

## **EXPERTS' PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

### **THEME: ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA**

#### **Synopsis:**

##### **Background**

Corridor management institutions with permanent secretariat in Africa are widely recognized (at national, RECs and continental levels and by many development partners) as vital instruments for achieving sustainable corridor efficiency and increased intra-regional and international trade.

Despite this recognition the CMIs are faced with a major challenge regarding their financial sustainability. While some have succeeded to meet the challenge with various degree of success, others are finding it difficult to cope with, and others have even ceased operation. In the meantime, in some sub regions such as ECCAS/CEMAS and ECOWAS/UEMOA the concept is even yet to take root.

The objective of the panel discussion is threefold:

- (i) Discuss and re-confirm or otherwise the relevance of the CMIs with permanent secretariat;
- (ii) Take stock of innovative practical /implementable recommendations/resolutions from selected key players (ie the continental organizations AUC/UNECA, Development partners, Private sector representative) that can lead to tangible results aimed at strengthening the sustainability and effectiveness of existing CMIS;
- (iii) Agree on strategies to promote the establishment of CMIs with permanent secretariat in sub-region where they do not exist yet.

#### **Format:**

The panel discussion will take place in a plenary session open to all REC TCC stakeholders.

The members of the panel will be made up of 4-5 resource persons from various selected relevant organizations and the panel will be facilitated by a moderator. The moderator will introduce the discussions and coordinate the interactions among the members of the panel as well as with the participants.

#### **Main frame of the questions to the members of the panel:**

As a representative of an organization which plays a key role in regional integration issues and is involved in corridor development, you are requested to:

- share your perspectives on the relevance of the CMIs;
- formulate practical recommendations on how your organization could contribute to solving the sustainability challenge and/or its opinion on how to better coordinate efforts amongst stakeholders to achieve that objective.
- Provide some insights and make recommendations on the key pillars of a strategy aimed to promote the establishment of CMIs in West and Central Africa.