

**REC-TCC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2009-2010**  
**REC TCC MEETING,**  
**LAICO UMBANO HOTEL, 14-17 FEBRUARY 2011, KIGALI, RWANDA**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The East African Community assumed the Chairmanship of REC TCC since October 2008. As you all know, the inaugural Chairperson was Amos Marawa of COMESA who ably steered this Committee during its formative years in 2005 – 2006. Helen Gissou of UEMOA took over in 2006 and had a vibrant 2-year stint that saw many achievements by RECs and SROs. I would like to pay tribute to my predecessors for laying a firm foundation on which we thrive today and I pledge to continue in the same spirit of African Cooperation which is taking place in many other sectors. This brief report highlights some achievements of REC Transport Coordination Committee during the year 2010, since the last meeting held in Nairobi in May last year. A detailed report of the SSATP activities during the period are contained in the Annual Report for 2010 which will be out shortly.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE KEY ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD 2010/2011**

During 2009, the REC TCC held two meetings; One regular meeting in Mombasa and a working session during the SSATP Annual General Meeting held in Lilongwe. The year 2009 was very conservative when engaging in new activities without having enough funds to meet its commitments. As a result, SSATP did not launch any DP2 activity (Including REC TCC 2009 Work Program) requiring substantial amounts of funds before all agreements were signed and a large amount of funds were received.

### **Participation to SSATP Board Meeting**

The SSATP Board, in which the REC-TCC Chairperson sits in, is the policy organ of the programme and provides direction on all aspects of its implementation. In July 2010 members of the Board and selected country coordinators held a retreat in Brussels to strategize for the 2010 Annual Meeting and going by the success of the AM, the retreat was worth the while. For the first time since the 2005 AM, SSATP was able to get several ministers to the Annual meeting. Among others, the ministers declared their support in strengthening of regional integration through enhanced trade and transport facilitation, including the establishment of one-stop-border posts as well as the harmonization of customs procedures; building capacity in transport data base management; and mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues notably gender, climate change, HIV/AIDS, road safety as well as governance in transport policies and programmes, which are all Theme 3 areas.

## **REC TCC Meeting, May 2010**

A meeting of Transport Coordination Committee of the Regional Economic Communities (REC TCC) was held from 24 -25 May, 2010 in Nairobi for the implementation of the priorities under Regional Integration and Transport and which fell within the 2010 work program.

The meeting discussed the following activities and issues:

- **Transport Observatories and Monitoring Initiatives:** The TTCA requested SSATP to continue its support towards sustainability of the Transport Observatory, the road safety initiative and ratification of the revised NCTA Agreement. The TTFA requested that the study on non-physical barriers (i.e Baseline Surveys) starts as soon as possible to allow the planned Transport Observatory to be established. We have been presented with the Draft Final Report of the study at this forum. For CICOS, the expected support from SSATP would be to the ongoing establishment of a baseline study to identify the type of observatory to be set up at CICOS Secretariat as well as the drafting of the protocol on Multimodal Transport.

The Abidjan Lagos Corridor Secretariat also highlighted the support it had received from the World Bank through the facilitation of commerce and transport which had enriched the initial objectives of the corridor which were essentially focused on fighting AIDS. The facilitation project has the objective to reduce commerce and transport barriers in ports and on Abidjan-Lagos routes in four points:

- Commerce facilitation
- Improve roads infrastructure
- Coordination and management of the project
- Programme to fight HIV/AIDS and monitoring of corridor performance

The Dar es Salaam Corridor Authority also highlighted support received from USAID for the Corridor Performance Monitoring System based on self-reporting by key regulatory authorities and using existing automated information. Focus was on the Elimination of Congestion in Dar Port (Reduced port dwell time for containers and reduced ship turn-around time) and the reduction of transit check points along the highway.

- **RECs Programmes:** The RECs present affirmed their commitment towards supporting SSATP programmes especially in the area of trade facilitation. Such programmes included the harmonization of axle load control regulations, establishment / development of legal instruments, institutions-national & regional & financing measures, promotion of border efficiency and development of One Stop Border Posts, policy, legal & regulatory reforms and harmonisation, corridor approach to infrastructure development and the unlocking potential in Spatial Development Initiatives

to promote agriculture, mining, tourism and energy investment. The RECs were also preparing regional transport master plan (UEMOA, EAC, COMESA) and ECCAS in particular was promoting the removal of missing links along the Trans African Highway in Central Africa.

- FESARTA, one of SSATP's staunch supporters was also active in the Transport Monitoring Initiatives in Southern Africa. On the Choke Monitoring Initiative, FESARTA reported having monitored 10 border posts for JICA with emphasis on the need to categorize them according to the number of transiting trucks and the transit time at borders in order to prioritize those with worst scenario.

Without going into the details of the other equally important programmes presented, let me highlight a few recommendations that were made in order for us to assess our progress in implementing SSATP initiatives:

- It was recommended that SSATP shall support all RECs and SROs in their efforts to set up a database platform to host Transport Performances Indicators
- On Axle load control, it was recommended that since a number of initiatives were ongoing, all RECs initiating those studies to make sure that there was no duplication.
- On Corridors Observatories, it was recommended that before the implementation of new observatories, SSATP together with RECs and Corridor Observatories should assess the performance of Observatories already in place.
- The Road Safety Initiative needed to be considered with high priority. The meeting recommended that SSATP should put more emphasis on Road Safety; this has to be done within the decade of Transport Road Safety (2011-2020)
- With regard to the harmonization of policies the meeting strongly recommended that harmonization of transport policies should be done at RECs level and efforts should be done by Countries to integrate the agreed Regional Transport Instruments in their National Legislations
- On data management, the meeting recognized the importance of the AICD to address the issue of transport data in Africa and welcomed the move of the project which is now hosted by AfDB. In this order the meeting recommended all RECs to work closely with the AfDB Team in charge of the project.
- All RECs were urged to support PIDA Initiative whose objective is to pave the road for a better development of Africa Infrastructure. The Consortium (SOFRECOM) which was recruited to conduct the Initiative

will continuously work closely with all RECs to synergize and integrate their program in the overall continental program.

### **Annual Meeting, Kampala, October 2010**

This time during the Annual meeting, the REC-TCC did not have an opportunity to hold a formal meeting on the sidelines. However, there was a specific thematic session on Trade and Transport facilitation which examined the importance of transport in promoting trade and economic developments. It highlighted factors affecting transport costs and the fact that inexpensive and high-quality services are increasingly important for trade.

The session also analyzed issues pertaining to the good management of transport Corridors in Africa and measures taken (or to be taken) in order to improve Corridors management.

Under DP2, SSATP has focused its efforts in establishing Corridors Performance Monitoring along major Corridors and helping RECs in promoting a framework for Corridor Management groups. It is in this line that the meeting discussed the partnership set by SSATP with TMEA (DFID) in the use of ICT in the management of Observatories for the Northern and Central corridors. COMESA also presented the current transport and trade instruments in use in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Finally the meeting reviewed the recommendations made by the REC Transport Coordination Committee during its meeting in May 2011 and adopted the priority actions to be submitted to the SSATP Program Management as the action plan for 2011.

### **REC TCC 2011 Work Program under DP2**

Under Theme 3: the following programmes have been lined up for implementation:

No	Activities	Current Status (to be updated during REC-TCC)
<b>3A: Support to RECs and Inter-RECs activities</b>		
3A.01	Support to REC-TCC Coordination Committee	Ongoing; REC-TCC meeting held as scheduled.
3A.02	Establishment of Corridor Management Committee (Djibouti Corridor)	
3A.03	Workshops axle Load and Overload control (practices to promote) and publication of case studies for Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe	
3A.04	Dissemination of corridor	

	experiences, data collection, and study tour	
<b>No</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Current Status (to be updated during REC-TCC)</b>
<b>3B: Transport Observatories and Monitoring</b>		
3B.01	Central and Dar es Salaam Corridors Baseline Survey	
3B.02	CICOS Observatory (inland waterways)	
3B.03	West Africa Corridor Transport Observatory (Dakar)	
3B.04	Choke Monitoring Monitoring – Malaba, Gatuna, KPA (Northern Corridor )	
3B.05	Support Roads Monitoring System (FESARTA)	
<b>3C: Legal Frameworks</b>		
3C.01	Review/Update Africa International Legal Instruments in Trade and Transport Facilitation - Drafting Central Corridor Protocols - Drafting CICOS Multimodal Protocol - North South Corridor Agreement	
<b>3D: Transport Cost Study</b>		
3D.01	Comparative Transport Cost Study in West and Central Africa	

## **CONCLUSION**

I wish to conclude by thanking all my colleagues from all RECs, SROs and Transport Associations for their commitment and continuous effort in the implementation of the Regional and Continental Transport Agenda within the context of REC Transport Coordination Committee.

Many thanks to Donors and Development Partners for their support to the SSATP and other programmes at national and regional levels

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the Program Management Team and the entire SSATP Staff for the great effort they are making toward the implementation of SSATP programmes leading to the realization of the Second Development Plan mission and vision.