

**The 4th ARMFA Meeting
7th_9th November 2005
Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge, Arusha, Tanzania**

**Opening Statement by Mr. Olav Ellevset
Sub-Saharan Transport Policy Program (SSATP)
The World Bank**

**The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works, Eng. John Kijazi,
The President of the African Road Funds Association (ARM FA) Mr. Assiba
Amoussou-Guenou,
The President of AGEP AR,
Members of the Executive Committee of ARMFA, Chief Executives of African Road
Funds, Chairpersons of African Road Funds,
Representatives of African Road Authorities, Board Members of the Roads Fund
Tanzania Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Chairperson of the Organizing Committee Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Sub-Saharan Transport Policy Program (SSA TP) has great pleasure in participating in this Annual ARMFA meeting.

On behalf of my two colleagues, Solomon Waithaka and Mustapha Benmaamar and myself, I would like to thank you for inviting SSA TP to your meeting. We hope that through our participation, we will strengthen our partnership.

It is also a pleasure to me personally to attend this meeting as I have previously spent a number of years in the roads sub-sector in Tanzania and has been able to watch its improvement. .

ARMFA is one of the two regional associations to which SSA TP is providing support. We also provide support to AGEP AR for promoting efficient and sustainable road management systems and institutions.

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries are making significant progress towards securing road maintenance financing. Today there are around 24 road funds in Sub-Saharan Africa of which more than half are moving steadily towards second generation funds. Creation of new Road Funds is on the agenda of road sector reforms in Senegal, Burkina Faso, DRC and Uganda.

Sustainable financing and sound management practices are the two building blocks for any successful road sector reform. While a significant number of Road Funds are being!

established (24), there are currently 12 Road Agencies only and most of them have been established in the last five years.

Mr. Permanent Secretary,

Whereas there is less progress in road management improvements, we have seen the Road Funds improving the flow of funds for road maintenance in the region. In many countries the road funds have provided a predictable flow of funds for road maintenance and other interventions contributing to stabilizing and improving road networks. I trust that all of us present here understand the importance of accessibility to good roads and transport services as a requirement for economic development and poverty reduction, and as such being instrumental to the efforts of the individual countries in improving the welfare of its people.

However, there are substantial differences in the legal and institutional frameworks between the road funds in the respective countries. These differences are impacting on the performance of the funds, and as such also impacting on the overall economic performance of individual countries as just mentioned.

We see ARMF A as important for providing a forum for sharing knowledge and experience, and for promoting necessary reforms for improving road maintenance financing in Sub-Saharan Africa. The members of the association have also a role to play in identifying shortcomings in road management by monitoring how the collected funds are being spent through the financial and technical audits that are undertaken by many of the road funds on a yearly basis.

Much emphasis from SSATP is being put to assess the performance of Road Funds and Agencies, and we are currently conducting two studies under the SSATP 2005 Work Program.

- 1- A Legal review of road maintenance funds' and agencies' legislation
- 2- Institutional review and performance assessment of road funds and agencies

We will share our findings at the next SSATP Annual meeting in Bamako, Mali, next week.

In this context we have been collecting the respective legislations for funds and agencies in Sub-Saharan Africa. The first version of the CD covering road funds was distributed during your Annual meeting in Nairobi last year, whereas the first version of the CD covering road agencies and authorities was distributed under AGEP AR ' s Annual meeting in Niger in May this year. At this moment not all legislations have been translated to another language, but we expect that this exercise will be completed early next year and distributed together with the studies just mentioned.

Mr. Permanent Secretary, Mr. President, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your association came a long way since its establishment in 2003 - Today 20 out of the 24 road funds in SSA are members of the ARMF A and I hope this number will increase by the end of this meeting.

Credit should be paid to Mr. Amoussou Guennou, the President of ARMFA who made the development of ARMFA his priority during his fruitful presidency. SSATP would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his excellent work.

Since April 2005, the SSATP team has been reinforced by Mr. Jerome Obi Eta, our new ARMF A coordinator who has been instrumental in organizing this annual meeting and who certainly added value to the SSA TP team.

With these few words; Once again, thank you for inviting SSA **TP**. We wish you a successful meeting.

Thank you!