



AFRICAN ROAD SAFETY OBSERVATORY: 2nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22-23rd March 2022, Online

CONCEPT NOTE

1- Background:

At Its first meeting in Lomé in March 2017, the AU Specialised Technical Committee on Transport Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism (STC-TTIIET) recommended that the AUC should accelerate implementation of the African Road Safety Action plan. In this regard, the STC-TTIIET requested the SSATP to work with the AUC and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to develop a minimum set of road safety indicators to monitor the status of road safety in order to ensure comparability between African countries. This was a key step towards the establishment of an African Road Safety Observatory (ARSO).

In the context of the Lomé STC decision, three workshops were held in 2018 in Dakar and Abuja and Marrakech, whereby the concept of the African Road Safety Observatory was developed. At the second meeting of the STC-TTIIET held in Cairo in April 2019, it was recommended that the AUC should take the necessary measures towards the establishment and hosting of the ARSO on interim basis.

ARSO is one of the main achievements of the African Road Safety African Agenda over the 2011-2020 Decade. The objective of the African Road Safety Observatory is to foster national, international and continental cooperation to generate a robust body of road safety data, to influence public policies and enable countries to address global and African roads safety challenges. The SSATP is giving the necessary technical and financial assistance together with other partners (FIA, ITF, WB, WHO, EU, etc).

The first General Assembly of ARSO has been organised by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the SSATP in Durban, South Africa, from 27 - 28 June 2019. Among other outcomes, the meeting came up with the validation of the first two years action plan driven by the Interim Steering Committee.

In two years, the Interim Steering Committee has done many actions of the Action plan and comes up with a report as well as a draft action plan for the two coming years to be analysed and validated by the General Assembly.

Furthermore, in June 2020 the STC-TTIIET adopted the African Road Safety Action plan for the Decade 2021-2030, in which the ARSO is given a privileged place. Ministers also adopted a Concept note to request a derogation against the ongoing moratorium on the creation of new organs in AU and set the ARSO as a full specialised Agency of the AU. The full implementation of the ARSO has been then qualified as an emergency matter due to the scourge represented by Road insecurity. Under EU funding, the AUC has started a new consultancy aiming at defining the structural, institutional and financial implication of the ARSO on the AU. The consultancy work will also elaborate a 10-years business plan of the ARSO as well as the appropriate structure, institutional framework, appropriate instruments and its financial mechanism. This work needs to be reviewed by the AU Member States.

Finally, the General Assembly will be an occasion to run a specific meeting dedicated to the National Data Coordinators (NDCs) of the ARSO and encourage countries that have not yet designated their NDCs to do so. Furthermore, the meeting will be an occasion for the WHO to activate the African Road Safety network of legislators, for among other advocacy for the ratification of the African Road Safety Charter and more broadly for the Road Safety agenda.

2- Objectives of the meeting:

The objectives of this meeting are:

- Advocate for the ratification of the African Road Safety Charter
- Contribute to the ongoing consultancy on governance arrangements for the ARSO
- Validate the ARSO first data report and raise lessons learnt
- Release the ARSO Annual Report and update members on recent ARSO activities
- Validate the second 3-years Work programme of the ARSO
- Convene the ARSO National Data Coordinators for capacity building and the arrangements for the second wave of data collection

3- Outcomes of the meeting:

This meeting is expected to come up with the following main outcomes:

- Advocacy plan for the ratification of the African Road Safety Charter
- Validated consultancy report on technical, institutional, legal and financial framework for the ARSO
- The validated 3-years Work programme of the ARSO (2021-2023)

4- Participants:

The following Persons and Institutions will participate in the meeting:

- AU Member States (Including designated NDCs);
- UNECA
- AfDB;
- SSATP;
- WHO;
- African Legislators for Road Safety;
- FIA; AfricaRap; NCAP; ITF; WB; EU;
- NGOs;
- Other Institutions as appropriated

5- Time and venue:

The Second General Assembly of the ARSO will be held from 22nd – 23rd March 2022 online.