



**1st TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE HARMONISED
TRIPARTITE STANDARDS FOR THE SADCSTAN TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND AUTOMOTIVES (TC2); COMMON
MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA); EAST
AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)**

9th -13th December 2019, Victoria Falls Town, Zimbabwe

COMMUNIQUE

1. On 9th to 13th December 2019, the SADCSTAN (TC2) and the Tripartite of COMESA- EAC-SADC held their 1st Technical Meeting on Harmonised Tripartite Standards to consider and adopt the Draft Harmonised Text on Transport and Automotive Tripartite Standards, in Victoria Falls Town, Zimbabwe at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe.
2. The following Tripartite and Island Member States (with a total of total of 74 delegates) attended the meeting: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Secretariats of the COMESA; EAC and SADC were represented at this meeting and the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (TTTFP) Project Management Unit (PMU) was also in attendance.
3. The TTTFP is intended for implementation in the 25 Tripartite Member/Partner States on the continent that share cross border road transport, with support from the European Union (EU) under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). The total funding for the TTTFP is Euro 18 million over a period of about 4.5 years, ending in November 2021. The number of beneficiary countries have been increased from the initial 21 to 25. This funding comes from the soft infrastructure component of the Euro 600 million that the EU is providing to the Tripartite for

infrastructure projects which includes road infrastructure. The Programme was launched at the first meeting of the Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Infrastructure held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania between 23 to 26 October 2017.

COMESA

The workshop was officially opened by a representative of COMESA, the current Chair of the Tripartite. The Senior Transport Economist of COMESA Mr. Bernard Dzawanda welcomed participants to the workshop on behalf of the COMESA Secretary General. He acknowledged and commended the collaboration among the Tripartite of COMESA-EAC-SADC and SADCSTAN (TC2) and appreciated the progress made so far.

Mr. Dzawanda recalled the achievements made at the Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Infrastructure of October 2019 in terms of the approval granted on a number of the suite TTTFP Agreements, Model Laws, Regulations, Systems and standards and urged the workshop to take this as a source of encouragement and confidence booster. He urged the workshop to maintain the positive spirit as has been the case in the past to ensure convergence before submission of deliberations output to approval Organs of the Tripartite.

Mr. Dzawanda thanked delegates from Member States for their presence and the European Union for supporting the TTTFP

SADC

The representative of the SADC Secretariat, Dr. Lomkhosi Mkhonta-Gama, Senior Program Officer (TBT/SPS) conveyed to the meeting the compliments of the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax.

She acknowledged and appreciated the work that had been done by SADCSTAN in progressing the standards under the Transport and Transit Trade facilitation Program. She expressed the need to equitably involve COMESA and the EAC as required by the TBT Annex of the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement.

She mentioned that the Tripartite Committee of Ministers of Trade had already tasked the Tripartite Task Force to form all the necessary committees that would develop the implementation modalities of the TFTA Agreement and reported that in line with that, the Tripartite Task Force had recently developed the Rules of Procedure for the TBT Sub Committee that would oversee the implementation of the TBT Annex of the TFTA Agreement.

She thanked the TTTFP for funding the program, the experts for coming to share their knowledge and the Member States for making time to add their contributions to the development of the Tripartite Standards. She urged the delegates to look forward to the application of the standards not only in their individual Member States and RECs, but also in the implementation of the greater African Market. She acknowledged that since this was a technical meeting, it would still be necessary for the three RECs to reach consensus on the roadmap going forward.

EAC

The representative of the EAC Secretariat, Madam Stella Apolot, Principal Standards Officer joined the other REC Secretariats in welcoming the delegates to the 1st Technical Meeting on Harmonised Tripartite Standards. She emphasised that EAC and COMESA had not been actively involved in the development of the standards under the SADCSTAN. She further indicated that there would be need to integrate and accommodate EAC Member States in an inclusive process. She acknowledged that all Tripartite Member States needed to appreciate the process of harmonisation of standards under SADCSTAN.

ZIMBABWE

The welcoming remarks by the Host Country, Zimbabwe were delivered by Ms. Brigete Chiedza Nangombe, Senior Vehicle Inspector in the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Development. Ms Nangombe is also the Chairperson for the Zimbabwe Mirror Committee on SADCSTAN and ARSO.

She welcomed all the participants on behalf of Standards Association of Zimbabwe and reiterated that the meeting was a milestone as it was the 1st Technical Committee meeting of the Tripartite of COMESA-EAC-SADC and SADCSTAN TC2. She pointed out that this was a reflection of efforts towards harmonisation in Africa.

She further reminded the delegates that the future of the motoring industry as well as the future and health of the ordinary citizens of Africa numbering more than a billion, will in part be influenced by the outcomes of the workshop. She noted that this placed a huge responsibility on the delegates' shoulders. She urged the delegates to fully deliberate the agenda items so that the resolutions of the meeting would benefit the whole of Africa and not be limited to respective individual Member States. Lastly, she invited everyone to spare time to enjoy the beauty of Victoria Falls Town.

4. The 1st Technical Meeting on Harmonised Tripartite Standards follows the 2nd meeting of the Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Infrastructure (TSMCI), for the Ministers responsible for Infrastructure from the Tripartite region of the COMESA-EAC-SADC held in Lusaka from 28th to 31st October 2019.
5. The 2nd TSMCI approved inter-alia for adoption through the Tripartite Approvals Structure, the following legal instruments: the Multilateral Cross Border Road Transport Agreement and the Vehicle Load Management Agreement; as well as five model laws:
 - i. Vehicle Load Management,
 - ii. Cross Border Road Transport,

- iii. Road Traffic (Driver Quality and Vehicle Quality),
 - iv. Transportation of Dangerous Goods by Road,
 - v. Road Traffic and Transport Transgressions developed under the TTTFP.
6. The Tripartite Multilateral Agreements (VLMA and MCBRTA) will additionally, require the adoption of a range of harmonised compulsory standards which are being developed in parallel.
7. The TTTFP overall objective is the development and implementation of 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 expected results are:
- Result 1:** Tripartite Vehicle Load Management Strategy Implemented.
- Result 2:** Harmonised Tripartite vehicle regulations and standards implemented
- Result 3:** Preconditions for an operational EA-SA transport registers and information platform and system implemented
- Result 4:** Efficiency of regional transport corridors improved

The 1st Technical Meeting on Harmonised Tripartite Standards Agreed that:

8. Based on discussions at the meeting, going forward all the Member States from the COMESA-EAC-SADC would need to actively participate in the development of harmonised Tripartite Transport and Automotive Standards and that each REC would need to follow up with individual Member States for comments on proposed circulated Standards following the individual REC structures.
9. The Tripartite Infrastructure Sub-Committee (ISC) Task Team would going forward receive a report of any work of the Joint Technical meetings on Harmonised Tripartite Standards as adopted by the Tripartite of COMESA-EAC-SADC and SADCSTAN (TC2).
10. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are building blocks towards a single trading block in Africa and the actualisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and that it was important that the Tripartite of COMESA-EAC-SADC, SADCSTAN TC2 and ARSO collaborate in their work on the harmonisation of transport and automotive standards using the African Standards Harmonisation Model (ASHAM) procedure which SADCSTAN has since aligned to, (taking into account that ARSO has the total participation of five RECs) in order that harmonised standards have continental application.

AND

11. It is therefore essential to have common standards among the Tripartite Members in order to caveat the rising Non-Technical Barriers to Trade (NTBs) which can further result in impediment to regional integration and increasing cross border transport costs. In order therefore to enhance harmonization, the following standards will support the Tripartite Multilateral Road Transport Agreements:

A. VLMA:

- i. Accreditation/Type Approval of Weigh Stations
- ii. Verification of Static Scales
- iii. Verification of Weigh-In-Motion Scales
- iv. Transportation of Abnormal Loads
- v. Cross Border Road Transport Management System (XB-RTMS) (voluntary)

B. MCBRTA

- i. Equipment on Vehicles
- ii. Transport of Dangerous Goods
- iii. Testing of Vehicles for Roadworthiness
- iv. Evaluation of Vehicle Test Stations
- v. Driving Licence Card & Professional Driving Permit
- vi. Testing of Drivers & Professional Drivers
- vii. Evaluation of Driver Testing Centres

12. A total of twelve (12) standards were adopted at the 3rd SADCSTAN (TC2) meeting held on 12-16 August 2019, in Mauritius. A total of 22 New Work Item Proposals (NWIPs) were also agreed upon and was to be the subject of the 1st Technical Meeting on Harmonised Tripartite Standards on transport. Once harmonised, it is expected that all the 25 Member States of the Tripartite will domesticate and enforce this harmonised legal framework and agreed Tripartite transport standards.

13. The following Draft Harmonised Text (DHT) relating to Vehicle Safety Requirements & Equipment on Vehicles were circulated to Member states to submit comments which were deliberated on during the meeting:

- a) Accreditation of Weigh Stations
 - i) Part 1 – Design
 - ii) Part 2 – System
 - iii) Part 3 – Procedures
 - iv) Part 4 – Accreditation
- b) Calibration of Static Scales
- c) Calibration of Weigh-in-Motion Scales
- d) Vehicle Safety Requirements & Equipment on Vehicles (15 Standards derived from the UN Regulations)

The following draft standards would be further recirculated and discussed at the next Joint Tripartite Technical Committee meeting:

- a) Vehicle Identification Number
- b) Replacement Silencers
- c) Bull Bars
- d) Number Plates

The following NWIPs were presented for adoption onto the work programme of the TC:

- Vehicle Safety Requirements & Equipment on Vehicles
 - Crash helmets – ECE R22
 - Horn (Audible warning) – ECE R28
 - Speedometer – (Accuracy & display) - ECE 39
 - Emissions (Petrol and diesel engines) – ECE R39
 - Buses (Strength of superstructure – “rollover”) – ECE R66
 - Lateral protection (Truck side guards) – ECE R73
 - Emissions (Petrol & diesel vehicles) – ECE R83
 - Replacement exhaust (Motorcycles, non-original) – ECE R92
 - Bus construction (Only tilt & emergency exits) – ECE R107
 - Retreaded tyres (Cars and LCV’s) – ECE R108
 - Retreaded tyres (Buses & Trucks) – ECE R109

**DONE AT ELEPHANT HILLS RESORT, VICTORIA FALLS TOWN, ZIMBABWE ON
13TH DECEMBER 2019**

For more information;

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