

REC-TCC workshop, October 6 and 7, 2008 – Concept Note and Program

Venue: UNECA Conference Center, Addis Ababa

1. Background

The REC-TCC workshop will take place when the SSATP is to start the implementation of its second long term development plan (DP2), to be implemented between 2009 and 2011).

Trade facilitation and regional integration is one of the focus areas of the plan. DP2 intends to work on the adoption of trade facilitation measures, mainly, by establishing corridor management groups, monitoring corridor performance and establishment of one stop border posts. Work is supposed to be focused on three pilot corridors, while dissemination of good practices and sharing of experience is open to all corridors. Some other corridor based activities may be added later or developed in partnership with other donors, as is already the case.

Activities supporting RECs in 2008, programmed during the annual assembly of the SSATP in Ouagadougou in October 2007, were based on a transitional budget and covered mainly actions already started as part of the Long Term Development 2004-2007.

In the meantime and following the guidance of the Ouagadougou meeting, the SSATP Program management developed early in 2008 a strategic framework to implement DP2, especially for the 2008-2009 work program. In consistency with DP2, it adds to the traditional focus on transport facilitation and corridor management several cross cutting issues spanning all areas of policy development, including Road Safety and HIV/AIDS,

The workshop will therefore comprise three main parts: (i) take stock of what was achieved in each main program activity over the last year and main trends influencing REC activities in the transport sector, (ii) implementation modalities of the strategic framework and work program for 2009 and (iii) amendments to the REC TCC institutional arrangements. As part of part (ii) the REC-TCC members may also exchange views on financing of the DP2, including requesting funding from potential donors or incorporating existing initiatives within the same conceptual framework.

1. Progress in 2007-2008: The workshop will review progress in the REC-TCC actions planned during the Ouagadougou meeting and reviewed in January 2008 by the SSATP management under the strategic framework.

This will be organized first through progress reports carried out by the various RECs, including inter alia:

- a) Draft legal instrument for North-South Corridor - emerging issues and challenges ahead .

- b) Proposals to establish Corridor Management Committees in UEMOA and Implementation to Téma- Ouagadougou-Bamako corridor (feedback from the June 2008 meeting on corridor arrangements).
- c) Preparations to establish a group for the CICOS corridor.
- d) Various observatory activities (Central Corridor, CICOS, UEMOA/WATH Corridor- knowledge sharing on mainstreaming within Corridor Group- Northern Corridor),

It is subsequently proposed to exchange on several main subjects which were carried out in fields of interest for the RECs during the year, especially:

- a) Transport cost study (WB, with SSATP participation)
- b) Axle load control guidelines (SSATP)
- c) Revised Northern Corridor agreement (why, how , where it was revised, etc)
- d) One stop border post developments
- e) Other emerging issues in transit facilitation (e.g. cost of being landlocked, Working paper on corridor monitoring, Almaty Program of Action)

And derive any orientations which could be developed or factored in the activities programmed under DP2.

2. Building and approval of the DP2 and 2009 work program

- Confirming consensus on the strategic directions of DP2 (Component 3 of the DP2 document and updated strategic framework matrix for the regional integration output) and formulating a preliminary work program for 2009;
- Creating better understanding of the challenges and mechanisms for RECs capacity building; and
- Improving the interaction between RECs and country level trade facilitation committees, and collaboration among RECs.

These two last activities have not showed much progress since the last meeting in July 2007, and it would be suggested to discuss as part of DP2 how this can be factored.

- Finding ways of addressing DP2 cross cutting issues inside the REC TCC action plan:
 - o This involves in particular how to factor HIV AIDS issues, for which activities had been forecast but never implemented under the LTDP. On this subject, the workshop will discuss briefly on the outcomes of the activities carried out by ALCO on the Abidjan Lagos corridor and introduce the diagnostic by the World Bank of its past activities in the transport sector. The workshop will then propose a working method for the RECs to summarize what they have done in order to derive a concrete action plan by the time of the next SSATP general Assembly.

- Road safety is another area in which not many REC based activities were supported under the LTDP. The workshop will try to allocate responsibilities within its members to lead to an exercise similar to HIV AIDS for this subject.

3. Formal meeting of the REC TCC and evolution of its working arrangements.

The working arrangements of the REC TCC have now been in place for a little over 3 years, and the Chairperson would like the REC TCC meeting to reflect on the evolutions needed, especially in order to get more appropriate involvement of its members, include corridor management groups more proactively (as requested by the Ouagadougou meeting) and reflect on the organization of rotational chairmanship and secretariat. The meeting will also need to designate a new Chair for the upcoming period.

Outputs of the meeting

- Update of 2008 WP
- Work program for 2009 consistent with DP2;
- Action plan to design HIV AIDS related actions by the 2009 general assembly
- Amended or confirmed working arrangements for the REC TCC during the DP2 period.

Participants

To achieve the workshop objectives the participants will include:

- Representatives of RECs
- Representatives of corridor management institutions
- Representative of transport operators
- Representatives from NEPAD, AfDB, World Bank, AU and UNECA

A total of 35 participants are expected to attend the workshop.

Process

The workshop will be participatory and be supported by simultaneous interpretation in English and French.

SSATP REC-TCC Workshop – 6 to 7 October, 2008
ECA Conference Center, Addis Ababa

Draft Program

DAY 1 – MONDAY OCTOBER 6TH	
	Opening session
9:00 – 9:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) REC-TCC Chairperson – opening remarks b) AU - statement c) SSATP RIT team: Remarks & objectives of the workshop (JFM-CK-YA) d) Adoption of the agenda and work program (REC-TCC Chair)
9:45 – 10:00	Coffee Break
	A) Progress in Implementing the 2008 Work Plan by RECs (10 mn per REC/SROs)
10:00 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) Draft legal instrument for North-South Corridor - emerging issues and challenges ahead f) Proposals to establish Corridor Management Committees in UEMOA and application to Tema- Ouagadougou-Bamako corridor (report on June 2008 meeting) g) Preparations to establish a group for the CICOS corridor h) Various observatory activities (Central Corridor, CICOS, UEMOA/WATH Corridor- knowledge sharing, on mainstreaming within Corridor Group- Northern Corridor)
	B) Knowledge Sharing & Dissemination (Presentations & discussions on)
11:30 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Transport cost study (CK – JFM) j) Axle load control guidelines (CK)
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch break
	Knowledge Sharing & Dissemination – continued
14:00 – 15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k) Revised Northern Corridor agreement (why, how , where it was revised, etc) l) One stop border post developments (FESARTA, others if available) m) Other emerging issues in transit facilitation (e.g. cost of being landlocked, Almaty program of Action,) (CK, JFM, others)
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n) Updating action plan for remainder of 2008

DAY 2 – TUESDAY OCTOBER 7TH

	Work Program for 2009 & Other Arrangements
8:30 – 10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o) Orientations for the 2009 work program for the SSATP Teamp) Outline of cross cutting issues: focus on HIV AIDS (ALCO, World Bank)q) Proposal of a working method to develop a REC Based HIV AIDS proposalr) Outline of cross cutting issues: Road Safety
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break
	Formal Meeting of REC-TCC
10:30 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">p) Formal meeting of the REC TCC:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Report by REC-TCC chairpersonb) Focus of the next annual meeting (which will take place in 2009)c) Draft work plan for 2009
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch break
	Formal Meeting of REC-TCC - continued
14:00 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">d) Amendments to the TOR of REC-TCCe) Nomination of new REC-TCC chairperson (Southern & Eastern Regions)
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 16:30	Closing Session