual General Meeting reviewing the implementation of the Long Term Development Plan;

Reaffirming the Accra Ministerial Declaration of 8 February 2007 related to the importance of road safety;

Reaffirming the Ministerial Declaration adopted in Durban on 19 October 2007 at the First African Union Conference of Road Transport Ministers;

Recognizing the significant role that SSATP plays in transport policy development, capacity-building and the dissemination of good practices in the transport sector of Sub-Saharan Africa;

Recognizing the significant role played by corridor management authorities in the collection and monitoring of performance indicators along major transport corridors in Sub-Saharan Africa;

Concerned by the persistence of non-tariff barriers on Inter-State corridors;

Aware of the negative impacts of these barriers, in terms of time and cost, on trade competitiveness, market access, the development of economic opportunities and particularly on poverty reduction;

Mindful of the impact of corruption on compliance with transport and traffic regulations and subsequently on road safety;

Noting that non-tariff barriers on Inter-State corridors currently induce several million dollars in losses annually for African economies;

Noting the significant progress made by the countries and the Regional Economic Communities in the development and implementation of Inter-State transport and transit facilitation programmes and in the mainstreaming of networks;

Recognizing that these efforts must be accompanied by unflinching political determination to remove the non-tariff barriers on Inter-State corridors;

Taking into account the peculiar situation of States without coastlines which, in view of their landlocked nature, suffer the adverse effects of non-tariff barriers on Inter-State corridors;

Taking into account the conclusions of the SSATP annual ministerial meeting on corridor performance monitoring in the various sub-regions;

Taking into account the commitment of the donor community to support the SSATP second development plan (DP2);

Taking into consideration the specific needs of women in the transport sector;

Noting the availability of technical and financial partners to provide assistance for the development and modernization of the sector;

REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO:

1. *Work Relentlessly to reduce impediments to the free movement of people and goods on the Inter-State corridors within the framework of an effective regional integration. Specifically:*
 - *lobby within a national consensual framework to Institute and ensure the application of the principle of control at departure, border and final destination points for Inter-State road cargo traffic;*
 - *Support the REC efforts made in the harmonization of current national regulations in the area of road transport and ensure their effective enforcement, particularly with regard to Traffic Regulations, the observance of social and environmental norms as well as those pertaining to axle load;*
 - *support actions by, inter alia, the Regional Economic Communities and corridor management authorities, to measure performance in Inter-State road transport and transit facilitation based on relevant performance indicators ;*
 - *take measures to improve cross-border trade and cross-border relationships;*
2. *Appropriately inform the Highest National Authorities on actual progress achieved in transport facilitation:*
 - *To foster and secure strong ownership, particularly among ministerial departments in charge of security, State Parliaments and Heads of Government;*
 - *to take timely and concrete measures recommended by the national facilitation committees and the corridor management authorities to substantially reduce and eventually eradicate non-tariff barriers that persist on African road corridors;*

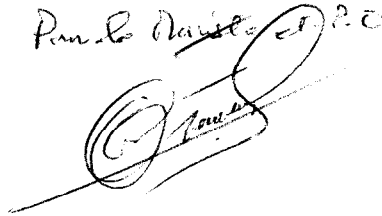
- *Ensure the effective enforcement of harmonized regulations* mainly in regard to: i) axle load, by conducting independent evaluations on the causes and levels of overloading along the main Inter-State transport corridors, and ii) standards of vehicle roadworthiness;
 - *Ensure strong monitoring of road safety issues along corridors and elsewhere, and the implementation of appropriate remedial measures;*
3. *Conduct awareness, accountability, information and training campaigns* for police and other enforcement agencies, users and professionals in the transport sector and all stakeholders, through the education and specialized training of professional drivers, and by fostering of authorities in setting up facilitation and law enforcement measures conducive international transit transport;

WE EXPECT THE SSATP SUPPORT TO THIS COMMITMENT THROUGH:

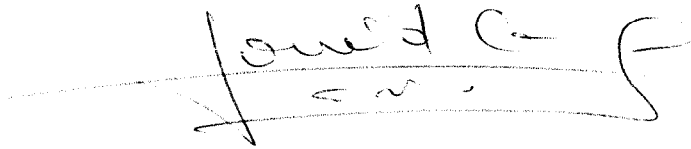
4. *Contributing to the consolidation and the extension of observatories;*
5. *Contributing to the dissemination of existing initiatives in terms of corridor monitoring and comparing performance between corridors, to support sensitization efforts for the authorities and the public;*
6. *Contributing to the reinforcement of sensitization actions led by RECs and corridor management structures, through the organization of high level meetings.*
7. *Provision of needed and increased funding for studies related to the implementation of the objectives set by DP-2 with regards to member states, the private sector, the civil society, and the RECs.*

Adopted in Ouagadougou on 5 November 2007

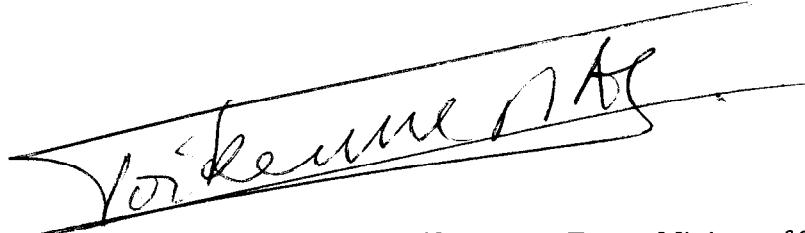
For The Republic of Benin, His Excellency Mr. Armand Zinzindohoue, Ministre des Transports et des Travaux Publics ;



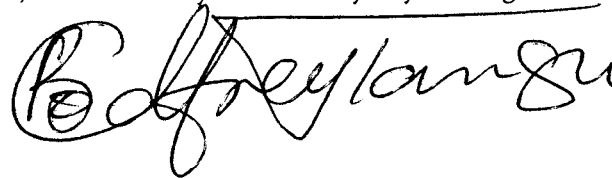
For Burkina Faso, His Excellency Maître Gilbert Noël Ouédraogo, Ministre des Transports ;



For the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency Mr. Albert Mabri Toikeusse, *Ministre des Transports* ;



For the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Mr. Godfrey Bayon Tangu, Minister of State, Ministry of Transportation ;



For the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Mr. Hamed Diané Semega, *Ministre de l'Équipement et des Transports* ;



For the Republic of Niger, His Excellency Mr. Hamani Hassane Kindo, *Ministre des Transports et de l'Aviation Civile* ;

