

SSATP MAPUTO CONFERENCE – JULY 2002

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The concept of an SSATP Conference has emerged from a wide range of formal and informal discussions within the SSATP Board and Team, with donors and sponsors, and with the program's principal constituency, its African Stakeholders. With new governance arrangements in place, the re-election of the Board established in November 2000 by the Constituent Assembly meeting in Stockholm in November 2001, and the renewal of the Board's mandate in accordance with the SSATP Framework Document, the institutional foundation for such a conference has been firmly established. The proposal is also reflected in the 2002/2003 Business Plan, and in the IWP.

At the same time, events within Africa over the past year have moved swiftly with the emergence of NEPAD, and the reinvigorated drive towards regional integration. That transport has a vital role to play is not in doubt. It is important, therefore, that the SSATP is capable of responding to the new demands for policy development which are emerging, while maintaining and strengthening the program's poverty focus.

Why an SSATP Conference?

Program strategic objectives were reviewed during 2001 through the Study conducted by the Netherlands Economic Institute. The outcomes of that study included recommendations for a transition by the SSATP to a programmatic approach, with convergence of components so as to focus on the poverty reduction orientation of the program and to more easily address key cross-cutting issues. The study also reported efficiency arguments in favor of a program approach.

Component stakeholders, particularly African constituents, have, with increasing frequency, expressed a demand for closer collaboration between components, especially the RMI and RTTP, so as to better pursue the poverty goals of the program. Outcomes of the 2001 joint RMI and RTTP CCM session held in Saly, Senegal, reiterated this view.

Resolutions adopted by the May/June 2000 Business meeting in Washington DC indicated that donors and other partners would be prepared to support a program approach, including fungible financing allowing program management much needed flexibility.

The message of the 2001 AGM, held in Stockholm, was that the SSATP needed to pass through a consolidation phase, based on continuation and reinvigoration of the component approach. However, consideration of movement towards a program approach was resisted by some donors.

Consequently the long-term SSATP strategy needs to be clarified and ambiguities resolved. While many stakeholders and partners believe that this was largely achieved by the 2001 NEI

study and review process, it is clearly important that the widest possible range of constituents have an opportunity to debate the issues, and share in ownership of the implementation strategy. Therefore it has been decided to hold an SSATP conference in the first week of July in Maputo, Mozambique. The conference will consist of a number of sequenced events commencing with traditional component coordination meetings, followed by an SSATP stakeholders' workshop, and concluding with the AGM.

The primary objective of the SSATP conference will be to determine the long-term SSATP action plan to implement the transition to a program approach, and for its adoption by an AGM which will conclude the conference events.

The principle tool for achieving this output will be the stakeholders' workshop. And convening the AGM immediately following the workshop will allow the widest possible participation in the meeting by both African and non-African partners, many of whom, it is to be hoped, will have been involved in preceding events.

Notional Arrangements

A five/six day event is envisaged and for the purposes of this note an outline time table is provided. This is provisional, and will likely be amended as a result of inputs from participants, particularly the RMI and RTTP coordinators' task force, established at Saly to plan the 2002 coordinators' meetings:

Date	Event
Monday 1 st July	<u>Plenary Session – All components overviews</u> <u>Component Meetings:</u> RMI, RTTP Coordinators' Meetings UM, T&T, RR specialists, stakeholders meetings.
Tuesday 2 nd July	Component Meetings continue and conclude;
Wednesday 3 rd July	SSATP Stakeholders' Workshop;
Thursday 4 th July	Conclusion of SSATP Stakeholders' Workshop;
Friday 5 th July	SSATP AGM
Saturday 6 th July	Conclusion of SSATP AGM

Events

The detailed agenda and specific objectives for **component meetings** have yet to be developed, and will depend upon proactive participation by stakeholders. However, refining the program approach concept and developing a strategy for its practical achievement will be chief amongst the matters to be considered by each component meeting.

The outputs from the component meetings in this regard will, it is hoped, be capable of formulation into a number of propositions to be put to the **SSATP Stakeholders' Workshop**. These will be considered in plenary session and break-out groups with the objective of outputting a well defined time-bound action plan framework for implementing the transition to a program approach. It is expected that this action plan framework will include the development of partnerships with sub-regional organizations and initiatives, program decentralization, and the role of sub-regional and country based SSATP coordinators.

Alongside the usual business of **the AGM**, (considering IWP progress reports, etc), will be the submission to the meeting of workshop outputs, in the expectation that the AGM will adopt the action plan framework expected to be developed, and agree support (in principle) to its financial needs. SSATP management will then work up that framework into a long-term implementation plan for review by partners and stakeholders. The AGM will be asked to consider and agree that review process, and the means by which it may be submitted to donors for adoption.

At some point, probably after the workshop, it is likely that there will be a half day break. This will be necessary both to allow participants some time to network and meet informally, and to enable the secretariat to keep up with paperwork and reports.

Participants, Stakeholders

Component Meetings

Component meeting participants will include, in the case of the RMI and RTTP, country coordinators and component management. In the case of Trade and Transport, Railway Restructuring, and Urban Mobility, participants will include public and private sector stakeholders and policy makers. Specific agenda items for these 3 components have not yet been decided, but will undoubtedly include a review of lessons learned from past and current component activities, as well as policy development processes and demands. Each component will, as well, discuss how best it will fit into an SSATP program approach, and develop propositions to be dealt with by the SSATP stakeholders' workshop.

Component meetings will take place simultaneously, and to the extent possible participants will, from time to time, move between meetings.

SSATP Stakeholder Workshop

Participants will include all those who have taken part in component meetings, as well as key transport sector policy makers and "influencers" from government, national transport communities, and sub-regional organizations.

Donors will be encouraged to participate in all the events, as well as in the AGM.

In the Margins

A number of presentations and exhibitions of transport policy related themes will be encouraged, particularly from sources within Africa.

The AGM

The 2001 Stockholm AGM agreed that participation by African beneficiaries should be encouraged and extended. Holding the meeting as an integral part of the week-long SSATP conference will facilitate such participation.

Partnership with SATCC

Opportunities for organizing the SSATP Conference with SATCC participation will be actively explored. (SATCC experience in mainstreaming a number of SSATP principles into SADC Transport protocols will be of much interest to other participating SROs).

Planning

Planning of the conference by a small management team has commenced, focusing initially on priority critical path matters:

- Securing best value-for-money physical and accommodation facilities in Maputo;
- Marshalling professional facilitation services to:
 1. Support agenda planning;
 2. Provide services to the various conference activities;
- Securing professional conference management and coordination services in Maputo;
- Flagging-up dates and venue data to likely participants in advance of the issuing of formal invitations;
- Progressing a dialogue with the coordinators' task force to feed into agenda planning.

An advance scoping visit has been undertaken liaising with the host government and other institutions, and has evaluated candidate venues and provisionally established a range of in-situ professional, logistic, and administrative services.