*A/DEC.13/01/03* RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT AND TRANSIT FACILITATION PROGRAMME IN SUPPORT OF INTRACOMMUNITY TRADE AND CROSSBORDER MOVEMENTS

**AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT.**

MINDFUL of Article 7, 8, 9 of the Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 32 of the ECOWAS Treaty relating to cooperation in transport, community Transport and tourism.

MINDFUL of our Decision A/DEC.20/5/80 adopted on 29th May 1980, relating to the Community Transport Programme;

CONSIDERING Decision C/DEC.8/12/88 of the Council of Ministers on the second phase of ECOWAS road projects relating to the interconnection of roads for the opening up of the land-locked countries.

CONSIDERING Protocol A/P2/5/82 on the Convention Regulating Inter-State Road Transportation between ECOWAS Member States.

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P4/5/82 relating to the Convention on Inter-State road Transit of Good;

MINDFUL of Resolution C/RES.4/5/90 on the redaction of the number of road check - points in ECOWAS Member States.

MINDFUL of Resolution C/RES.5/5/90 on the maximum permissible axle load.

AWARE of the supplementary Convention A/SP.1/5/90 establishing a Community guarantee mechanism for inter-State Road Transit of Goods.

MINDFUL of the emergence of NEPAD and its objectives to reduce transport costs in order to encourage trade.

DESIRING to put in place a programme that will facilitate and Support IntraCommunity trade cross-border movements;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Forty-ninth Session of the Council of Ministers held in Dakar from 26th to 28th January 2003;

DECIDES

**ARTICLE 1**

Member States shall adopt a regional road transport and transit facilitation programme in support of intraCommunity trade and cross-boarder movements.

**ARTICLE 2**

Member States shall implement the following three components of the road facilitation programme on\_ inter-State corridors;

i.

Establishment of joint border posts

ii.

Establishment of observatories to identify bad practices;

iii.

Awareness campaign of effective implementation of the Inter-State Road Transit of Goods Convention (ISRT).

**ARTICLE 3**

1.

The Trans coastal Lagos/Nouakchott and the Transsahelian Dakar/Ndjmena corridors are hereby selected for the implementation of the road transport and inter-state road transit facilitation programme.

2.

The Transport Commission may identify other corridors for inclusion in the programme among the interconnecting roads as the need arises.

3.

The inclusion of any corridor in the road facilitation programme should be based on the level of implementation of the Community Decisions by affected Member States.

4.

Priority should be given to corridors where Member States have sufficient proof of compliance to the Decisions of free movement of goods and persons.

**ARTICLE 4**

Member states shall undertake within twelve (12) months or less, the following measures at national level, in support of the action plan:

i.

Identify sites for the construction of joint border-posts. The Ministries responsible for Transport and Highways of neighboring countries shall institute joint inter-ministerial committees to identify sites for the construction of joint border posts.

ii.

Make the national monitoring committee functional through Government acts or laws.

iii.

Submit for publication, a document on the official checkpoints on interstate road.

iv.

Enact statutory instruments establishing National Nureaux of the Brown Card for the bureaux to have legal backing.

v.

Designate national guarantors who should sign inter-bureau Agreements.

vi.

Issue directives to national guarantors and the Ministry responsible for transport to organize awareness campaigns to sensitise economic operators as well as law enforcement agents.

vii.

Establish road Safety Units and adopt measures, such as the provision of funds for awareness campaigns, to make them functional.

viii.

Continue road safety and accident prevention programmes and introduce same into school curricula; and

ix.

Establish observatories to identify bad practices and impediments to the free movement of goods and persons.

**ARTICLE 5**

To enhance the implementation of the Action Plan:

Member States:

i.

Should specify in the Action Plan the agencies that should be responsible for carrying out the proposed Sensitization programmes.

ii.

Should be involved in the sensitization programmes through electronic/print media, workshops, seminars, publication of brochures and handouts with a view to informing stakeholders on transit operations.

The Executive Secretariat shall

i.

put in place a follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the Action Plan.

ii.

In collaboration with the Member States, organize meetings for the Implementation Agencies such as the police, the Gandarmerie, Customs and Immigration Officers so that they could be familiar with the decisions of the High Committee on Land Transport and enable them implement those decisions effectively in their respective countries.

iii.

Provide quarterly publications on the level of implementation of the recommendations and decision of the Higher Committee on Land Transport.

iv.

Ensure the participation of law enforcement agents at meetings of the High Committee on Land Transport. In addition, the Executive Secretariat shall occasionally assemble law enforcement agents with Directors of Transport to review progress on road facilitation.

v.

Write to remind Member States from time to time to indicate the level of implementation of decisions on facilitation of road transport. The list of countries that do not comply with these decisions should be published regularly.

**ARTICLE 6**

THE ECOWAS Executive Secretariat shall Also:

i.

Monitors the implementation of the Action Plan on the regional road transport facilitation programme;

ii.

Request multinational grants from development partners for the execution of the components of the Action Plan on identified and selected road transport and transit corridors;

iii.

Ensure that the participation at the meeting of the Transport, Communication and Tourism Commission be at Ministerial level SO as to ensure effective implementation of decisions.

**ARTICLE 7**

This Decision shall be published by the executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time frame.

DONE AT

DAKAR

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THIS 31ST DAY OF JANUARY 2003

H.E. MAITRE ABDOULAYE WADE

CHAIRMAN

FOR THE AUTHORITY