

# THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMESA TRANSIT TRANSPORT FACILITATION INSTRUMENTS

Background to Transit Transport Facilitation  
Instruments in the COMESA Region

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# Introduction

- Transport is a critical element in the ability of our countries to produce and trade
- In Africa transport costs are some of the highest compared with the rest of the world
- In landlocked countries such as Burundi and Malawi transport costs may comprise up to 50 % of the landed value of goods
- This makes our countries less competitive in both regional and international markets
- Transport costs are high not only due infrastructure problems but also because of various regulatory and administrative constraints that prevail in the region

# Regional Integration Agenda

- The regional integration agenda in COMESA is anchored on the following:
  - Trade Promotion
  - Promotion of Investment
  - Development of Physical Infrastructure in transport, communications and energy
  - Trade and Transport Facilitation
- Similar elements are applicable in other integration groupings globally- eg. the EU, ASEAN NAFTA etc.
- COMESA has over the years developed various transport facilitation instruments jointly with:
  - Other RECs such as EAC and SADC
  - Specialised IGOs such TTCA, IGAD and ISCOS

# Trade Promotion

- Regional Trade Preferences
- COMESA Free Trade Areas (FTA) established in 2000
- Establishment of Common External Tariff (CET) to be established in 2008
- Removal of Non tariff Barriers
- Regional Payments System

# Promotion of Investment

- Common Investment Area
  - Harmonisation of Investment Policies
  - Regional Investment Centre
- Private Sector Development
- CAADP
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)
- Capacity Building for SMEs

# Development of Physical Infrastructure

- Development of Regional Connectivity in Transport, Communications and Energy
  - Transport including road, rail, ports, airports etc.
  - ICT Projects (COMTEL, SRIL and EASSy)
  - Power Generation and Regional Interconnector Projects
- COMESA Priority Infrastructure Projects
  - Compendium of Infrastructure Projects
  - Infrastructure Database
- COMESA Infrastructure Fund

# RECs Transport Facilitation Programmes

- Development of Regional Facilitation Instruments
- Corridor Infrastructure Development
  - Identification of projects on transport corridors
  - Ports investment along corridors
- Establishment of Corridor Management Structures
- Capacity Building in Corridor Networks



# COMESA Transit Transport Facilitation Instruments

- COMESA Carrier Licence
- Harmonised Road User Charges
- Axle Load Limits
- Overload Control Certificates
- Third Party Motor Insurance (Yellow Card)
- Corridor Management
- Inter Railway Operations Agreements
- One Stop Border Posts

# COMESA Transit Transport Facilitation Instruments

- Customs Instruments
  - COMESA Customs Document (CD)
  - Regional Customs Bond Guarantee (RCBG)
- These instruments are best fast tracked by IGOs such as TTCA and IGAD
- The current project to scale up implementation is a joint initiative between COMESA and TTCA
- It covers 5 TTCA member states and the Sudan

# Status of Implementation of Facilitation Instruments

- The status of implementation varies among countries shown in Annex I
- Main features
  - COMESA Carrier License in.....
  - Harmonised Road User Charges
  - Axle Load Limits....
  - Overload Control Certificate – none
  - Yellow Card
  - Corridor Management – TTCA, pilots in CDC, TAZARA
  - One Stop Border Posts – pilots in Malaba and Chirundu
  - COMESA Customs Document
  - RCBG – pilot implementation on NC

# Constraints in Implementation of Facilitation Instruments

- Lack of Harmonised policies and regulatory regimes across countries
- Guidelines and Procedures not set out clearly on a regional basis
- Countries aware of what to implement but not how to do it
- Lack of mutual recognition of certification and other oversight documents in countries (in maritime transport and civil aviation such mutual recognitions exist)
- High turnover of experts and regulatory staff
- Capacity constraints

# Effects of Lack of Implementation

- Transit delays at ports, en route and at border posts
- Double or multiple licenses
- Multiple payments of transit bonds tying up funds for long durations
- Multiple payments of third part insurance covers
- Lack of competition among transport service providers
- High transaction costs and low competitiveness in global markets

# Way Forward

- Strengthening the Corridor System
- Implementation of Common Instruments along Corridors
- Development of Corridor Observatories
- Stakeholder Participation in Corridor Management
- Assistance to Member States to implement trade and transport facilitation instruments
- Capacity Building

# ESA Main Transport Corridors

- Djibouti Corridor
- Mombasa Corridor
- Dar es Salaam Central Corridor
- TAZARA Corridor
- Nacala Corridor
- Beira Corridor
- Maputo Corridor
- Walvis Bay Trans Kalahari and Trans Caprivi
- North South Corridor (Durban Corridor)
- Benguela Corridor

# End

Thanks for your attention