

EXPERTS' PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2019

THEME: PROMOTING GREEN FREIGHT TRANSPORT IN AFRICA

Synopsis:

Background

There is an increasing awareness on the critical importance of more environmentally friendly and less polluting transport systems. (refer SDG). While other continents have achieved significant progress in introducing greener and cleaner transport, Africa lags behind notably when it comes to freight transportation. Most initiatives taken so far are not coordinated at continental or sub regional levels and are on a piecemeal basis.

There is therefore the need for the continent to reflect over ways and means to bridge the gap compare to other parts of the world and achieve a more effective green freight transport. This will involve among other things having the appropriate understanding of the issues at stake, building a consensus among the key stakeholders involved on the need to develop sound policies and strategies to incentivize green transport, strengthening the capacity of institutions involved in drive the policy dialogue at national, corridor and regional levels,; It may equally require developing relevant metrics and analytical tools to monitor progress and introducing regulatory reforms that promote fuel efficiency , scaling up advocacy and rallying round development partners to support the efforts made at national and continental to promote green freight transport.

The objective of the panel discussion is threefold:

- (i) Share information to help deepen the understanding of participants on the various dimensions covered by the green freight transport concept, the importance of its promotion as well as the magnitude of the cost of inaction (“business as usual”) on the countries involved;
- (ii) Share best practices and lessons learned from experiences from other countries/continents
- (iii) Register proposals/recommendations on strategies that Africa can develop at continental and regional levels to ensure that the continent resolutely launch its green freight transport revolution.

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 has decarbonization of freight transport at heart and among the leading advocates of the environmental connectivity concept, could you please:

- Provide some insights on the key issues at stake from your perspectives, in respect of green freight transport, on the status of affairs at the international level on the matter, and some facts or figures on where the continent stands on green freight transport;
- Share your views on what you think are the main underlying factors of the slow progress in the pursuit of green freight transport policies.

- Formulate practical recommendations on how your organization could contribute to advance the green transport agenda in Africa based on its comparative advantage (ie. creating awareness, supporting policy/strategy development, capacity building or development of monitoring tools...)