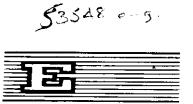


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# UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

REPORT OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANNING

2-6 MAY 1991, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

# A. ORGANIZATION

1. The Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Inter-Governmental Experts of Transport, Communications and Planning was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 2 to 5 May 1991.

# B. ATTENDANCE

2. Representatives of following member States of the Economic Commission for Africa attended the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire and Zaire.

The following specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations as well as the following the African Intergovernmental organizations listed below were also in attendance: United Nations Educational, Nations United Organization (UNESCO), Cultural Scientific and Development Programme (UNDP), Universal Postal Union (UPU), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Development Bank (ADB), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Communaute economique des Pays des Grands Lacks (CEPGL), the Egyptian National Civil Aviation Training Organization (NCATO), the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), the Economic Community of West Africa (CEAO), the Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA), Association of African Maritime Training Institutions (AAMTI), the African Airlines Association (AFRAA), the Ministerial Conference of Western and Central African States on Maritime Transport (MINCONMAR), the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU), the Port Management Association of Western and Central African States (PMAWCAS), Agence pour la securite de la navigation aerienne en Afrique et a Madagascar (ASECNA), Union douaniere des Etats de l'Afrique central the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations in (UDEAC), Africa (URTNA) and the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC).

The list of participants is provided at annex.

C. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened by the representative of Nigeria Chairman of the Meeting. After his introductory statement in which he recalled the aim of the meeting, he called on the Executive Secretary of the ECA to make his statement.

5. In his statement, Professor Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of ECA, started by thanking all representatives having travelled to attend

the meeting despite their heavy schedules in their respective countries or organizations.

He then recalled that during their eighth meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 7 and 8 February 1991, the African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning had clearly stated that without the projects, the second Decade programme would be incomplete. They had therefore, requested the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC) to screen the projects submitted and to recommend a list of projects to be included in the programme. In that meeting, it was also decided to hold a meeting of inter-governmental experts since the Ministers did not agree with the proposal that the approval of the projects should be entrusted to an open ended bureau of the Conference.

He also underlined that the major objective of the meeting was to consider the projects selected by RMC and subsequently examined by the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee (IACC) for recommendation to the Ministers and inclusion in the second Decade programme.

Continuing, he spoke on the activities that had been undertaken since the Abuja meetings by the various parties involved in the project selection exercise, namely, the subregional organizations, ECA, the Technical Committee set up within RMC as well as RMC itself and the TACC.

He noted that the work had been very difficult especially in view of the delays in the submission of information as well as the inadequacies noticed in such information.

He then called the attention of participants to the proposals and recommendations made by IACC for an efficient implementation of the second Decade programme which was also to be reviewed by the meeting.

He concluded his statement by once again calling on all the Experts to collectively consider carefully the list of projects submitted by IACC and make appropriate recommendations on their inclusion in the programme.

# ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS D.

Adoption of the agenda and programme of work (agenda item 2) The following agenda was adopted: 12.

- Opening of the meeting
- Adoption of the agenda and programme of work Consideration of the initial list of projects recommended for 1.
- 2.
- inclusion in the second DECADE programme Consideration of the recommendations on revitalization of a 3.
- single Bureau of Trans-African Highway Authorities 4.

5. Any other business

6. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting

13. The following programme of work was adopted:

Morning: 9.00 hrs - 13.00 hrs Afternoon: 15.00 hrs - 18.00 hrs

Consideration of the initial list of projects recommended for inclusion in the second Decade programme (agenda item 3)

14. In introducing this agenda item, a member of the ECA secretariat recalled that in Abuja, it had been decided that the projects should not be discussed as a Technical Committee had been set up within RMC to review the projects submitted.

15. He indicated that the Technical Committee had met in Abidjan, at the headquarters of ADB, from 27 March to 19 April 1991 to select the projects. The Resource Mobilization Committee itself had met in Addis Ababa from 24 to 28 April 1991 to review the work done by the Technical Committee and had recommended a list of projects to IACC which had also met in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 April 1991.

16. He stressed that a total of 1037 projects had been screened, out of which 460 had been recommended for inclusion in the second Decade programme, 475 placed on the waiting list pending receipt of additional information, while 102 had been rejected for not meeting the guidelines of the second Decade.

17. The representative of the secretariat then drew the attention of participants to the recommendations made by IACC and to the measures to be taken for the implementation of the programme.

18. He further emphasized that there should be no cause for unnecessary alarm if it was observed that a particular project or projects were on the waiting list. Since the second Decade programme was flexible the initiators of the projects involved were invited to provide the additional information requested and RMC should re-consider such projects for inclusion in the recommended list of projects if the information provided met the selection criteria established in Abuja. The same applied to those projects submitted late.

19. A debate then ensued as to whether it was needful to review in detail the list of projects as submitted and the best method to follow.

20. After long discussions, the meeting agreed that there was no need to repeat the work already done by RMC and IACC and decided that the

list of projects should be considered globally while appropriate recommendations should be made to the Ministers.

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21. The Meeting noted that a number of projects that had been submitted in the reports of the National Coordinating Committees (NCCs) or of the Subregional and Subsectoral Working Groups and formulated as project documents, did not appear in any of the three categories of recommended, pending or rejected projects. Accordingly, participants hoped that they would be given special consideration.

22. It was also agreed that each of the parties concerned should contact the secretariat for further explanations and should take all necessary steps to provide the important information that RMC would need in order to consider such projects on the same footing as those pending.

23. The meeting, moreover, agreed to classify the projects recommended under three categories:

- (i) Regional and subregional integration projects;
- (ii) National projects having an integrative scope;
- (iii) National projects whose integrative scope is not obvious.

24. The meeting then reviewed the future activities of RMC as approved by IACC, amending them to read as follows:

(a) Reconsideration of the pending and omitted projects in light of the additional information to be provided to the lead-agency by States and the agencies concerned. In this connection, RMC would hold an initial meeting in June/July to which heads of subregional and subsectoral working groups as well as the Chairman of the Experts Meeting would be invited. Consequently, information on the projects to be considered during this first meeting of RMC should be submitted to ECA the lead-agency, not later than the end of May 1991;

(b) RMC would meet regularly during the next two years to consider the new projects submitted in accordance with the guidelines approved in Abuja by the Conference of Ministers. The heads of subregional and subsectoral working groups as well as the Chairman of the Experts Meeting would be invited to these meetings;

(c) During the next six months, RMC would convene a technical meeting of donors which should not be a pledging conference, but which should aim at identifying the best means of obtaining financing for the projects;

(d) The lead-agency would organize, in cooperation with members of IACC and RMC, chairmen of Subregional and Sub-sectoral Working Groups, as well as Chairman of the Experts Meeting meetings and seminars aimed at better sensitizing African States and Inter-Governmental

Organizations to the objectives and strategies of the Decade and help them to realign their strategies to those of the working group. At the national level, such a sensitization exercise should get to the grassroots level in order to involve the rural people who are the most concerned.

(e) The RMC would commence its activities by arranging for the financing of projects already approved under the programme.

25. The meeting noted the offer of the National Civil Aviation Training Organization (NCATO) of Egypt to host one of such meetings or seminars;

26. The meeting also considered the recommendations of IACC, amending them to read as follows:

(a) The Executive Secretary of ECA should contact officials of the funding agencies members of RMC in order to discuss the specific involvement of those institutions in the implementation of the Decade programme;

(b) The projects selected for the Decade programme should be included in national sub-sectoral programmes worked out in pursuit of rational and realistic strategies;

(c) RMC's were requested to take all necessary measures so that the projects approved within the framework of the Decade receive the endorsement of funding agencies even if some of these projects were not considered during negotiations of the current structural adjustment programmes.

(d) The projects submitted by IACC members should be prepared in accordance with the strategies recommended by the subregional and subsectoral working groups and subsequently implemented in close cooperation with members of each working group.

27. The meeting agreed to recommend to the Ministers that RMC should be empowered to include in the Decade programme those projects pending or omitted but which met the selection criteria after additional information was received.

28. The meeting approved the idea that subregional and regional institutions and specialized agencies should meet before the next meeting of RMC, to harmonize and coordinate their programmes.

29. The insufficiency of industrialization projects was noted and a decision was made to draw the attention of the Ministers to this shortcoming so that ECA and UNIDO should be requested to step up their assistance to member States in the identification and preparation of investment projects to be submitted to RMC. A draft resolution on this subject was to be submitted to the Ministers for consideration.

Revitalisation of the Trans- African Highway Bureau (agenda item 4) A member of the secretariat introduced document TRANSCOM/494 on the He indicated that the document had been elaborated following a 30. above subject. request made to ECA by the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning to formulate a more objective method of requesting contributions from member States and to report there on to the Meeting of the Extra-Ordinary Conference. He indicated that the document contained a programme of action and its various advantages to member States. A core programme covering the services that the Bureau would include: render to the Trans-African Highway Authorities; (b) An extended programme aimed at developing the roads and road transport sector in Africa taking into account the strategies, objectives of the second Decade. Contributions would be based on the benefits to be derived by member States from programmes implemented. He continued by presenting an indicative programme and the corresponding cost for the period 1991-1993 which totalled US\$991,000 as well as the scale of assessments indicating contributions that of each member State. Moreover, he stressed that to make the structure less cumbersome and more flexible, the Bureau should comprise a Coordinator, supported by a bilingual secretary, while additional staffing should be for the extended programme activities. The co-ordinator will be responsible to the Chief of TCTD 35. He specified that: (ECA) who will, in turn, report to the Authorities and co-ordinating committee on the activities of the Bureau on behalf of the Executive (b) Authorities and co-ordinating committees will meet every year secretary of ECA; under a combined session in order to consider their particular and collective problems and whose report and that on the activities of the Bureau will be rendered to the meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning The following major concerns were identified from the debates on 36. this agenda item:

(a) To include under the advantages to be derived by member States from the Bureau, an item on exchange of geotechnical information on low-cost construction materials;

(b) To include in the programme the establishment of a catalogue of African consultancy firms which should be used for studies on road construction in Africa;

(c) The need for consultation between the Bureau and subregional inter-governmental organizations for the formulation and implementation of its programme in order to avoid overlapping and duplication of efforts;

(d) Given the fact that 1991 was fairly spent, the proposed work programme should be reviewed accordingly and based only on 1992-1993. The relevant costs and contributions should also be reviewed;

The relevant costs and contributions should also be retained, (e) The need to review the statutes and rules governing the functioning of the trans-African highway in order to adapt them to the new structure of the single Bureau;

(f) The need for the ECA to examine the legal existence of the single Bureau and to make proposals to member countries so that they pay their contributions to the budget.

37. The meeting then adopted the proposals contained in the document concerning the operational modalities of a single trans-African highways Bureau which will be based in the secretariat of ECA.

38. The scale of assessed contributions resulting from the revision of the bureau's programme, for the period 1992-1993 alone, is given below:

	CATEGORY	CONTRIBUTIONS	
			1993
(ii)	Accoriate members:	US\$3,377	- US\$7,394; - US\$4,183 - US\$3,333

Any other business (agenda item 5)

39. The meeting accepted the recommendation that there should be a study on the harmonization of standards for roads and highways at the continental level.

40. The meeting also noted with concern that some countries had not yet set up their National Coordinating Committees (NCCs) and that, in some cases, the established NCCs were not receiving sufficient support from the governments, contrary to the spirit of Tangier when the Ministers undertook to be responsible for the establishment and functioning of the NCCs. In this regard, the meeting appealed to the Ministers not only to

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establish, but also to give them every support so as to enable them to perform the crucial tasks entrusted to them in the context of the bottom-up approach now adopted for the UNTACDA II programme.

# Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting (agenda item 6)

The meeting adopted its report after a few amendments.

The Chairman thanked all participants for their sincere cooperation which contributed to the success of the meeting . He then declared closed the deliberations of the Extra-ordinary meeting of the Inter-Governmental Experts of Transport, Communications and Planning.

# ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Extra-ordinary Meeting of Inter-governmental Experts on Transport, Communications and Planning

2 - 5 May, 1991 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/ LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

#### ALGERIA/ALGERIE/

Mr. Ramtane LAMARA, Ambassadeur d'Algerie a Addis Ababa, Department, Permanent aupres de la CEA, Addis Abeba, Ethiopie

Mr. Lounes MAGRAMANE, Deuxieme Secretaire, Ambassade d'Algerie, Addis Abeba, Ethiopie

Mr. Farid MOULAHBEL, 3eme Secretaire, Ambassade d'Algerie, Addis Abeba, Ethiopie

# ANGOLA/ANGOLA

Mr. Francisco Fernandes, Director Department Transports and Communications, Ministry of Transport and Communications,

# BENIN/BENIN

Mr. Theophile MONTCHO, Directeur des Transports Terresres, B.P. 1230, Cotonou, Benin

Mr. T. Guy HOUINSOU, Directeur Adjoint du Plan, Ministere du Plan, B.P. 342, Cotonou, Benin

Mr. Felix Narcisse LANTONKPODE, Econimiste a la DTT, B.P. 351, Cotonou, Benin, Tel 31 39 98,

Mr. Isidore DEGBELO, Ingenieur des Telecommunications, OPT Cotonou, Benin,

Mr. Mamoudou MOUSTAPHA-SOULE, Directeur des routes et Ouvrages d'Arts, B.P. 351, Cotonou, Benin, Tel. 31 32 04

# BURKINA FASO/BURKINA FASO

Mr. Boukare DENNI, Conseiller Technique du Ministre, des transports et des communication, MTC 03 BP 7001 Ouagadougou 03, Burkina Faso, Tel 31 25 41 Mr. Isidore ILBOUDO, Ingenieur des T.P., B.P. 7004, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Tel. 33 52 74, Fax 5555 SEGOUV BF

Mr. M. Fidele KIENTEGA, Department of Studies and Plannification, Ministry of Transport & Communication, 01 BP 4345, Ouagadougou 01, Burkina Faso

Mr. B. DICKO HEME, Economiste MPC, Tel. 310004, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Tlx 5255 BF,

# BURUNDI/BURUNDI

H.E. Mr. Simon Rusuku, Ministre des Transports, Postes et Telecommunications, B.P. 2000, Bujumbura, Telex 5103 MINIPT BDI, Fax 226900, Burundi

Mr. Apollinaire Ndayizeye, Directeur General, B.P. 2000, Bujumbura, Burundi, Tel. 225422, Tlx. 5103 MINITPT BDI, Fax 226900,

# CAMEROON/CAMEROUN

Mr. Moise Nzemen, Deputy Director of Transport, Ministry of Public Works and Transports, B.P. 5366, Yaounde, Cameroon

Mr. Nicolas Nzoyoum, 2nd Counsellor, Cameroon Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

# CONGO/CONGO

Mr. Koutoundou Jaxques, Directeur Central des Etudes de la planification et le coordinations des Transports au Ministre des transports et de l'aviation civile, B.P. 2148, Brazzaville, Congo

Mr. Gaetani Maleka, Chief de SErvice, Analyse Economique, Ministre des Transport, B.P. 2148, Brazzaville, Tel. 83 43 34, Congo

# COTE D'IVOIRE/ COTE D'IVOIRE

Mr. Pierre NEMLIN, Premier Secretaire, Ambassade de Cote d'Ivoire, Addis Abeba, Ethiopie, Tel. 71 12 13,

Mr. Koussan N'DA, 2eme Secretaire, Ambassade de Cote d'Ivoire, Addis Abeba, Ethiopie, Tel. 71 12 13

# DJIBOUTI/DJIBOUTI

Mr. Osman Mohamed, Premiere Conseille, Djibouti Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel. 61 32 00

# ETHIOPIA/ETHIOPIE

Mr. Hibistu AMARE, G. Manager of Road Transport Authority, P. O. Box 2504, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Fax 510715

Mr. Tsige ABII, Department Head, Transport & Communications, Office of the National Committee for Central Planning, P. O. Box 1037, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Ms. Amare MARTHA, Advisor to the Minister, Ethiopian Mini. of Transport and Communication, P. O. Box 1238, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel. 150334

Mr. Belayneh MESHESHA, Planning & Projects Study Dept., Ministry of Transport & Communication, P. O. Box 1238, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel. 153350

#### (ONCCP)

Mr. Girma FEYISSA, Team Leader, Communications, ONCCP, P. O. Box 1037, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel. 552800/111752

Mr. Wubeshet BEYENE, Air Transport Team Leader, ONCCP, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

# EGYPT/EGYPTE

Dr. Eng. Mohamed Maher EL-MORSI, Technical Advisor to Minister of Transport, Egyptian National Railways (ENR), Ministry of Transport, Cairo, Egypt, Tel. 751000/771388

# EQUATORIAL GUINEA/GUINEE EQUATORIALE

Mr. Nseng SALVADOR-ELA, Ambassador, Equatorial Guinea, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel. 610106

Mr. Abeso Oyana NARCISO-NTUGU, Second Secretary, Embassy of Equatorial Guinea, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel. 610106

Mr. Abeso Oyana JACINTA-Nchama, Secretaire de L'Ambassade, Equatorial Guinea, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

# GABON/GABON

Mr. Bernard OYONE, Conseiller Ministere P & T, B.P. 2280, Libreville, Gabon

Mr. S. EWORE, Conseiller du Ministere, Ministere de la Communication, Libreville, Gabon

Mr. Jean Pierre Obiang Zue Aeyeme, Secretaire General Adjoint, Aviation Civile et Commerciale, B.P. 2212, Libreville, Gabon, Tel. 76 39 04

# GHANA/GHANA

Mr. Twumasi A. Selby, Ag. Director (Planning) Ministry of Transport, Communications, P.O.Box M38, Accra, Ghana

Mr. B.A. Thompson-Mensah, Chief Engineer, Posts and Telecommunication Corporation Headquarters, Accra, Ghana

Mr. Ben Boamah, Deputy Commercial Director, Ghana Airways Corporation, P.O.Box 1636, Accra, Ghana

Mr. E. Oduro-Konadu, Principal Engineer (Planning), Ghana Highways Authority, P.O.Box 1641, Accra, Ghana

# GUINEA/GUINEE

Conseiller Ambassade de Guinee, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

# KENYA/KENYA

Mr. Washington Zeb RAKAMA, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel. 729200

Mr. Mwania NZUKI SOLOMON, Transport Economist, Ministry of Transport & Communications, P. O. Box 52692, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel. 729200 Ext. 863

Mr. Japheth Getugi, Kenya Embassy Addis Ababa, P.O.Box 3301, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel 61 00 33

# MALAWI/MALAWI

H.E. W.R.Chimuzu, Ambassador, Malawi Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethipia

Mr. Mcpetrie Newman HANJAHANJA, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Communication, P. O. Box 322 LL3, Lilongwe-3, Malawi, Tel. 730 122

Mr. Jones Kadono NYASULU, Senior Transport Economist, Dept. of Economic Planning & Development, P. O. Box 30136, Lilongwe-3, Malawi, Tel. 731113/731777

Mr. Tomics KAUNDA, Senior Transport Officer, P. O. Box 322, Lilongwe-3, Malawi, Tel. 730122, Tlx. 44461

Mr. M.P. Magwira, First Secretary, Malawi Embassy, Tel. 712440, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

# MALI/MALI

Mr. Thiemoko KONE, Secretaire General ONT, BP 78, Bamako, Mali, Tel. 224112/226463, Tlx 2520

Mr. Samba Sow, Chef de Service Etudes Sotelma, Cite de PTT, Sans-Fil, Bamako, Mali

# MOROCCO/MAROC

Mr. Jillali CHAFIK, Secretaire General, SNED, 31 Charia Alalaovyine, Rabat, Maroc,

# MAURITANIA/MAURITANIE

Mr. Moussa KOITA, Conseilla Technique du Ministre de l'equipement et des transport, B.P. 237, Nouakchott, Mauritanie, Tel. 55223

# MOZAMBIQUE/MOZAMBIQUE

Mr. Alberto JOSE ELIAS, Commercial Director ACFM, Mozambique Ports and Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communication, P. O. Box 276, Maputo, Mozambique, Tel. 741638, Tlx 6-208

Mr. Ermindo FERREIRA, Second Secretary, Mozambique Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Tel 712905,

# NIGER/NIGER

Mr. Pereota Charae MOUSSILTOU, Adjoint ou directeur des transports, BP 12130, Niamey, Niger, Tlx MINTRANS 5249 NI

Assane Arima ARI, Secretaire General Adjoint, Ministre Transports et Travaux, Niger, B.P. 646, Niamey, Niger,

# NIGERIA/NIGERIA

Dr. Adegbeyeni Ola, Director, Federal Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Transport, Lagos, Nigeria

Mr. Abiodun KEHINDE, Assistant Chief Planning Office, Federal Min. of Budget & Planning, Lagos, Nigeria,

Ms. Gladys Roseleen OKUNGBOWA, Deputy Director (TCI), Federal Ministry of Transport, 1 Joseph St. Lagos, Nigeria, Tel. 630956 Office

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC/REPUBLIQUE CENTREAFRICAINE

Mr. Jean-Seraphin KOYO-NEDE, Directeur General des Transports, B.P. 941, Bangui, Republic Centrafricane, Tel. 613322/612307, Tlx. 5335 RC

# CHAD/ TCHAD

Mr. Issakha PALKOU BOU, Directeur des Etudes et de la plannification, MTPT, Ndjamena BP 828, Tchad

Mr. Jean Baptiste KLAMTI, Chef Cellule Planification, MTPT, Ndjamena, Tchad

Mr. Charles Djekourba, Directeur Generale Adjoint de ONPT, N'Djamena, Tchad

# RWANDA/RWANDA

Mr. Silas KANAMUGIRE, Chef de Division Paln. & Programme, des Transports, Ministere des Transports et des Communications, MINITRANSCO BP 407, Kigali, Rwanda, Tel. 250 7 2960, Tlx Train 22516, Fax 250 76574

# SWAZILAND/SWAZILAND

Mr. Almon M. MBINGO, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works, P. O. Box 58, Mbabane, Swaziland

Mr. Arthur S. JONES-DOVE, Chief Engineering Adviser, P.O. Box 58, Mbabane, Swaziland, Tel. 42321, Telex 2104, Fax 42364

# SIERRA LEONE/SIERRA LEONE

Mr. Bangura William Sebana, Charge d'Affaires, a.i., Sierra Leone Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

# TANZANIA/TANZANIE

H.E. Major General M.S.H. SARAKIKYA, Tanzania Embassy, P. O. Box 1077, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel. 518155

Mr. M.O. MAUNDI, First Secretary, Tanzania Embassy, P. O. Box 1077, Addis Ababa , Ethiopia

# UGANDA/OUGANDA

Mr. Joseph Nduru, Experts of Transport, Communications and Planning, P.O.Box 7087, Kampala, Uganda

# ZAIRE/ZAIRE

Mr. Njilamult TSHAMALA, lere Conseilleer, Ambassade du Zaire, Addis Abeba, Ethiopie

# ZAMBIA/ZAMBIE

Mr. Winston Mwandila, Transport Economist, Ministry of Power, Transport and Communications, Box 50065, Lusaka, Zambia

Mr. Roney Kasiwa Siam, Chief Engineer, Zambia Posts and Telecommunications, P.O.Box 71660, Ndola, Zambia

Mr. Barnabas Hibajene, Corporate planning Manager, Box 80935, Kabwe, Zambia

#### ORGANIZATION

#### ADB

Mr. D. NDIKUMWAMI, Principal Transport Economist, ADB, P. O. Box V316, Tel. (225) 204529, Tlx. 23717/23498, Fax (225) 204902, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Mr. D.R. RAO, Principal Transport Engineer, ADB, B. P. V316 Abidjan, Tel. 204735, Tlx. 23717/23498, Fax (225) 204902, Cote d'Ivoire

Mr. Abdoulaye DEME, Consultant, ADB, B.P. V316, Tel. 204945, Fax. (225) 204902, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

e,

# amta/aamti

Mr. Alfonse SADEK, Secretary General, AAMTI, P. O. Box 1029, Tel. 5467221/878656, Tlx. 54610, Fax (203) 431 188, Alexandria, Egypt

Dr. M. Said ABDEL KHALEK, Director General, Institute for Inland Water Transport, River Transport Institute, Athar Elnaby-Elzahraa, Tel. 5467221 Alexandria, Fax (203) 431 1882, Cairo, Egypt

# ASECNA

Mr. Theodore JOUSSO, Department Ingenirie et Con. des projets, ASECNA, B.P. 3144, Dakar, Senegal, Tel. (221) 255681,

#### CEAO

Mr. Aboubacar LARRE, Ingenieur Civil, Division Transports et Communications, CEAO, B.P. 643, Tel. 30 61 87 ex. 96, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

# CEPGL

Mr. Maketa LUTETE, Expert en Transports, CEPGL, B.P. 58, Giseyi, Rwanda, Tel. 40228 - 40275, Tlx 602 CEPSLRW, Fax 40785

# ECCAS/CEEAC

Mr. Simon YANOU GONIA, Directeur Des Transport Communications et Tourisme, B.P. 2112, Libreville, Gabon

#### NCATO

Mr. M. Sadek FOUDA, H.C.D Training, P. O. Box 1390, Tel. 3469937, Fax 3449095, Cairo, Egypt

# PATU

Mr. Mouhamadou BOYE, Directeur Exploitation, Ressources, Humaines et Coop. Technique, UPAT, B.P. 8634 Kinshasa I, Zaire

# PTA

Mr. S. NGWENYA, Senior Transport Expert, PTA, P. O. Box 30051, Tlx. 40127 B PTA, Lusaka, Zambia

# UDEAC

Mr. Benjamin N'DALA, Expert Principal UDEAC, B.P. 1004, Bangui, RCA, UNIDO,

Mr. Shadrack N. NDAM, Acting Head, Africa Programme, UNIDO -V.I.C., P. O. Box 400, A-1400 Vienna, Austria

# UPU

Mr. Thomas Nwachendu IKE, Regional Adviser, P. O. Box UA 399, Union Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe

# URTNA

Mr. Medoune Lo, Directeur Centre Technique, URTNA, B.P. 39, Bamako, Mali

# AFCAC

Mr. Edouard LOMBOLOU, Secretary General, AFCAC, B.P. 2356, Dakar, Senegal

# UAO

Mr. Y.C. AFANOU, Head T & C Division, OAU, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. A.S. KORAM, Transport and Communications Division, OAU, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

# UNCTAD

Mr. Eric WILLIAMSON, Co-ordinator, Technical Co-operation, and Training, Shipping Division, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations,

1211 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: (022) 7346011, Fax: (4122) 7336542

# MINCONMAR/CMEAOC

Mr. Gohibi Bernard, Cadre Administratif, MINCONMAR, BP V257, Abidjan, Tel.: 21 71 15, Telex 22.528, Cote d'Ivoire

# ICAO

Mr. Youssoupha Diallo, Chief, Field Operations Section Africa, 100 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal Quebec, Canada H3A 2R2, Tel. (514) 285-8-75/8077, Telex: 05-24513, Fax: (514) 288-4722

# NORTHERN CORRIDOR

Mr. Munyeshuli Faustin, Coordinator of Northern Corridor, P.O.Box 95341, Mombasa, Kenya SECRETARIAT

Mr. M. Bongoy, Chief, Transport, Communications and Tourism Division, ECA, P. O. Box 3001, Tel. 516551, Tlx. 21029 UNECA, Fax 514416, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. R. Okello, Chief, Technical Advisor, UNTACDA II, P. O. Box 3001, Tel. 517200 ext. 178, Fax 514416, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. B. Deme, Planning Expert, Transport, UNTACDA, P. O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. Bekele Kebede, Planning Expert, Communication, UNTACDA, P. O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. F. Rutaiwa, Chief, Transport and Tourism Section, TCTD, P. O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. S.D. AKANDE, Chief, Transport Operation Section, TCTD, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. T.J. Baxter, Chief, Communications Unit, TCTD, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. P. Chechekhin, EAO, TCTD, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Mr. F. Chibozo, EAO, TCTD, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Mr. V. Chikolo, Consultant TAH, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. C. Miraruro, EAO, TCTD, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Mr. D. Ngangmuta, EAO, TCTD, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Mr. P. Were, EAO, TCTD, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Mr. M.E.Dhiliwayo, EAO, TCTD, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Mr. Charles Amira, Consultant UNTACDA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Mr. Daneil Faux, Consultant UNTACDA, Addis Ababa

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