

## **FINAL REPORT**

The Extraordinary General Assembly of the African Road Maintenance Funds Association organised by the Road Maintenance Funds of Togo under the distinguished patronage of the Minister for Equipment, Mines, Posts and Telecommunications and with the assistance of the Sub Saharan African Transport Policy programme was held in Lome, Togo from 22 to 23 April, 2004.

In attendance were the following countries: Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Central African Republic, Senegal, Chad, Togo, Zambia.

The objective of this extraordinary general assembly was to:

- approve after reading and consideration, of the draft statutes that would be presented after amendments to take account of the shortcomings and omissions in the initial draft;
- restructure the board.
- Choose the venue for the legal registration of ARMFA
- Adopt a short-term (2004-2005) programme of activities presented by the Board
- Adopt a projected operating budget for the association for 2004-2005.

### **OPENING OF THE E.G.A**

The EGA was officially opened on Thursday 22 April 2004 by is Excellency Faure Assozimna GNASSINGBE, Minister for Equipment, Mines, Posts and Communications, who stressed that the Togolese government was very honoured for the holding of this extraordinary General Assembly. That the management of communication networks, above all, was crucial in all these poverty alleviation initiatives. Also, the World Bank was pleased that its road management initiative (RMI) had motivated countries to set up Road Maintenance Funds (RMFs) in order to mobilise sufficient and lasting resources for the maintenance of their roads.

He finally hoped that E.G.A would ponder over :

- (i) The reaffirmation of the objectives of ARMFA ;

- (ii) The need to make the organisation more flexible and simple; and
- (iii) The definition of programme of action compatible with the mission of ARMFA and taking into consideration the diversity of its members.

He speech was preceded by the presentation of Mr. Raphael Mabenga, first Vice President of ARMFA and the welcome address by Mr. Assiba AMOUSSOU-GENOU, Director of the Road Maintenance Funds of the host country and President of the organising committee of the EGA. The latter expressed his gratitude to SSATP and the development partners without whom the holding of this EGA would have been vain, before wishing that during these two days, participants could focus their energies so that at the end of the meeting ARMFA would have and easily implementable flexible statutory structures.

### **Deliberations**

In her presentation on new developments since the Libreville General Assembly, Mrs Ramata TANOAH stated that the Executive Board was unable to discharge its mission namely:

- conclude the administrative arrangements pertaining to the registration of the association;
- open a bank account; and
- prepare and propose a short term programme of activities following the resignation of the incumbent President of the association Mr. Jean Valentin LEYAMA who have been removed as the Director of RMF-Gabon.

Mrs. TANOAH, continuing her presentation, added that, on the 1 March 2004, with the assistance of SSATP, a videoconference was held in which the first vice president (Zambia) the second vice president (Côte d'Ivoire) the Auditor (Cameroon), Mali and Chad (founding members) and SSATP actively participated.. On this occasion and following discussions, after the videoconference it was agreed that:

- The first vice president assisted by the second vice president manage the transitional period until the general assembly of 22-23 April in Lome;
- New proposals should be made relating to the legal and administrative problems after in-depth reading;

- That a proposed agenda and a budget be drawn by the Board;
- The practical organisation of the general assembly be entrusted to Togo (host country)
- Cameroon should think about possible amendments of the texts of the association (domiciliation of accounts, analysis and legal approval of the statutes);
- SSATP and Togo should share the costs of the Lome general assembly, given that the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs may not respond favourably considering the short time frame remaining.

Also during this meeting it was decided that a second videoconference be held on 23 March, 2004 under the chairmanship of the first vice president, Raphael MABENGA of Zambia. It ensued from this second videoconference that:

- From the legal point of view, with ARMFA not being registered in Gabon, the association is therefore free to choose the venue of its registration;
- The type of statutes of international association is of no interest to ARMFA because of its heavy and para-diplomatic nature;
- Member country to be selected for registration should meet the following requirements:
  - Possibility to create an association with legal entities;
  - Possibility to have foreign members (precisely legal entities governed by foreign laws);
  - Possibility for the headquarters of the association to be eventually located abroad or to be transferred abroad;
  - Possibility to receive donations or grants from various organisations

He also clearly indicated that the choice of the country of registration is purely technical and has nothing to do with that of the president of ARMFA and that the facilitation of the Lome meeting be entrusted to Mr. Jerome OBI ETA.

Mrs. TANOH ended her speech by expressing her sincere thanks to the ARMFA Board, especially to Togo, the host country, and warmly to Mr. Assiba AMOUSSOU-GENOU for his personal involvement in the organisation of the extraordinary general assembly.

- The representative of SSATP, Mr. Steve BRUSHETT took the floor to highlight the issues on which the World Bank, through SSATP expects to give support to the association
- The association heard the presentation by the Auditor, Mr. Joseph Claude GWED-BI-MINYEM, on the corrections to the constitution before making amendments on the form and substance to Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and Section 5-2 of the Charter.

The afternoon was devoted to elections of the Board of the Association. The association approved Cameroon as the venue of registration.

Election of the president	8: Togo
Out of 15 voting countries	5: Côte d'Ivoire
	2: Gabon

Zambia was elected first vice presidency with 13 out of 15 votes

Côte d'Ivoire was elected second vice presidency with 10 out of 15 votes: and

The auditor had 15 over 15 votes.

The general assembly chose Cameroon as the headquarters of the association and the original of the statutes will be recorded at the Court of First Instance of this country.

On the second day, the assembly decided that the Executive Board should examine the draft and submit it to the members.

The assembly examined the projected budget. In order to come to a common agreement, a programme which takes into account the expectations of the members formed two committees to make proposals.

Committee n°1 which was chaired by Zambia included Cameroon, Mali, Kenya, CAR, Gabon, Senegal and the second committee which was chaired by Côte d'Ivoire was composed of Zimbabwe, Chad, Madagascar, Niger, Lesotho and Togo. At the end of their deliberations the two committees made concrete and relevant proposals of programme to be implemented.

Then, there were general discussions and summaries on the programme after presentation of the reports of the two committees.

It was agreed that final programme will be drawn by the Executive Board and submitted to members as soon as possible.

Then, the projected budget was presented. The project led to long discussions in which took part donors on the contribution that they can make to some headings of the budget especially with regard to the funding of the programme of activities.

In the afternoon, there were discussions between the Executive Board and donors on the cooperation between the association and donors.