

Speed up Implementation of Regional Infrastructure Programmes- Ministers



The Second Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Infrastructure meeting in Lusaka

Ministers responsible for infrastructure from the tripartite group comprising COMESA, the East Africa Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have called for the speedy implementation of regional infrastructure programmes in energy, transport and Information Communication Technology (ICTs) sectors to accelerating economic integration.

This was after reviewing the status of implementation of these key programmes during the Second Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Infrastructure (TSMCI) in Lusaka, Thursday, 31st October 2019. The meeting was a follow up to the first one held in Dar es Salaam on 26th October 2017.

During the meeting, the ministers noted the need to facilitate the development of a more competitive, integrated and liberalised regional road transport market in the Tripartite region under the supervision of the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (TTTFP).

The purpose of the TTTFP is to develop and implement harmonised road transport policies, laws, regulations and standards for efficient cross border road transport and transit networks, transport and logistics services, systems and procedures in the Tripartite region.

The TTTFP is an 18 million euros project funded under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).

So far, two Multilateral Agreements namely the Vehicle Load Management Agreement (VLMA) and the Multilateral Cross Border Road Transport Agreement (MCBRTA) have been developed and validated to support an envisioned harmonized Legal Framework in the Tripartite region.

Sixteen Member/Partner States namely Angola, Burundi, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe participated at the meeting in Lusaka.

Zambia's Minister of Transport and Communications Hon. Mutotwe Kafwaya officially opened the

meeting with a call on the Tripartite to scale up activities in the energy as well as the ICT sectors to help foster industrial growth in the region.

“Our agenda and programmes should respond to global and continental developments for us to address current and future needs,” Hon. Kafwaya stated.

In her address, COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe described the low levels of infrastructure development in the region as an impediment to the implementation of regional integration programmes.

“Africa’s poor competitiveness globally has been attributed to the

quality of institutions, infrastructure, macro-economic policies, education and technological adoption,” she said. “The persistent infrastructure deficit is a major barrier to regional integration and calls for development of adequate and efficient infrastructure systems.”

On Air Transport, the Ministers urged

“Our agenda and programmes should respond to global and continental developments...”

-Hon. Kafwaya

the 27 Member/Partner States who have not yet signed the Solemn Commitment on the Establishment of Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) to do so. They noted that air transport liberalization would lead to increased air service levels and in turn stimulate economic growth.

Despite the region witnessing a rapid diffusion of ICT services subscriptions in the last two decades, the ministers observed that many challenges persist such as limited network coverage and low access to ICT services especially in rural areas.

COMESA, TMEA in Deal to Promote Trade in the Region



TMEA Executive Director Frank Matsaert (L) and Secretary General Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe signing the MoU in Lusaka

COMESA and the Trade Mark East Africa TMEA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote trade in the region by removing obstacles that impede the smooth flow of trade amongst the Member States in the region.

Working closely with international and regional organizations, such as Trade Mark East Africa, national institutions, the private sector and civil society organizations, this will enable promote trade by unlocking the economic potential of the COMESA region through increased physical access to markets,

enhanced trade environment and improved business competitiveness.

The MoU marks an important milestone in providing a framework of cooperation and partnership between the two organizations on areas of common interest. These include market access, development



of border post infrastructure, improvement of trade environment through trade facilitation and inclusion of the private sector as key players in economic development.

Trade Mark East Africa Executive Director Frank Matsaert and COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe signed the pact at the COMESA Secretariat on 30th October 2019.

“We are getting into this partnership to ensure that through policy formulation, creation of trade facilitation tool which are automated as well as standards and non-tariff barrier (NTB) removal so that business people, whether SME or large enterprises get the benefits,” Mr. Matsaert stated.

Secretary General indicated that jointly, COMESA and TMEA

The partnership between the two organizations is envisaged to speed up the implementation of joint programmes...

will implement trade facilitation initiatives in the region through application of respective regional and international instruments. In particular, support will be provided to Member States to implement the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The partnership between the two organizations is envisaged to speed up the implementation of joint programmes and actions aimed at; improving infrastructure and application of Technical Standards and Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures; reducing the cost, time

and other barriers in the movement of transit goods through electronic monitoring, regional transit guarantees and other initiatives.

It will also support the improvement of efficiency along the major trade and transport corridors including logistics and monitoring performance along such corridors; addressing gender related barriers to effective participation of women and youth in trade including capacity building, research and joint mobilization of resources for implementation of programmes of mutual interests, among others.

The partnership is in line with the aims and objectives of COMESA to cooperate in strengthening the relations between the Common Market and other partners to contribute to the economic development of the region.

Kenya Adopts COMESA Peace and Prosperity Index

A cross section of stakeholders from selected government ministries, specialized departments and Civil Society organizations in Kenya recently met to review and validate the COMESA Peace and Prosperity Index (CPPI) forecasted structural drivers for the country for the period 2019 - 2021.

The CPPI offers a timely diagnosis of forecasted structural drivers such as peace, health, wealth and trade openness which are associated with future peace and prosperity of Member States.

In Kenya, the stakeholders were taken through the COMWARN Structural Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) methodology which is a theory-informed, data-driven and evidence-based assessment of structural vulnerability which uses the COMESA Peace and Prosperity Index to track both regional and country-specific structural factors to peace and prosperity.



COMESA Peace and Prosperity Index validation workshop in Kenya, October 2019

“The forecasted level of vulnerability and resilience is meant to prompt policy response strategies aimed at addressing the identified vulnerabilities and strengthening existing resilience in order to promote and enhance peace and prosperity at the Member State level and the region at large,” the Head of Governance Peace and Security (GPS) at the Secretariat Ms. Elizabeth Mutunga said.

As a way of institutionalizing and enhancing implementation of key structural vulnerability recommendations at the national level, participants agreed to establish a response mechanism to be coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They will also establish a steering and technical committee to oversee the implementation and dissemination of

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the CPPI forecasted drivers to a wider spectrum of stakeholders.

COMESA Secretariat through the GPS Unit has been conducting SVA multi-stakeholder consultations in Member States since 2016 with Kenya being the fifth after Madagascar, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The meeting which was conducted in Machakos town from 14 to 17 October 2019 recommended that the Government accedes to the AU Conflict Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) that compliments the COMESA SVA process. Next year, COMESA expected to hold other national consultations at the invitation of Member States.

The CPPI forecast for the region and countries is produced annually by the COMESA Early Warning System (COMWARN) through the Governance, Peace and Security Unit.

Five Countries Trained on Early Warning System



COMESA Early Warning System Training in Nairobi, October 2019

Five COMESA Member States have been trained to understand the COMESA Early Warning System (COMWARN). This was the second part of the training organized by COMESA in collaboration with the African Union Continental Early Warning System (AU CEWS) for countries that have already hosted national multi-stakeholder consultations on the COMESA Structural Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) methodology.

Early Warning Expert Mr. Tapera Chinemhute said the three-day training was meant to bridge gaps identified in the understanding of SVAs and impart knowledge to disseminate them at various levels and thus enhance

sustainability and ownership. Selected officials from line ministries, private institutions, civil society organizations and trade unions, among others, were taken through the basics of the SVA methodology, practical analysis, interpretation and reporting on SVAs as well as the continental early warning system.

Training to bridge gaps identified

The Training of Trainers workshop held on 21st to 23rd October in Nairobi, Kenya is expected to assist in further dissemination of the SVAs to relevant stakeholders down to the local levels.

The first part of the training was held in Livingstone, Zambia in May this year. Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe each sent five members of the national SVA committee to participate in the training.

COMESA Secretariat through the Governance, Peace and Security Unit and working with the AU CEWS will continue supporting Member States with similar trainings on the COMWARN SVA methodology and AU Continental systems.



Director of Investment Promotion and Private Sector Development (IPPSD) Mr Thierry Kalonji Mutombo has retired from COMESA after a successful career spanning twelve years. Mr Kalonji, a citizen of D R Congo joined the Secretariat in 2007 as a Senior Investment Promotion Officer and rose to Director in 2014, a position he served until retirement. Staff hosted a farewell party for him in Lusaka last week and wished him well in his next phase of life.



Mr. Thierry Kalonji (holding potrait) with staff

Rusangu University Students Study Tour



Students from Lusangu University in Monze pose for Photo after the tour of COMESA secretariat

Students from Rusangu University, a Zambian private higher learning institution on a study visit to the COMESA Secretariat, 31 October 2019. The tour was organized by the Corporate Communication Unit as part of knowledge sharing on regional integration with young people. The focus area of the students was on Peace and Security and Conflict Resolution in the context of COMESA regional integration agenda. Experts from the Governance, Peace and Security Unit, Mr. Tapera Chinemhute and Mr. Oita Etyang took the students through the programme.

COMESA DIARY

	Meeting/Activity	Dates	Venue
1.	Tripartite Sectoral Committee of Senior Officials (TSCSO) and Technical Experts	28-30 Oct 2019	Lusaka, Zambia
2.	Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Infrastructure (TSMCI)	31 Oct 2019	Lusaka
3.	10th COMESA Committee on Statistical Matters meeting	4-6 Nov 2019	Lusaka
4.	Resilience Framework Validation Meeting for 17 Member States – Climate Change	5-6 Nov 2019	Nairobi, Kenya
5.	COMESA Seed Committee Meeting	6 - 7 Nov 2019	Kigali, Rwanda
6.	Pre-COP Consultative meeting in partnership with EAC Secretariat , 14 MS plus EAC 6 MS – Climate Change	8-9 Nov 2019	Kigali
7.	COMESA Committee of Legal Affairs	12-14 Nov 2019	Lusaka
8.	COMESA Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General	15 Nov 2019	Lusaka
9.	COMESA Silver Jubilee Golf Tournament	22 Nov 2019	Lusaka
10.	COMESA Silver Jubilee Football Tournament	23 Nov 2019	Lusaka
11.	Retreat for COMESA Institutions	24 Nov 2019	Lusaka
12.	Intergovernmental Committee - Institutions	25 Nov 2019	Lusaka
13.	Intergovernmental Committee-Secretariat	26-27 Nov 2019	Lusaka
14.	COMESA 25 Years (Silver Jubilee) celebrations	28 Nov 2019	Lusaka
15.	COMESA Council of Ministers	29 Nov 2019	Lusaka

