



Federal Ministry of Transportation



COMUNIQUE OF THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AFRICAN TRANSPORT POLICY PROGRAMME (SSATP) HELD IN ABUJA, NIGERIA, FROM 2ND TO 6TH JULY 2018.

1. The Annual General Meeting of the African Transport Policy Programme (SSATP) was held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 2nd to 6th July 2018 with the theme "**Africa's Rapid Urbanization and the Response to Urban Mobility in the Digital Era**". The AGM focused on the thematic areas that constitute the three SSATP Development Pillars namely: Urban Transport and Mobility, Regional Integration and Road Safety.
2. The conference was well attended with over 230 Delegate from diverse African countries and some other parts of the world, comprising sponsored and non-sponsored Participants, making the 2018 Annual meeting the most attended since inception. These included Honourable Ministers and Permanent Secretaries of Ministries of Transportation, Commissioners in charge of infrastructure of Economic Commission for West Africa States (ECOWAS) and West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), Director of Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union Commission (AUC), Directors of Transportation Ministries in Africa, Representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Corridor Management Institutions (CMIs), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), The World Bank (WB), European Union (EU), African Development Bank (AfDB), *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), other Donor Institutions, International Organizations, Transport Experts and Consultants, among others.
3. The core content of the development of Africa's transportation through the SSATP platform was discussed on the 2nd and 3rd July in Technical sessions comprising Workshops and working Groups with Delegates discussing different aspects of the three Program Pillars (DP3). Paper presentations were interspersed with discussions of country experiences and derivation of major recommendations for leveraging the opportunities in transportation towards improving the lives of millions of Africa's populations.



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4. The Plenary Session of the Annual meeting aimed at sharing experiences and learning from practices was held on Wednesday 4th July and was declared open by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Transportation Nigeria, Mr. Sabiu Zakari. Critical papers and studies from Experts, CMIs and RECs were presented alongside shared experiences on best practices. Lessons learnt from country – cases were discussed with proffered recommendation tendered at the sessions. A panel discussion was organized on how to bridge North Africa and Sub Saharan Africa-Morocco perspective and the role of the transport sector. Panelists included Minister of Transportation of Morocco, Minister of Transportation of Cameroon and the Head of the Transport Policy Unit of the African Development Bank. The Panel was chaired by the Minister of Roads and Bridges of South Sudan. There was also a press briefing session with officials of World Bank /SSATP and the Federal Ministry of transportation responding to questions fielded by the press.

5. Thursday July 5th featured the Session on the launch of the African Network of Legislators for Road Safety advocacy. It was attended by Parliamentarians from Benin, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, Cameroon, Ghana and Members of the Legislature in attendance at the Annual meeting. This is a great initiative that will raise awareness and responsibilities of country's legislatures to address road safety issues and advance the road safety agenda. It also featured Parallel Sessions on the three pillars of the SSATP. An interactive session among RECs and DPs to discuss ways and means to foster coordination of programs among and across RECs, strengthen the African Corridor Management Alliance (ACMA), reinforce the role of the chairperson of the REC TCC and conduct transport regulatory framework reforms in West and Central Africa was also held. The session co-organized with AFD on the theme "Towards an Open & Collaborative Digital Platform to Improve African Urban Public Transport" and which presented the importance of technology and innovation in urban mobility was very relevant for our countries. Finally, the meeting with the AfDB was also a significant addition to the various options for the two Institutions to coordinate programs and projects, as well as sector strategies and policies. The day ended with a Gala dinner hosted by the Federal Ministry of Transportation.



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6. Friday 6th July was the last day of the conference and the main event was the Annual General Meeting attended by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (Nigeria SGF), who represented the Vice President of Nigeria. Also in attendance were Ministers present at the Conference, Officials of African Union Commission, Officials of the World Bank and SSATP, Officials of Donor Agencies, Senior officials of 7 RECs, Delegates from 31 member-countries, Universities and Academics, and representative of Donors. The AGM was declared open by Nigeria's SGF. The session featured a Ministerial Panel on the conference theme. Panelists comprised Ministers of Transportation from Ghana, Liberia, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Professor Jacqueline Klopp from Columbia University. The Panel was chaired by the State Minister of Aviation (Nigeria) and moderator was Mr. Alioune Badiane, former Director of UN Habitat and President of the Urban ThinkTank Africa -TUTTA.

7. Discussions were drawn from the major issues presented at the respective Parallel sessions and Plenary. The challenges facing Africa and on Sustainable Urban Mobility was pivotal with major suggestions made by the respective Ministers and Experts. The session was immediately followed by a Press briefing.

8. The afternoon, the Program Manager presented the 2017 annual report which summarizes the key activities implemented during that calendar year. Pillar Leaders also presented to the audience the key takeaways and lessons for the Continent stemming from the various thematic side events. The annual report was adopted by the AGM. Finally, the AGM has approved the African Union of Public Transports (Union Africaine des Transports Publics-UATP) as a new SSATP member. UATP is a continental organization of transport professionals from both Public and Private Sectors.



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RESOLUTIONS:

The meeting resolved that:

- i) The SSATP be commended for its lead role in making outstanding contribution into transportation policies and capacity development in Africa in its 31 years of existence.
- ii) It is pertinent for Africa to leverage on historical trade routes to develop Inter-African connectivity and trade.
- iii) Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Partners should consider supporting multilateral platforms under harmonized policy, institutional, regulatory and legal frameworks, in order to achieve continental Integration as envisaged by the African Union Commission.
- iv) The SSATP needs to conduct more Studies on planning methodologies which would develop Concept Notes for sustainable transportation development in the African cities.
- v) It is imperative for Member countries to establish new governance structure for the cities and observatories to monitor aspects of transportation, in order to address sustainable transport development in Africa. Transport Authorities are now a prerequisite to that effect.
- vi) Member Countries need to consider the adoption of digital/ICT methods in order to address the management challenges emanating from corridors, urban mobility and road safety issues in the Continent.
- vii) Member countries agreed that data management is "sine qua non" condition for proper management of road safety and on a minimum set of indicators to monitor performance.
- viii) Member countries agreed to set up the road safety regional observatories. The formal launch will take place at the first African Ministerial meeting on Road safety in Marrakech to be held on November 13-15, 2018.



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- ix) Member countries have launched the African Network of Legislators for Road safety advocacy and the process would be finalized in Marrakech in November 2018.

In addition:

- x) Regional Economic Communities and Member States were urged to appreciate that the achievement of the Continental Free Trade Area requires that they set up a legal framework for their effective co-operation and coordination and work towards the harmonization of legal instruments, regulations and standards pertaining to the movement of goods, within and across RECs
- xi) Member States were urged to encourage the development of Economic clusters along the Corridors in order to stimulate local value chains and Small and Medium Scale Enterprises(SMEs) and provide for facilities such as Road side stations and Rest Stops.
- xii) Member States were urged to view Corridors as “living beings” and work toward the effective enforcement of vehicle weight management regulations to extend the life span of the roads.
- xiii) Member States were urged to encourage, to sign, ratify and implement the continental instruments such as the African Road Safety Charter, the African Maritime Charter and the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). Similarly, Member States and donors are invited to effectively implement the Intergovernmental Agreement on the harmonization of norms and standards of Trans-African Highways (TAH).

Also:

- xiv) Participants advocated for robust REC TCC as the continental platform for policy dialogue on regional integration in order to contribute to the promotion of integrated Corridor development in Africa.
- xv) States that have not established Road Safety institutions were urged to do so in order to reduce road fatalities in Africa.



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- xvi) The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system was adopted as an effective means to address the poor mobility and accessibility needs of cities in Africa and States were urged to consider its adoption as a veritable mode of urban transportation.
- xvii) States were urged to embrace healthy and clean urban mobility by creating access for Non-Motorized Transportation and regulating emissions, especially with regard to pedestrians.
- xviii) The election of the Chief Director Transport of UEMOA as the new chairperson of the REC TCC for a two- year mandate was endorsed and the new chair is now member of the Executive Committee.
- xix) Zimbabwe, Benin and Gambia indicated interest in hosting the SSATP Annual General Meeting in November 2019. Each country was advised to apply officially, through a letter to be sent by the Minister of Transportation to the SSATP Programme Manager.

Conclusion:

The Meeting recognized member-countries' commitment and ownership and commended Donors of the Programme (European Union, African Development Bank, *Agence Française de Développement*, the World Bank and Swiss Secretariat of Economic Affairs), African Union Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and Development Partners for their continued support for transportation development in Africa.

The meeting commended the Government and peoples of Nigeria for hosting the 2018 SSATP Annual General Meeting.

Done this day 6th July 2018, at the Congress Hall of the Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja, Nigeria.