

**UNION ECONOMIQUE ET MONETAIRE  
OUEST AFRICAINE**

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**La Commission**  
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Département de l'Aménagement du Territoire  
Communautaire, des Transports et du Tourisme  
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**OPA (“OBSERVATOIRE DES PRATIQUES ANORMALES”)  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Lomé, September 27th, 2011

FINAL REPORT

## **INTRODUCTION**

The sixth steering committee meeting of the road governance initiative or “OPA” (l’Observatoire des Pratiques Anormales) was held on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at Eda Oba hotel in Lomé, Togo.

This meeting was organized by UEMOA Commission, in collaboration with the USAID West Africa Trade Hub. Attendants included USAID Trade Hub and UEMOA Commission representatives, representatives of national coordination and focal points covered by OPA, namely Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Senegal and Togo.

USAID, European Union, the World Bank, ECOWAS also participated, as well as civil society organizations, private and public structures, Agribusiness and Trade Promotion project (ATP) and Abidjan-Lagos Corridor organization (ALCO).

The full participant list is attached as an appendix.

### **I. Opening ceremony**

The opening ceremony was chaired by Ms. TSHEGAN Yawa Djigbodi, Head of Cabinet, representing Minister of Transports in Togo and included remarks from:

- ✓ Mr. **Hamidou MALLAH**, Head of Cabinet of “DATC” (Département de l’Aménagement du Territoire Communautaire, des Transports et du Tourisme) of UEMOA Commission
- ✓ Mr. **Brinton BOHLING**, Chief, Office of Trade and Investment, USAID West Africa
- ✓ U.S. Ambassador Togo
- ✓ Mr. **Patrick SPIRLET**, Ambassador, Head of European Union Delegation in Togo
- ✓ Ms. TSHEGAN Yawa Djigbodi, Head of Cabinet, representing Togo’s Minister of Transport

### **II. Main Activities**

Further to the opening ceremony, the Steering Committee started its work as following:

- ✓ Selection of the President and Reporters
- ✓ Adoption of the agenda
- ✓ Working session
  - Presentations, followed by questions and discussions
  - Adoption of recommendations

#### **A. Selection of the President and Reporters**

The following were selected:

- ✓ President: Souleymane SIKAO (Togo)
- ✓ First reporter: Baba KONE (Côte d’Ivoire)
- ✓ Second reporter: Salif KONE (Mali)

## B. Adoption of the agenda

The following proposed agenda was accepted without any change:

- ✓ Review of 2011 activities
- ✓ Return on experience from focal points and national coordinators
- ✓ Dissemination, advocacy, and Borderless Alliance
- ✓ Point sur les actions de dissémination, de plaidoyer et de l'Alliance Borderless
- ✓ 2012 Activities
  - Recommendations
  - Miscellaneous

## C. Working session

This session was mainly composed by presentation from stakeholders and addressed the following topics:

- ✓ **Review of 2011 activities:** UEMOA Commission and the USAID Trade Hub presented the activities achieved during the past year. Those activities include OPA report distribution, advocacy and dissemination through workshops, caravans, and roadshows.
- ✓ **Return on experience from focal points and national coordinators:** Focal points from countries covered by OPA as well as the national coordination presented activities conducted in 2011, highlighted their difficulties and proposed recommendations.
- ✓ **Dissemination, advocacy, and Borderless Alliance:** The USAID Trade Hub presented actions conducted to sensitize transport sector stakeholders through the Borderless Alliance. The organizational Structure of the Alliance was also presented.
- ✓ **Transport costs study:** The USAID Trade Hub presented a study on logistics and transport costs conducted on the Lomé-Ouagadougou corridor. It includes formal and informal costs for every steps in the transport chain, as well as related recommendations.
- ✓ **2012 activities:** The USAID Trade Hub presented activities planned for 2012 :
  - Opening of Cotonou-Niamey and Dakar-Bissau corridors
  - Implementation of improvements on the software
  - Resuming activities in Côte d'Ivoire
  - Organization of several caravans
  - Development of drivers' guides for each country

### III. Synthesis

Participants appreciated the meeting and raised questions.

- ✓ Application of regional norms:
  - Regional plan for road control
  - Regulation 14/2005/CM/UEMOA of December 16th, 2005 regarding weight, size, and axle load control for heavy vehicles transporting goods
- ✓ Renewing the fleet of truck transporting goods
- ✓ Capacity building for truck drivers and transporters
- ✓ The remaining barriers hindering free transport on corridors covered by OPA, in spite of efforts from relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Motivation of drivers

### IV. Recommendations :

Participants recommended the following:

#### ***To the States:***

- ✓ To apply on all corridors covered by OPA the current regulations adopted by UEMOA and ECOWAS regarding road governance, especially number of checkpoints and axle load control.

#### ***To member States and institutions such as ports, customs, shippers councils, etc.:***

- ✓ To let OPA access reliable and up to date statistics
- ✓ To release OPA reports on their websites

#### ***To UEMOA Commission:***

- ✓ To continue official requests to all donors for financial support for this initiative
- ✓ To ensure quick, continuous, and sustainable support to the OPA information system, in order to allow the development of the initiative
- ✓ To release OPA reports on its website

#### ***To UEMOA and ECOWAS Commissions:***

- ✓ To take necessary actions to extend the initiative to new corridors and countries such as Guinea and Nigeria

#### ***To USAID:***

- ✓ To continue financial support to OPA or to the Transport Observatory

**To donors:**

- ✓ To contribute to the funding of OPA

**To the Trade Hub:**

- ✓ To continue technical and financial support that is mandatory to make OPA work and allow its development

**V. Miscellaneous**

No other subject was raised.

**VI. Closing ceremony**

Closing ceremony included remarks from the UEMOA Commission and the USAID Trade Hub.

**Lomé, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Signatures:

The President

**Souleymane SIKAO**

First Reporter

**KONE Baba**

Second Reporter

**Salif KONE**