



**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITÉ
AFRICAINNE**

Secretariat
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
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CM/564

COMBINED TRANSPORT OF GOODS



CM/0564

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COMBINED TRANSPORT OF GOODS

1. On a basis of the recommendations on "Afrastructure and Transport" of the African Ministerial Conference on Trade, Development and Monetary Problems, (Abidjan, May 1973), the Twenty-First Session of the OAU Council of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res. 313(XXI) on INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER TRANSPORT.

2. This resolution calls upon the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the ECA and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to convene a conference of African Experts in the sphere of maritime transport and container traffic in particular to study the economic and social effects of this mode of transport on the development of Africa, and to prepare an African common stand with a view to the drafting of the Convention on International Container Transport.

3. After studying ways and means of implementing this resolution, OAU and ECA decided to convene three joint sub-regional meetings on "COMBINED TRANSPORT OPERATIONS in Africa:

- Eastern Africa: Nairobi, February 1974
- Western and Central Africa: Lagos, March-April 1974
- Northern Africa: Algiers or Rabat, September 1974.

4. In preparing and launching these sub-regional meetings, the organizers set themselves four fundamental aims and objectives, which may be briefly enumerated as follows:

- (a) Co-operation: the objective of enabling countries to coordinate and harmonize their transport policies and transport planning (programming) with a view to instituting genuine inter-regional and inter-African economic co-operation.
- (b) Programming and investment: the objective of carrying out an overall study of the extensive improvements to be made in the sub-region's infrastructure and of the corresponding investments, and of mobilizing the financial resources for that purpose - after of course, first having assessed the requirements of trade and industry in the African sub-regions referred to in respect of multinational transport during the next decade.

- (c) Preparation: the objective of initiating the approach toward a common African attitude and stand for the world conference on the Convention on International Container Transport.
- (d) The objective of taking fully into account the special problems of land-locked countries.

NAIROBI MEETING ON "COMBINED TRANSPORT OPERATIONS"

IN EASTERN AFRICA

5. The joint sub-regional meeting on combined transport operations in Eastern Africa, jointly organized by OAU, ECA and the East African Community, was held in Nairobi from 4 to 15 February 1974, at the Kenyatta Conference Centre.

6. The following countries were represented at the meeting: Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Somalia, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire and Zambia. Observers from the following bodies also participated in the meeting's work: United Nations, (New York), UNDP, UNCTAD, WHO, ICAO, ILO, IBRD, OATUU, ADB, and the University of Nairobi.

7. In his inaugural speech, the Kenyan Minister for Power and Communications stressed the importance of combined transport in Eastern Africa and said that it was going to increase intra-regional trade.

8. The OAU Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Economic and Social Affairs Department, the Secretary-General of the East African Community and a representative of ECA spoke on the general subject of the meeting's agenda, economic co-operation.

9. They emphasized the need for joint policies and joint planning in the field of transport, but also included trade, tourism and intra-African social contacts.

The officers were as follows:

- Chairman : East African Community
- Vice Chairman : Zaire
- Vice Chairman : Zambia
- Rapporteurs : Burundi, Kenya and Swaziland.

10. At the end of the meeting the participants drew up five man recommendations for the Conference of Ministers of Transport of the sub-region to be convened later.

11. In the first recommendation, co-operation and co-ordination in the field of transport, it was proposed that the Conference of East African Ministers of Transport set up a permanent inter-governmental transport Commission as an instrument for that co-operation.

12. This Commission would, however, co-ordinate its activities with those of the existing sectoral committees on transport and communications of the East and Central African States.

13. The second recommendation is on the land-locked countries. It covers all the requisite action at the individual, bilateral, regional and international levels for solving the problems of the land-locked countries.

14. The third recommendation (Annex I), the most urgent, is on the preparation of the Convention on International Container Transport. It begins by calling upon member countries to communicate their positions and views on the problem of combined transport to OAU and ECA before the end of April 1974.

15. It recommends that OAU and ECA in collaboration with UNCTAD should evolve common African stand for the drafting of the convention on a basis of information received from countries, of the discussions of sub-regional meetings, and of the OAU and UNCTAD declarations made on the subject at the Conference.

16. Lastly, it invites OAU to place this matter on the agenda of the Twenty-Second Session of its Council of Ministers with a view to the adoption of a common African stand.

17. In connexion with paragraph 2 of the recommendation, the OAU General Secretariat would like to convene a meeting of African experts in the field of international container transport. The meeting would make an in-depth study of the problem and prepare a common African stand for submission to the inter-governmental group of the Convention.

18. The fourth main recommendation is on adoption of the proceedings and on the conclusions concerning the various modes of transport. During the meeting, discussion groups were set up to study the various modes of transport.

- Road Transport Group
- Rail and Inland Water Transport Group
- Maritime Transport Group
- Air Transport Group.

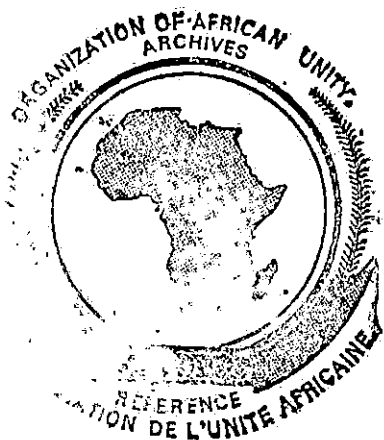
19. The object was to examine sector by sector and in detail the position of each mode of transport in the sub-region, to identify the areas in which co-operation and co-ordination are required, and to make specific recommendations to be submitted to the Conference of Ministers of Transport of the Sub-region.

20. The fifth main recommendation requests OAU in collaboration with ECA and the East African Community to organize and convene a conference of East African Ministers of Transport, not later than June 1975, to examine the studies and proposals of the sub-regional meeting and to recommend their implementation.

ACTION REQUIRED

21. The Council is, in the light of the foregoing, requested to:

- (a) endorse the specific date suggested by the Secretariat for the convening of an experts' conference in accordance with Resolution CM/Res. 313(XXI). The date is July 25, 1974;
- (b) endorse the proposal of the Secretariat to bring forward the meeting of the Northern African Sub-region on Combined Transport so as to enable the decisions of that meeting to be taken into account by the experts when they meet in July. The Secretariat's intention is to request that the meeting of the Northern African Sub-region be brought forward to one week before the meeting of experts at the very latest. However, at their own initiative, provided it is convenient for the sub-region, they could meet any time between April 15, 1974 and July 15, 1974;



- (c) Authorize the OAU Secretariat in collaboration with the ECA and if necessary, with UNCTAD, to obtain experts and put them at the disposal of the African members in the IPG during the second and third session of the IPG; and
- (d) endorse the Secretariat's intention to follow closely the work of the IPG and to be represented therein as effectively as possible.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

PREPARATION OF DRAFT CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL
INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION

The sub-regional meeting on combined transport arrangements in Eastern Africa:

- Noting the statement by OAU, ECA and UNCTAD on progress in drafting the convention on international intermodal transport of goods;
 - Aware of the importance of the convention on international intermodal transport to be drafted by the I.P.G. under the auspices of UNCTAD for consideration by a conference of plenipotentiaries to be convened by UN General Assembly in 1975;
 - Anxious to reach a common African position on all aspects of such a draft convention;
 - Apprehensive of the potential economic, social and political implications of this draft convention on African economies;
1. Recommends that OAU, ECA and East African Community, in co-operation with UNCTAD, should undertake preparation of statements based on subregional meeting discussions on combined transport arrangements in Eastern Africa with a view to contributing to a common African position;
 2. Urges member states to facilitate the work of OAU, East African Community and ECA by providing their position and views on combined transport problems by the end of April, 1974.
 3. Calls upon OAU, on behalf of the co-sponsors, to include this item in the Agenda of the 22nd session of the OAU Council of Ministers, with a view to reaching a common African position.

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