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REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE TRANSAFRICAN HIGHWAY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Bangui, 10-14 April 1972

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Introduction	1	1
Attendance	2 - 8	1
Opening of meeting	4 - 8	1-2
Election of officers	9 - 10	2-3
Organization of meeting	11 -	3
Adoption of the agenda	12	3
Papers by the Transafrican Highway Bureau	13	3
Transafrican Highway Route	14 - 15	4-5
Programme of work for the next phase of the project	16 - 17	5-6
Adoption of procedures for implementing future phases	18 -19	6
Prospects of assistance : Statements by developed countries and organizations	20 -33	6-9
Draft rules of procedure for the Co-ordinating Committee	34	10
Place and date of the next meeting	35	10
Adoption of the Report	36	10
Annex - Rules of Procedure for the Co-ordinating Committee		

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE TRANSAFRICAN HIGHWAY
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Bangui, 10-14 April 1972

Introduction

1. The second meeting of the Transafrican Highway Co-ordinating Committee was held at Bangui, Central African Republic, from 10 to 14 April 1972. Representatives from the member States of the Committee, 7 observer countries and 12 organizations including the Economic Commission for Africa arrived in Bangui on 9 April by road from Yaounde. This trip was organized by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the six African countries through whose territories the Transafrican Highway will run, namely, Cameroun, the Central African Republic, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zaire.
3. Observers/participants from the following countries and organizations were also in attendance: Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, African Development Bank (ADB), East African Community (EAC), the European Development Fund (FED), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Road Federation (IRF), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Office of Technical Co-operation (OTC), United Nations Multinational Interdisciplinary Development Advisory Team (UNDAT), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Opening of meeting

4. Mr. Ange Patassé, Ministre d'Etat in the Office of the President of the Republic, welcomed the participants on behalf of H.E. General Bokassa, President of the Central African Republic, who was unable to attend. In his opening statement he stressed the importance of the work which the ECA secretariat had successfully accomplished, making it possible for a route to be selected to serve the African countries concerned, and specially the land-locked States.

5. He hoped the delegations from the six Transafrican Highway countries were imbued by a general desire to see that the meeting reached agreement on a final route for the Transafrican Highway. The Central African Republic attached great importance to the execution of the project for its own development as well as for the economic growth of the Central, Eastern and West African states. Africa, as a whole, was anxious to see the realization of this project which would, among other things, strengthen existing links and bring Africa closer to unity.

6. He thanked the developed countries for their interest in the project and, in particular the United Kingdom for financing the prefeasibility study in its entirety. He said that technical and financial assistance from friendly countries would be an important factor in speeding up the completion of the project.

7. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa thanked the Central African Republic for playing host to the second meeting of the Transafrican Highway Co-ordinating Committee. He also thanked the Government of the Federal Republic of Cameroon for their hospitality and for arranging transport for the participants who passed through Douala and Yaoundé and thence by road to Bangui. Both Governments were kind enough to arrange accommodation for all participants for nights spent en route and to provide overland transport.

8. He hoped the unanimous desire which was evident at the Transafrican Highway June and September meetings would prevail during the present discussions, and that the Bangui meeting would mark a date in the annals of intra-African co-operation, by adopting a highway linking the Gulf of Guinea to the Indian Ocean.

Election of officers

9. The following representatives were elected as officers of the Committee:

Mr. A. Dallot Befio (CAR)	Chairman
Mr. A.N. Ndiho (Kenya)	Vice-Chairman

The meeting agreed that the Transafrican Highway Bureau should serve as the Rapporteur.

10. It was also decided that the Chairman and the venue for meetings would be selected alphabetically according to country, as follows: Cameroun, Central African Republic, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zaire.

Organization of the meeting

11. The following hours were adopted:

9 a.m. - 12 noon

3 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

12. After discussions, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

- (1) Opening of meeting
- (2) Election of officers
- (3) Organization of the meeting
- (4) Adoption of the agenda
- (5) Papers by the Transafrican Highway Bureau
- (6) Discussion
- (7) Other business
- (8) Place and date of next meeting
- (9) Adoption of the report

Papers by the Transafrican Highway Bureau

13. The secretariat presented three documents: Report by Executive Secretary on the State of Advancement of the Project (E/CN.14/TRANS/55); Transafrican Highway Prefeasibility Study (T.P. O'Sullivan & Partners); and Transafrican Highway : Summary of the Prefeasibility Study (E/CN.14/TRANS/56). The representative of the secretariat said one more paper dealing with the rules of procedure for the Co-ordinating Committee would be presented during the course of the meeting.

Transafrican Highway Route

14. The representative of the ECA secretariat said that the Bureau was in general agreement with the recommendations contained in the report of the prefeasibility study and appealed to the delegates of member countries to consider adopting the route recommended by the study to be designated as the TAH route.

15. After some discussion, the six member countries agreed with the recommendations of the report regarding the points at which the TAH route should cross their respective frontiers. The Committee designated the TAH route as follows:

Kenya:

Mombasa-Nairobi-Mau Summit-Eldoret-Malaba

Uganda:

Malaba-Kampala-Mbarara-Kasindi

The representative of Uganda said that his country strongly favours the northern route, i.e. Malaba-Tororo-Mbale-Soroti-Lira-Kamundini-Pakwacha-Mahagi. But since the Committee has accepted the southern route recommended by the Study Group, there should be further consultations between the ECA secretariat and the Governments of Uganda and Zaire.

Zaire:

Kasindi-Beni-Kamanda-Kisangani-Dulia-Bangassou.

The representative of Zaire said that his Government was in favour of the southern alternative route, but since the Committee has accepted the recommended northern route, there should be further consultations between the ECA secretariat and the Governments of Zaire and CAR.

Central African Republic: Bangassou-Bambari-Bangui-Bouar-Garoua Boulai.

Cameroun:

Garoua Boulai-Tibati-Banyo-Bafoussam-Mamfe-Ekok.
At the request of the Cameroun delegation the northern alternative route was designated as the TAH route in preference to the recommended southern route.

Nigeria:

Ekok-Enugu-Benin City-Lagos

Programme of work for the next phase of the project

16. The secretariat made a statement on the programme of work as given under item C (Studies) in Annex I of document E/CN.14/TRANS/55:

- (a) Detailed feasibility studies of selected sections of the Transafrican Highway.
- (b) Study of ways and means on how to connect the road links from the neighbouring States to the Transafrican Highway.
- (c) Study of the existing highway design standards in the six Transafrican Highway countries.
- (d) Study of present customs and immigration procedures in the Transafrican Highway countries with a view to recommending measures for improving international traffic on the Highway and will include:
 - (i) Simplification of the regulations and procedures to be applied to the goods and passenger traffic - including customs, passport, health and visa formalities, wherever possible;
 - (ii) Simplification and unification of customs rules and procedures governing the temporary importation of private and commercial vehicles;
 - (iii) Extension of 'in bond' facilities for goods in transit between ports and land-locked countries;
 - (iv) Vehicle insurance.

- (e) A study of existing road and traffic regulations in the Transafrican Highway countries with a view to determining gradual harmonization of these regulations.

The programme of work which was prepared in accordance with the decisions taken at the 1971 June meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee took account of the proposals contained in the O'Sullivan report. It was only a rough, not an absolute order of priority.

17. The Committee was of the opinion that the proposed programme of work reflected the **spirit** and concept of the project and, accordingly adopted it.

Adoption of procedures for implementing future phases

18. The secretariat stated the present position. By adopting a route for the Transafrican Highway, the Committee would in effect be dealing with six national sections. It could entrust the TAH Bureau with the task of implementing the next phase of the project in collaboration with member States, or decide that further studies should be undertaken by the member States, each dealing with the section of road in its own territory. The secretariat held the view that, in any event, the TAH Bureau should be associated with every phase of the project.

19. After an exchange of views the Committee decided to entrust the TAH Bureau with the tasks set out under Item C in Annex I of document E/CN.14/TRANS/55 - these tasks to be carried out in collaboration with the various countries. The object of this decision was to avoid any confusion, as far as the project was concerned, and preserve the spirit in which it had so far been executed.

Prospects of assistance : Statements by developed countries and organizations

United Kingdom

20. The Government of the United Kingdom, after congratulating the six member States on so quickly agreeing on a route, and the ECA Executive Secretary for the way he had handled the project since the 1971 June Co-ordinating

Committee meeting, suggested that it would provide aid for carrying out the studies recommended in sub-paragraphs 6.(iii) and 6(v) of O'Sullivan's report:

- 6.(iii) A study of international travel and trade arrangements at border crossings along the route with a view to easing the administrative constraints on international travel.
- 6.(v) A survey of existing road traffic regulations in the six countries with a view to (a) publicising these for the benefit of international travellers and (b) determining to what extent they can be made uniform.

The U.K. Government would also look into the possibility of providing technical staff for the TAH Bureau to enable it to perform the tasks allotted to it by the Committee.

21. The British Government also proposed to make available to the Bureau and countries interested in the project, the results of studies and road construction laboratory facilities which might be useful for the project.

East African Community

22. The representative of the East African Community informed the Committee that the East African Community was carrying out studies some of which were referred to in sub-paragraphs (b) and (e) of the recommended studies:

- (b) Study of ways and means on how to connect the road links from the neighbouring States to the Trans-African Highway;
- (e) A study of existing road and traffic regulations in the Trans-African Highway countries with a view to determining gradual harmonization of these regulations.

As soon as they are completed, they would be made available to the Transafrican Highway Bureau.

France

23. The representative of the Government of France informed the meeting that his Government was prepared to finance the feasibility study of the Baoro-Garoua Boulai section in the Central African Republic. He also said that his Government would provide an expert for attachment to the Transafrican Highway Bureau.

Italy

24. The representative of Italy said that his Government would give both technical and financial support for the realization of the TAH project as soon as the areas requiring assistance had been clearly defined by the Bureau.

Federal Republic of Germany

25. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that his Government was ready and willing to co-operate in the advancement of the TAH project. It would, for this purpose, give assistance to the Bureau in the preparation of the necessary studies, and would also consider providing bilateral assistance which would be co-ordinated by ECA.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

26. The IBRD representative said that the Bank, upon request from member countries, would consider highway projects included in the TAH improvement programme, provided such projects pass the usual test of economic and technical soundness. If requested, the Bank would also assist in drawing up terms of reference for the feasibility studies of possible projects.

World Food Programme

27. The representative of the World Food Programme stated that WFP would be willing to consider food assistance as part payment of wages to workers engaged in the building of the highway. WFP would need an appropriate request from individual Governments concerned. This should contain information to satisfy the technical agencies scrutinizing WFP projects, to enable them to determine the economic and technical soundness of the project.

United Nations Development Programme

28. The representative said UNDP supported the TAH project and ways and means for its advancement were being considered.

African Development Bank

29. The representative of ADB said the Bank would consider financing segments of TAH if so requested by member governments and with the understanding that the Bank's procedure for project evaluation would be followed.

Organization of African Unity

30. The representative of OAU said it was encouraging to note that the six African countries concerned agreed unanimously on the TAH route. The construction of this highway would not only accelerate the economic development of African countries, but also strengthen the unity of the continent. He also stressed the collaboration and co-operation which have invariably existed between ECA and OAU in African economic and social development programmes.

Japan

31. The representative of Japan said his Government was prepared to give a possible technical assistance to the Bureau and further study of the route and, in particular, was prepared to undertake the feasibility study of some parts of the route in Zaire.

United States of America

32. The representative of USA said his Government would provide the Bureau with an expert to assist in evaluating the report of the prefeasibility study. His Government awaited with interest the results of this evaluation.

Belgium

33. The representative of Belgium confirmed the statements made by his country's representative at the 1971 September meeting, to the effect that Belgium was prepared to finance the feasibility studies for one of the projects in Zaire of this highway, the layout of which was approved by the Committees, and to provide one expert to strengthen the TAH Bureau.

Draft rules of procedure for the Co-ordinating Committee

34. After amendments to articles 1 and 4, the Committee adopted the draft rules of procedure presented by the TAH Bureau as shown in Annex I.

Place and date of the next meeting

35. The Co-ordinating Committee agreed to hold its third meeting in Kenya, in April 1973. It was also agreed that consideration should be given to the organization of a "mini-rally" from Uganda to Kenya.

Adoption of the Report

36. The report was adopted by the Committee at its closing session on 13 April 1972.

LAGOS-MOMBASA TRANSAFRICAN HIGHWAY
RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Preamble

The provisions in the present rules of procedure embody and complement the functions of the Co-ordinating Committee as laid down in Annex I of document E/CN.14/TRANS/46.

Article 1 - The Co-ordinating Committee shall meet at least once a year but extraordinary meetings can be convened if the need arises.

Article 2 - At ordinary meetings the Co-ordinating Committee shall elect its Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among the representatives of the six countries concerned. The offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be filled respectively by the representatives of the host country and the country which follows in alphabetical order. The persons so elected shall remain in office until the following general meeting.

On the expiration of the current Chairman's term of office, he shall be succeeded by the Vice-Chairman and a new Vice-Chairman, in accordance with the procedure set out in the first paragraph of this Article, shall be elected.

Article 3 - The venues of the meetings shall be fixed by the Committee, preferably in the capitals of each one of the countries concerned in alphabetical order.

Article 4 - The Executive Secretary of the ECA in liaison with the Chairman in office shall circulate the notices convening the meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee, shall establish the provisional agenda and shall distribute the appropriate documents at least two months before the opening date of the meetings of the Committee.

Article 5 - The Co-ordinating Committee may invite any person considered competent to participate in the discussions without the right to vote.

Article 6 - The Co-ordinating Committee cannot hold a valid meeting unless at least two-thirds of the Member Governments are present. Each member may be assisted by the advisers of his choice.

Article 7 - As far as possible all decisions by the Co-ordinating Committee shall be taken on the basis of agreement among all representatives of Governments of member States. Only in exceptional cases shall there be a vote provided that any such vote shall not prejudice the existence of the organization.

Where a vote is taken, a two-thirds majority of the members present is necessary.

Article 8 - The Executive Secretary of ECA and the Co-ordinator shall provide the necessary services for the meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee.

Article 9 - The proceedings of the Co-ordinating Committee shall be the subject of a report prepared by the Co-ordinator of the TAH Bureau in both English and French, the two versions being equally authentic.

Decisions shall be in the form of resolutions and shall be recorded in a separate document annexed to this report.

Article 10 - The Co-ordinator shall be responsible for preparing periodic reports on the implementation of the decisions of the Co-ordinating Committee.

Article 11 - The Co-ordinating Committee shall present its reports to the participating governments and to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Article 12 - All expenses incurred by participants at meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee shall be borne by the governments and organizations which they represent for the duration of their stay.