

# UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



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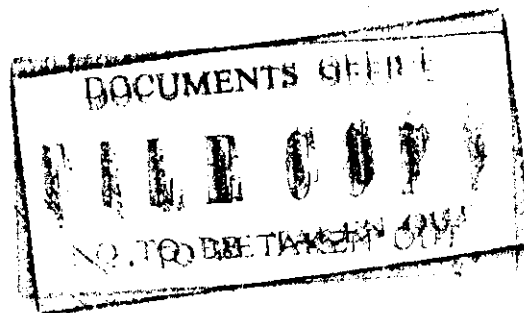
E/CN.14/WA/EC/3/Rev.1

E/CN.14/TRANS/30

26 September 1967

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
First Meeting of Interim Council  
of Ministers of the Economic Community  
of West Africa  
Dakar, 21 November - 1 December 1967



WEST AFRICAN PERMANENT TRANSPORT  
AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

M67-1303

Establishment of a Permanent West African Committee  
on Transport and Communications

1. Background

(i) The first proposal for the establishment of a West African Committee on Transport was made at the first West African Transport Conference, held in Monrovia in November 1961. (Doc. E/CN.14/147).

(ii) The Sub-Regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in West Africa, held at Niamey from 10 to 22 October 1966 (Doc. E/CN.14/366 of 11.XI.1966), after considerable detailed discussion, proposed, in Recommendation No. 2, the establishment of a Permanent Transport Committee within the framework of sub-regional economic co-operation arrangements. A structure and terms of reference for such a Committee were approved.

(iii) The eighth session of the Commission, held at Lagos in February 1967 (Doc. E/CN.14/393) requested the Executive Secretary, in resolution 161(VIII), to proceed with convening the Sub-regional Permanent Transport Committee and its sub-committees.

(iv) The (second) West African Sub-regional Conference on Economic Co-operation, held at Accra from 27 April to 4 May 1967 (Doc. E/CN.14/399), decided that an Interim Council of Ministers should be created to draw up a treaty establishing an Economic Community in West Africa and that this Council should set up a number of subsidiary bodies. One of these would be a Committee on Transport and Communications, in which representation would be at the level of technical heads, responsible in member States for the subject-matter dealt with by the Committee.

The Conference agreed that three areas of work might be given priority by the Committee on Transport and Communications and these were:

- (a) The need for an all-weather road link spanning the entire sub-region, including the standardization of road practices and regulations and the simplification of frontier formalities;

- (b) The intensification of the efforts of the airline companies in the sub-region towards co-operation in the scheduling of services, in the maintenance of equipment and in the building up of overall capacity; and
- (c) Increased sub-regional co-operation in the field of ocean transport.

## 2. Action required by Interim Council of Ministers

(i) It seems very clear that there is agreement among the member countries who will be represented at the first meeting of the Interim Council of Ministers to be held at Dakar that a Permanent Transport and Communications Committee should be established and that the Interim Council is empowered to take effective action to create this body with immediate effect. It is also clear that representation on the Committee should be at the level of technical heads responsible in the member states for the subject-matter dealt with by the Committee. The Council of Ministers may now wish to decide that this Committee should be established forthwith. It is suggested for consideration that each member of the Committee should nominate an alternate to represent him when required.

(ii) The Interim Council of Ministers may wish to decide that an immediate inaugural meeting of the Permanent Transport and Communications Committee should be called which would elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen and a Secretary and establish such simple working rules as may be felt appropriate.

(iii) It is suggested that the work of the Committee should be carried out mainly by correspondence but that a meeting of the committee should be held at least annually.

In view of the decision taken at the Accra meeting (vide para. 1 (iv), above) that priority might be given to three specific problems, it is suggested that the Permanent Committee, as soon as it is formed, should set up three working groups of suitable technical officers drawn from among the member States as follows:

- (a) One to study the need for an all-weather road link spanning the entire sub-region;
- (b) One to consider the possibility of intensifying efforts of the airline companies in the sub-region towards co-operation; and
- (c) One to study the scope for sub-regional co-operation in the field of ocean transport.

As its work becomes established, the Permanent Committee may wish to set up further working groups.

(iv) A suggested draft agenda for the first meeting of the Permanent Committee on Transport and Communications is attached.

Suggested draft agenda for inaugural meeting  
of the West African Permanent Transport and Communications Committee

1. Election of a Chairman and two Vice-Chairman by simple majority vote.
2. Election of a Secretary.
3. Adoption of rules of procedure.
4. Nomination of three technical working groups to study and report to the Committee on:
  - (a) The need for an all-weather road link spanning the entire sub-region;
  - (b) The possibility of intensifying efforts of the airline companies in the sub-region towards co-operation; and
  - (d) The scope for sub-regional co-operation in the field of ocean transport.
5. Selection of provisional date and place for next meeting.
6. Any other business.