



African Union

DRAFT

CONCEPT NOTE

**THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

ON

**TRANSPORT, INTERCONTINENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURES, ENERGY AND TOURISM**

THEME: FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE IN AFRICA

*AU Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
28 November – 2 December 2016*



I. BACKGROUND

The African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is hosting, **The First Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Transport, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism**. The event takes place from 28th November to 2nd December 2016, at the African Union (AU) Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and includes the All Africa Energy Week (AAEW) and the Pan-African Investment Forum for Transport, Energy and Tourism.

The Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), which constitute an important technical organ of the AU, were established under Article 25 of the African Economic Community Treaty (the Abuja Treaty). With the transformation of the OAU into the AU, the STCs were carried over by the Constitutive Act of the African Union under Articles 14 to 16.

The STCs are expected to work in close collaboration with the various departments of the AUC so as to provide well-informed inputs in their areas of specialization to the work of the AU Executive Council. They should also, be involved in monitoring development programmes implementation by the AUC and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Therefore, the early operationalization of the STCs becomes imperative, given the overall objective of accelerating continental integration and the importance attached to the effective implementation of programmes and projects of the Union. To this end, the Assembly of the Union adopted The Decision: Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) reconfiguring the existing STCs and created one on **Transport, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism**. The STC will meet on a biennial basis.

II. THEME AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STC 2016 MEETING

The STC sessions will focus on the following theme:

“Financing Infrastructure in Africa”

The overall objective of the STC meeting is to assess progress and to achieve concrete advances in the financing of major infrastructure, notably those in the Priority Action Plan of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA/PAP), through decisions and consensus on investing in the preparation, structuring, implementation and risks mitigation of climate resilient infrastructure projects.

The specific objectives are:

- Consideration and adoption of the Rules of Procedures of the STC;
- Establishment of the STC Bureau and Sub-Committees;
- Consideration of the implementation status of the Decisions and Declarations adopted at the previous ministerial conferences and African Union (AU) Assembly sessions on transport, energy and tourism;
- Evaluation of the progress made by regional and international institutions in financing the energy, transport and tourism sectors projects, notably PIDA/PAP and regional projects and other AU flagship projects under the AU Agenda 2063;

- Analyse constraints and how to strengthen national and regional capacities and to increase the participation of national and regional financial institutions in financing the development of the three sectors (domestic and regional financial resource mobilization);
- Adoption of Strategies on making Africa the Preferred Destination for Tourism under the AU Agenda 2063;
- Adoption of infrastructure programs and initiatives as well as action plans to be undertaken January 2017 up to the next STC meeting at national, regional and continental levels; and
- Adoption of a Ministerial Declaration with Recommendations drawn from experts report and Action Plans.

III. AGENDA

The Ministerial meeting shall be preceded by a preparatory meeting of Experts from Member States, RECs and Specialised Institutions responsible for sectors falling within the areas of competence of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism.

III.1 AGENDA: EXPERTS' MEETING: 28TH NOVEMBER – 1ST DECEMBER, 2016

1ST PLENARY SESSION

Preliminaries

- Opening Ceremony
- Procedural Matters:
 - Adoption of Agenda and Work program

Plenary Working Sessions

- Consideration of the STC Rules of Procedures including election of the STC Bureau and Sub-Committees;
- Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructures: Update on the implementation of the PIDA/PAP and the Way Forward;
- Innovative Financing and Domestic Funds Mobilisation;
- AU Partnerships in Energy, Transport and Tourism.

THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSIONS: ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

A. ENERGY

- **Progress Report on the implementation of adopted policies, programmes, projects and decisions.**
- **AU Agenda 2063 Regional Energy Flagship Projects:**
 - Inga hydropower projects
- **Databases:**
 - Africa Energy Database and Information System;
 - Atlas of Africa Energy Resources.

- **New Technologies:**

- Africa Clean Energy Corridors and electricity smart grid;
- Green Mini-Grid Africa Strategy;
- Africa Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines;
- Regional Geothermal Program and GRMF.

- **Initiatives, Partnerships and Specific Projects:**

- Africa Renewable Energy Initiative;
- SE4ALL and Global tracking Framework (The African Chapter);
- AfDB New Deal on Energy for Africa;
- Outcomes of Paris COP21 and Marrakech COP22;
- Harmonized Continental Regulatory Framework in the Electricity Sector.

B. TRANSPORT

- **Progress Report on the implementation of adopted policies, programmes, projects and decisions;**
- **Air Transport:** The Future of the African Single Air Transport Market under the AU Agenda 2063;
- **Railway Transport:** Vision 2063 of African Integrated High-Speed Railway Network (AIHSRN);
- **Road Transport:** Smart Corridors for Transforming Africa's Trans-border Infrastructure and Trade Facilitation; and
- **Maritime Transport:** Increasing African Ports Capacity and Efficiency for Economic Growth.

C. TOURISM

- **Progress Report on the implementation of adopted policies, programmes, projects and decisions;**
- Tourism Flagship projects;
- Enhancing Africa's tourism competitiveness;
- Harmonisation of Tourism Strategy in the Continent;
- Tourism and Security in Africa;
- Investing and financing tourism in Africa;
- Update of Tourism Action Plan.

2ND PLENARY SESSION

- **Adoption of the Experts' Report**

3rd CLOSING

PAN AFRICAN INVESTMENT FORUM AND MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE

Topic: Enhancing private sector participation in infrastructure financing

Discussions to focus on:

- Institutional stability;
- Investment Climate, legal and regulatory frameworks;
- Skills enhancement;
- Regional integration.

III.2 AGENDA: MINISTERIAL MEETING: 2nd DECEMBER, 2016

A. Preliminaries:

- Opening Ceremony
- Procedural matters
 - Adoption of Agenda and Work program

B. Working Sessions:

- Consideration and adoption of the STC Rules of Procedures and establishment of the STC Sub-Committees;
- Consideration of the Experts' Meeting Report;
- Consideration and adoption of the STC Action Plan and Ministerial Declaration.

C. CLOSING CEREMONY

IV. EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results are: the adoption of the Rules of Procedures of the STC, establishment of the STC Bureau and Sub-Committees, a **Ministerial Declaration** with recommendations drawn from the **Experts' Report** and sectorial **Action Plans** for infrastructure projects. The ministerial declaration, report and action plans arising from the deliberations of meeting shall be submitted to the Executive Council for consideration.

V. PARTICIPATION

In line with ongoing STC meetings, we expect participants from the Ministries responsible for Transport (i.e. Air, Road, Railway and Maritime Transport), Energy and Tourism sectors in all African Union Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Regional Development Banks and Financial Institutions, the continental specialized organizations, Academia, Private Sector and Civil Society. In addition representatives from the Development partners and International organizations involved in energy, transport and tourism development will also attend.

VI. VENUE AND DATES

The First Ordinary Session meeting of the STC on Transport, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the African Union Headquarters, from 28 November to 02 December 2016.