

**AFERA**  
Association des fonds  
d'entretien routier africains



**ARMFA**  
African Road Maintenance  
Funds Association

## DECLARATION OF ACCRA

### **On the mechanisms of collecting road fund resources, negotiations for revising and widening road tariffs, and technical auditing of road funds**

We the Road Fund Managers, members of the African Road Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA), meeting in our 5<sup>th</sup> annual general assembly and technical workshop in Accra, Ghana from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2006 to consider the importance and the role of the collection of road user charges (RUC), widening of road tariffs and the audits of road funds in the maintenance of roads;

**Recognisant** of the importance of roads in socio-economic development of our respective countries, particularly in the fight against poverty;

**Guided** by the Libreville Charter in which we pledged to commercialise the road by putting in place second generation road funds in our respective countries;

**Concerned** about the shortage of revenues to cover road maintenance needs, the inefficient collection of the existing road fund resources and their utilisation, the lack of negotiation strategies for revising and widening road tariffs;

**Mindful** of the necessity to increase and diversify the sources of revenues in order to fully cover maintenance needs of the existing road networks;

**Have noted** the experiences of some member countries in the putting in place of coherent mechanisms for collecting resources and adjusting road tariffs;

Hereby **commit** ourselves to implement the following objectives, strategies and targets to reach and consolidate the objectives of second generation Road Funds in the financing of road maintenance:

1. Stay the course on “second generation” principles and restructure all road funds according to principles of second generation set out below by 2008:
  - Sound legal basis – separate road fund administration, clear rules and regulations.



- Strong oversight – broad based private/public board.
- Agency which is a purchaser not a provider of road maintenance services.
- Increase revenues by the institution of road user charges related to road use and channeled directly to the Road Fund bank account without passing through the treasury.
- Adopt sound financial management systems, lean efficient administrative structure.
- Carry out regular independent technical and financial audits.

2. Reinforce the commercialisation of the road by diversifying revenue sources and capture road tolls, vehicle license fees and other charges related to road use by 2008.

3. Mobilize road users and stakeholders more effectively in order to influence decision-making. Develop a dissemination and Communication strategy to rally partners and use the media to trigger political will by 2007.

4. Implement recommendations of technical audits reports and contribute to improving the efficiency of road management practices by 2008.

5. Establish regional focus groups, in 2006, to report on progress on the collection mechanisms, Negotiation and Public Relations strategies, Audits (value for money) and other regional issues related to road maintenance financing as follows:

- ECOWAS – pilot BENIN
- CEMAC (plus Burundi) – pilot CAMEROON
- EAC (plus Rwanda) – pilot KENYA
- SADC – pilot ZAMBIA

Done in Accra, the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2006

For the Delegates,

The President of ARMFA

