

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 5517 700

Fax: 5517844

Website: www.au.int

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thirty-Eight Ordinary Session
Videoconference
03 - 04 February 2021
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

EX.CL/1252(XXXVIII)

Original : English

REPORT OF THE
FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TRANSCONTINENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE,
ENERGY AND TOURISM (STC-TTIIET)



**FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TRANSCONTINENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE,
ENERGY AND TOURISM (STC-TTIIET)**

STC-TTIIET/Min/Final/Rpt
Original: English

***THEME: SETTING AFRICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES
FOR THE NEXT DECADE***

**MINISTERIAL REPORT OF THE STC TTIIET
VIRTUAL MEETING
12th January 2021**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers' Meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism (STC-TTIIET) was held virtually on 12th January 2021.

II. ATTENDANCE

2. The following **Forty One (41)** AU Member States participated in the meeting: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, DRC, Congo Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Saharawi Arab Republic, Zambia.

3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African regional and continental institutions and international organizations also took part in this meeting, namely: the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission of Central African States (ECCAS), the East African Community (EAC), The Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), , United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Energy Regulators Association of East Africa (EREA), East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Efficiency(EACREEE), North Western Sahara Aquifer System(SASS), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the European Union (EU), International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP).

4. The list of participants is attached to this report as Annex I.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

5. The official opening was officiated by H.E. Dr. Mohamed Shaker El Markabi, Minister of Electricity & Renewable Energy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Chair of the STC TTIIET. In his opening speech, he acknowledged the determination of the African Union Commission and stakeholders to move Africa's infrastructure development agenda forward despite the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He also highlighted that infrastructure development is key for the attainment of Africa's development aspirations captured by Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the priorities lined up for the next decade speak to these continental and global goals.

6. H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy at the African Union Commission, in her opening remarks, emphasized the importance of infrastructure in Africa in the next decade as the backbone to the realization of the much-needed integration and trade facilitation in the continent. She drew the attention on the fact that post-COVID-19 recovery requires the fast-tracking of Africa's infrastructure development to improve resilience, livelihoods and

economies. She also noted that the COVID-19 pandemic also accelerated digitalisation, exposed the gaps in energy in rural areas and highlighted the need to develop infrastructure that is smart, inclusive and sustainable. She reminded the Committee of the bottom-up participatory approach and regional consultations conducted leading to the preparation of the PIDA PAP2 and the AfSEM, calling on the AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Stakeholders to synergize efforts towards the realizations of Africa's infrastructure development ambitions.

7. H.E Hon. Raila Odinga, the AU High Representative for Infrastructure Development, in his opening remarks, highlighted that annually, we have an infrastructure financing gap of between \$60 -\$90 billion. Therefore, he drew the attention on the need of effective and efficient plans to mobilize resources to fund the identified PIDA projects. The long-term solution in his view is the creation of an Africa Continental Infrastructure Fund under the auspices of the AU to pool resources. Such a fund would focus on a combination of domestic sources and private sector financiers

8. Mr Mike Salawou, the Infrastructure & Partnerships Division Manager at the African Development Bank (AfDB), recalled that the bank has been the major financier of infrastructure projects in Africa by availing 7 billion USD in the past ten years. He mentioned that the bank has been actively supporting the first phase of PIDA and will continue to support PIDA PAP2, recognizing the long-term effect it will have to spur economic advancement for the continent.

9. Mr. William Lugemwa, Director of Private Sector Development and Finance Division at the UNECA, appealed for ownership of the PIDA PAP2 projects, mentioning that African leadership from the highest political level is critical for the successful implementation of PIDA PAP2.

IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

10. The following draft agenda was adopted with no amendments:

A. Preliminaries:

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

B. Working Sessions:

- *Presentation of the Experts' Meeting Report*
- *Presentation of the Bureau STC TTIIET Meeting Report*
- *Status of Implementation of COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan*
- *Consideration and adoption of the Ministers' Declaration*

C. CLOSING remarks

V. WORKING SESSIONS

SESSION 1: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS MEETING

11. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works of the Republic of Togo, rapporteur of the STC TTIIET, presented the report of the experts meeting held on 14 December 2020.

Summary of the discussions

12. South Africa delegate highlighted the critical role of water resources and access to basic water and sanitation services as the first line of defense in the context of the pandemic. She called on the African Union to consider adoption of non-sewer sanitation technologies and noted the potential for collaboration with South African institutions which has adopted ISO standards for non-sewer sanitation. She also noted the need for a minimum threshold to be allocated to women and youth construction companies on the continent.

13. Furthermore, the meeting acknowledged the good work and highlighted the need to articulate PIDA PAP 2 with national action priority plans to reap synergies and requested that all the working documents be shared with all the Member States. The meeting also thanked the AUC for allocating one project for each Island State.

14. The delegation of Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic thanked the experts for reflecting the views of SADR in the report concerning the lack of consultation with SADR on 2 projects, namely "Realization of a high-speed optical fibre submarine cable between AMU countries" and "Technical and economic feasibility studies of the electricity interconnection between Morocco and Mauritania". SADR requested that the aforementioned 2 projects be either removed or postponed, suggesting a meeting of UMA and SADR to discuss and revert to AUC.

SESSION 1: PRESENTATION OF THE BUREAU STC TTIIET MEETING REPORT

15. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works of the Republic of Togo, rapporteur of the STC TTIIET, presented the report of the Bureau meeting held on 15 December 2020.

Summary of the discussions

16. The Algeria delegation highlighted that 4 projects, namely "Realization of a high-speed optical fibre submarine cable between AMU countries", "Technical and economic feasibility studies of the electricity interconnection between Morocco and Mauritania", "Implementation infrastructure (energy and hydraulic for a large mobilization of groundwater and resilience of agriculture in a context of scarcity and impact of climate change in the basin of the aquifer system of the northern Sahara (SASS) and "Aquifer system of illumid in and Taoudini Tanezrouft: Integrated and concerted management of water resources and their connection with the Niger river (GICRESAIT)", have been contested by Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and that the bureau still adopted the

list of PIDA PAP2 priority projects. The Algerian delegation considered that since there has been opposition, the recommendation of the bureau should refer the issues to the STC Ministerial meeting.

17. The delegation of Morocco highlighted the importance of the aforementioned contested Energy projects and their critical role for Africa's integration and the implementation of the Single electricity market in the Maghreb which has reached an advanced stage and subsequently the Single African electricity market being promoted by AUC. They advised that the projects have been approved by UMA, indicating that Morocco maintains their position for the Energy projects in question to be kept in the priority list. The Kingdom of Morocco reiterated their request for the right to revert after a deeper review of the meeting report.

18. Morocco representative also highlighted the need to focus on strategic initiatives, on resource mobilisation and on the implementation of PIDA to avoid further delays to achieve the higher goals of African integration, especially in the present critical economic context due to the pandemic.

19. The delegation of SADR reaffirmed that the 2 projects concerning his country, namely "Realization of a high-speed optical fibre submarine cable between AMU countries" and "Technical and economic feasibility studies of the electricity interconnection between Morocco and Mauritania", cannot be implemented without their consent.

20. The delegation of Egypt reminded participants that that priority projects' list has already been adopted and duly registered the reservations and concerns raised by SADR and People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. Egypt's representative was of the view that bureau cannot reconsider the list at this stage and that the Ministerial STC is not the forum to discuss criteria which were already been taken up at the experts level. They advised that concerns over political matters should be raised at the level of the Executive council meeting and not this technical STC.

21. The AUC clarified that the PIDA process as follows: Projects are submitted and validated by RECs in consultation with Member states and screened by the task force composed of the 4 PIDA institutions (AUC, AfDB, UNECA and AUDA-NEPAD). The priority list was presented to Member states and RECs during the Continental workshop on 12th November 2020 and again discussed during the STC experts meeting. The reservations of member states on some projects have been clearly documented in paragraph 13 of the experts report and will be carried forward to the Executive council.

22. The AU High Representative for Infrastructure Development in Africa acknowledged that while some points raised are relevant, we should focus on ways to mobilise resources for infrastructure including BOT mechanisms. The long-term solution proposed is the creation of innovative financing mechanisms such as the Africa Infrastructure fund. He stressed that now is the time for action.

23. The chair of the STC TTIIET reassured members that all reservations have been noted and will be referred to the Executive Council.

24. He further reassured that all the discussions and reservations will be recorded and added as footnotes to the report and requested the meeting to proceed to the next agenda item, the status of Implementation of COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan.

SESSION 3: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF COVID-19 RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

25. The AUC advised that the point on the Covid 19 recovery action plan have already been covered by previous speakers.

SESSION 4: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE MINISTERS' DECLARATION

26. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works of the Republic of Togo, rapporteur of the STC TTIIET, presented the draft STC ministerial declaration.

Summary of the discussions

27. The chair of the STC TTIIET confirmed that the African Charter on Maritime Security and Development (Lomé charter) and the list of PIDA PAP 2 priority projects have already been circulated to Member States more than once.

28. The delegation of SADR made a strong reservation about projects 3 and 7 concerning the two projects that SADR contests and reiterated that they cannot be implemented without their consent.

29. The delegation of Algeria requested the addition of a paragraph to the declaration to reflect their concerns and opposition to the validation of the four (4) projects which they argued did not meet the eligibility criteria.

30. The chair of STC TTIIET concluded that the declaration is validated after taking on board all the comments and reservations.



**FIRST EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF
THE AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TRANSCONTINENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND TOURISM
12th January 2021
Virtually**

STC-TTIIET/MIN/Decl.
Original: English

***THEME: SETTING AFRICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES
FOR THE NEXT DECADE***

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

12th January 2021

**DECLARATION OF THE FIRST EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TRANSCONTINENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY
AND TOURISM
12th January 2021
Virtual**

WE, the Ministers in charge of Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy, Tourism, Water and ICT meeting Virtually on 12th January 2021, in the **First Extra-ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism (STC TTIIET)**, organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) to consider setting Africa's infrastructure priorities for the next decade.

CONSIDERING:

1. The Treaty establishing the African Economic Community adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991;
 2. The Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in Lomé on 11 July 2000, especially its Articles 14 to 16, which stipulate that the African Union Commission should in particular coordinate policies in the fields of Energy, Transport, Communication and Tourism sectors;
 3. The Declaration: Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XVIII) adopted by the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2012 which adopted the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) as the single policy and strategic framework for the development of infrastructure in Africa;
 4. The Decision: Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) reconfiguring the existing STCs and created one on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism;
 5. The Decision: EX.CL/Dec.970(XXXI) on the First Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism (STC-TTIIET) held in Lome, Togo, in March 2017;
 6. The Decision: EX.CL/1162(XXXV) on the Second Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism (STC-TTIIET) held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, in April 2019;
 7. The crucial importance of the infrastructure for achievement of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Free Movement of People;
 8. The scourge of Road insecurity evaluated at 3-5% of the continent's GDP;
 9. Assembly Decision EX.CL/Dec.682 (XX) adopting the African Action Plan for the 2011 - 2020 Decade of Action on Road Safety in line with the United Nations (UN) Resolution 64/255 proclaiming 2011-2020 a Decade of Action for Road Safety
10. The reports submitted to the first extra-ordinary session of the STC-TTIIET.

We, the Ministers, reiterating our commitment to develop Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism sectors and our strong will to implement the outcomes of this meeting as we have agreed:

ON the second phase of PIDA (PIDA PAP 2)

11. Validate the PIDA PAP 2 process, the list of priority projects, the implementation strategy and the partnership strategy and thank the European Union, the German Cooperation through GIZ and other partners for their financial and technical support in this process.
12. Take note of the reservations expressed by the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and Algeria summarised in footnote¹.
13. Take note of the results of Continental Infrastructure Market and Demand Study which identifies the infrastructure supply and potential demand for regional infrastructure in the four PIDA sectors (energy, transboundary water, transport and ICT) for the period 2021-2030.
14. Take note of the progress made in the development of the PIDA PAP 2 financing strategy.

ON AFRICAN SINGLE ELECTRICITY MARKET (AFSEM)

15. Commend the AUC in collaboration with the AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, UNECA and other regional organizations for the efforts made towards the operationalization of a continental electricity market and thank the European Union for its financial and technical support.
16. Validate the Policy Paper and Roadmap including the governance structure of the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) while ensuring that member states are involved in the governance structure throughout the process of setting up the market.

ON THE DECADE 2021-2030 OF ROAD SAFETY

17. Validate the new version of the "Strategic Directions for the post-2020 Decade of Road Safety: African common position" with the target to Reduce road deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030 as well as the promotion of the safe system approach in implementing Africa's road safety agenda.
18. Endorse the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/74/299 on Improving Global Road Safety.

ON THE AFRICAN TOURISM ORGANISATION

19. Direct the AUC to fully and expeditiously implement the decision of the STC-TTIIET taken at its meeting held in Cairo, Egypt in April 2019 to establish a working group

¹ Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and Algeria are opposed to the validation of the following projects, from the list of PIDA PAP2 priority projects: No. 3 (from the northern region list) "Realization of a high-speed optical fibre submarine cable between AMU countries "and N ° 7 (from the northern region list) " Technical and economic feasibility studies of the electricity interconnection between Morocco and Mauritania "

Algeria is opposed to the validation of following projects, N ° 8 (from the northern region list) entitled " implementation infrastructure (energy and hydraulic for a large mobilization of groundwater and resilience of agriculture in a context of scarcity and impact of climate change in the basin of the aquifer system of the northern Sahara (SASS) and N ° 9 (of the multi-region list) entitled "aquifer system of illumid in and Taoudini Tanezrouft: Integrated and concerted management of water resources and their connection with the Niger river (GICRESAIT)".

The concerns of SADR and Algeria are non-compliance with the eligibility criteria "strategic alignment" and "agreement of beneficiary countries" in the selection of the projects.

comprised of two Member States per region plus the Bureau to oversee the development of the feasibility study, and the AUC to submit progress report on the feasibility study of the African Tourism Organisation at the next STC meeting in April 2021.

ON THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (LOME CHARTER)

20. Validate the Maritime transport and Tourism annexes of the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lome Charter).

ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COVID-19 RECOVERY ACTION PLAN FOR THE TRANSPORT, ENERGY AND TOURISM

21. Take note of the status of development and implementation of the COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for the Transport, Energy and Tourism sectors.

22. Direct the AUC to fully and expeditiously implement the decision of the Bureau of the Subcommittee on Tourism taken at its meeting held on 21 April 2020 for the AUC to provide necessary support to facilitate the work of the High-Level Task Force on the African Post COVID-19 Continental Tourism Recovery Strategy.

23. In recognition of the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector and the livelihoods it supports in the continent, the urgency to ensure that the sector recovers and the decision of the meeting of the Bureau of the Subcommittee on Tourism taken at its meeting held on 21 April 2020 to establish a High Level Task Force to develop a COVID-19 Continental Tourism Recovery Strategy, the AUC should ensure that the process of developing a Continental Tourism Recovery Strategy is expedited with the view to have the recovery strategy adopted at the next meeting of the STC-TTIIET in April 2021.

24. The global COVID-19 pandemic underscores the urgency in bridging the digital connectivity gap and the need to guaranty meaningful, affordable and safe access to basic e-services – from education to finance and health services – to communities across the globe.

In conclusion

APPEAL TO:

1. Member States and Regional Economic Communities to strengthen inter-African and continental cooperation in the infrastructure sectors;
2. Member States to:
 - a. mainstream climate change and gender into infrastructure planning and implementation;
 - b. support the operationalisation of the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM);
 - c. ratify the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lome Charter);
 - d. in cooperation and coordination with the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the World Bank, the Africa CDC, the World Health Organisation (WHO), African Regional Airlines Association (AFRAA), The Association of Power Utilities of Africa (APUA), the African

Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), the International Renewable energy Agency (IRENA), the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), the Africa Europe Energy Partnership (AEEP), the United Kingdom (Host of COP26), international partners and other stakeholders to Collaborate in their core areas to fast track the implementation of the COVID-19 recovery plans in the transport, energy and tourism sectors, either through human capacity development, financial support, provision of timely analyses and/or the sharing of best practices;

- e. implement strategies for accelerating the deployment of smart solutions in energy generation and transmission, increase the share of renewables in their energy mix and accelerate energy transition, including gas to power and gas for clean cooking initiatives in order to attain Agenda 2063 and SDG goals.
3. All continental and international stakeholders to join efforts and support the implementation of the second phase of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA PAP 2, 2021-2030);
4. The Deans of the five regions to nominate two (2) tourism experts per region to be part of the Working Group in charge of conducting the feasibility for the establishment of the African Tourism Organisation.
5. All continental and international stakeholders to promote and implement the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030) and mainstream digital technologies in Tourism, Transport and Energy sectors.
6. The AUC to accelerate programmes for clean cooking for the benefit of the African population;
7. The board of director of AREI to hold a special meeting to consider the implications of the pandemic on financing for the target of 300 GW renewable energy investments by 2030.

MANDATE:

8. The Bureau of the STC TTIIET to validate the PIDA PAP 2 Financing Strategy in a meeting or by circulation.

REQUEST:

9. African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) jointly with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to strive to fast track the implementation of the PIDA PAP 2 priority projects using the validated strategies;
10. African Union Commission (AUC) and other partners (AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, and UNECA) to launch the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) at the meeting of the AU Assembly in February 2021;
11. African Union Commission (AUC) to submit a brief report to the AU Assembly on the African performance for the Decade 2011-2020 of Road Safety during the July 2021 Summit, as well as the Draft decision and the African plan of action for the Decade 2021-2030;
12. African Union Commission (AUC) to submit this Declaration to the African Union Policy Organs for consideration and adoption.

Done on 12th January 2021

2021-02-04

Report of the First Extraordinary Session of the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism (STC-TTIET)

African Union

DCMP

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/9191>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository