

# NORTHERN CORRIDOR TRANSIT AND TRANSPORT COORDINATION AUTHORITY



## FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

***THEME: "TOWARDS ENHANCED SYNERGIES IN REGIONAL TRADE AND  
INTEGRATION"***

**KEMPINSKI HOTEL FLEUVE CONGO,  
KINSHASA, D R CONGO,  
13 AUGUST 2015**

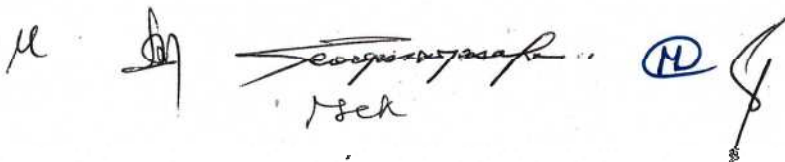
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**THE 27<sup>th</sup> COUNCIL OF MINISTERS** of the **Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority** was held in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo on 13th August 2015 with the theme being: **"Towards Enhanced Synergies in Regional Trade and Integration"**.

**The Council of Ministers was attended by Honorable:**

- Minister of Transport, Public Works and Equipment, Republic of Burundi;
- Minister of Transport and Communication, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Deputy Minister of Transport, Roads and Bridges, Republic of South Sudan;
- Minister of State in charge of Transport, Republic of Rwanda;
- His Excellency the Ambassador of Kenya to DRC for Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Republic of Kenya;
- Charge d'Affaires a.i Uganda Embassy Kinshasa for Minister of Transport, Republic of Uganda;

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The Council of Ministers was also attended by the following regional Institutions and Development Partners; Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); East African Community (EAC); International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR); European Union (EU); United Nation Commission Internationale du Basin Congo-Oubangui Sangha (CICOS); United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) and African Development Bank (AfDB).

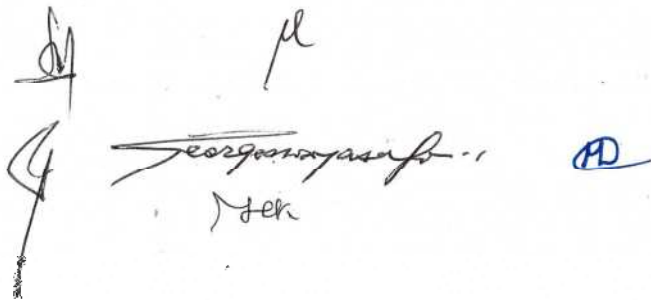
### **OPENING OF THE COUNCIL**

The chairmanship of the Council was handed over to Democratic Republic of Congo from Burundi.

### **OPENING SPEECH**

In her handover speech, the outgoing Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, Hon. Virginie CIZA, Minister for Transport, Public Works and Equipment of the Republic of Burundi extended her sincere gratitude to her colleagues for their support during her term in office.

She highlighted key achievements made especially in transport performance monitoring through enhancement of the Transport Observatory system, reduced trade and transport barriers, improved infrastructure, weighing in motion and improved vehicle load controls as well as increased engagement of the private sector.

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In his opening remarks the incoming Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hon. Justin KALUMBA MWANA-NGONGO, Hon. Minister of Transport and Ways of Communication, Democratic Republic of Congo extended a warm welcome to the members of the Council of Ministers to Kinshasa and expressed his gratitude to the Member States for the confidence vested with Democratic Republic of Congo to lead the NCTTCA for the next two years.

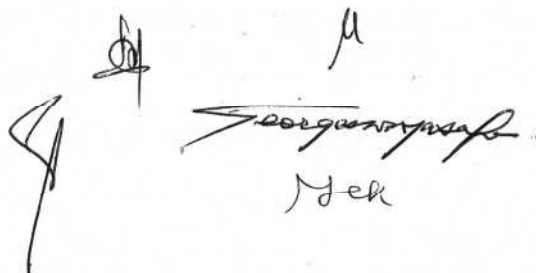
He stressed that the Northern Corridor Transport route is key for promoting international trade and regional integration and urged all Member States to work jointly in developing transport infrastructure projects.

He concluded his remarks by inviting his distinguished colleagues to consider the resolutions of the Executive Committee and give guidance and direction towards achieving the strategic vision of the Authority.

### **WELCOME STATEMENT**

In his welcome statement, the Executive Secretary, Mr. Donat BAGULA welcomed the Honorable Ministers, Executive Committee members and other distinguished delegates to the 27th Council of Ministers.

He highlighted the performance improvements on the Northern Corridor resulting from the regular monitoring through the Transport Observatory Project, implementation of the single customs territory and other Trade Facilitation initiatives.



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He emphasized the current ongoing trade and infrastructure development programs coordinated by the Secretariat aimed at facilitating trade and regional integration, that include; development of OSBP infrastructure, Road Side Stations project; and other ongoing road infrastructure projects.

In terms of cost of doing business, the Secretariat has enhanced the monitoring of the corridor transport and Trade logistics where significant improvements in transit times along the corridor and cargo handling at the Port has reduced tremendously.

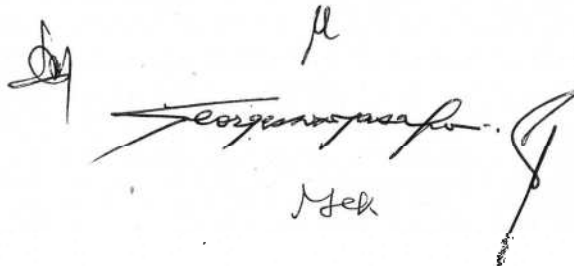
### **COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU**

For the next two (2) year tenure, July 2015 – June 2017, the Bureau for the Council was constituted as follows:

- D R Congo                      Chair
- South Sudan                      Vice Chair
- Kenya                              1st Rapporteur
- Rwanda                              2nd Rapporteur

### **Members**

- Uganda
- Burundi

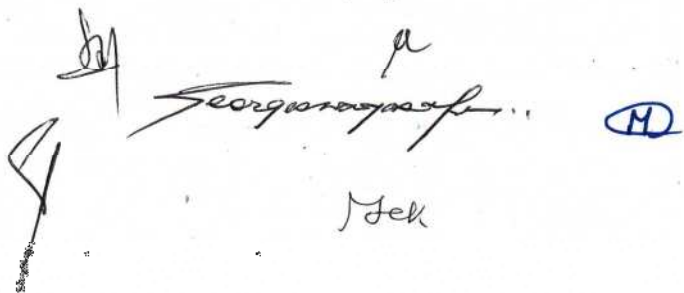
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**AFTER THE OPENING OF THE COUNCIL, THE AUTHORITY;**

**RECOGNISED** and expressed gratitude to Hon. Virginie CIZA, Minister for Transport, Public Works and Equipment of the Republic of Burundi, for her excellent and steadfast leadership on the NCTTCA Bureau as Chairperson of the Council of Ministers which role she did successfully and handed over to Democratic Republic of Congo.

**CONGRATULATED** and welcomed Hon. Justin KALUMBA MWANA-NGONGO, Minister of Transport and Communication, Democratic Republic of Congo upon his take over the Chairman of the Council and pledged their support to work together to develop regional transport infrastructure and services and promoting regional trade and integration in the Corridor.

**RECOGNISED** the invaluable support and expressed gratitude to Hon. Virginie CIZA, Minister for Transport, Public Works & Equipment of the Republic of Burundi, Hon Justin KALUMBA MWANA-NGONGO Minister of Transport and Communication, Democratic Republic of Congo, Hon. Simon Mijok MIJAK, Deputy Minister for Transport, Roads and Bridges, Republic of South Sudan, Hon. Dr. Alexis NZAHABWANIMANA Minister of State for Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure, Republic of Rwanda, Dr. George MASAVU, His Excellency the Ambassador of Kenya to DRC and Brigadier Julius CHIHANDAE, Charge d’Affaires ai Uganda Embassy to DRC for the Minister of Works & Transport, Republic of Uganda for their dedicated support to the NCTTCA programs.

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**NOTED** the progress and the key recommendations and resolutions on program activities related to policy harmonization and advocacy programs of Transport Policy and Planning, Customs and Trade facilitation, Infrastructure Development and Management and Private Sector Investment Promotion, Corridor Performance monitoring as well as the budget for the financial year 2015/16 and Administrative matters.

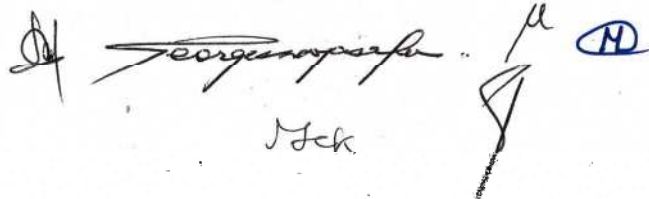
**CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED** the Report of the 40<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Report on Technical Programs as well as the budget for the financial year 2015/16.

**LAUDED** the efforts and the progress made by Member States in developing and improving regional transport infrastructure projects such as the Standard Gauge Railway and the Oil pipeline.

**RECOGNISED** the current ongoing project of constructing the Standard Gauge Railway as the flagship project in the Northern Corridor Integration Projects Initiative.

**COMMENDED** the Democratic Republic of Congo's political will to join the Northern Corridor Integration Projects Initiative championed by the Heads of States and its commitment to promote the Standard Gauge Railway as part of its transport infrastructure programs.

**ACKNOWLEDGED** the dynamic developments in the Northern Corridor involving initiatives at Summit Level and Directed the Secretariat to identify areas in the NCTTCA Agreement that need to be reviewed in line with such developments and bring them to attention of Member States.

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## **IN REGARD TO TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

**COMMENDED** the Republic of Kenya for working closely with the Secretariat as agreed in by the 26<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers for holding a successful Investor's Conference in April 2015 which was officiated by His Excellence the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya.

**RE-AFFIRMED** their commitment of integrating the Road Side Stations Program in Transport Infrastructure Development along the highways on the Northern Corridor.

**DIRECTED** the Secretariat to expeditiously roll out the Road Side Stations program and setting up National Multi-Sectoral Task Forces in collaboration with all the Member States.

**DIRECTED** the Secretariat to fast track the signing of the Bilateral Agreement on One Stop Border Posts (OSBP) and the implementation of the Road Map.

**COMMENDED** the Secretariat for enhanced performance monitoring under the Transport Observatory, Dashboard and undertaking the Impact Study of Northern Corridor Initiatives on the cost of transport.

**LAUNCHED** the upgraded Northern Corridor Transport Observatory Portal aimed at improved performance reporting.

**COMMENDED** the current trade facilitation and integration initiatives and urged all member states to commit to the implementation of Single Customs Territory.

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**TOOK COGNISANCE** of Self regulatory for vehicle load control charter initiative that was launched in Kenya and directed for program roll out in all the member states.

**ACKNOWLEDGED** the strategic partnerships and collaboration initiatives with Development and Regional Partners towards mobilization of funding for regional project preparation and implementation.

**APPROVED** the Activity Work Plan for the Secretariat for the year 2015/2016.

#### **ON FINANCE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS**

**NOTED** the issues raised in line with arrears of contributions by Member States to the NCTTCA and urged all member States to settle their outstanding arrears to enable the Authority to fulfill its mandate.


**DIRECTED** the Secretariat to propose for implementation a harmonized uniform rate of levy on all goods passing through the Port.


**RESOLVED** to write off 50% of the arrears of contributions for Rwanda and Burundi in order to reduce the burden from these Countries.


**APPROVED** the NCTTCA Budget for the financial year 2015/16 as proposed by the Executive Board.

#### **ON PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION**

**TOOK NOTE** of the report of the Executive Committee on Personnel and administrative matters and its resolutions thereof.

  
George Mwangi  
Mek





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**DIRECTED** the Executive Committee to expeditiously address all related issues.

**RESOLVED** to hold the 28<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers In June 2016 in Juba, Republic of South Sudan.

### **CLOSING OF THE COUNCIL**

#### ***CLOSING SPEECH***

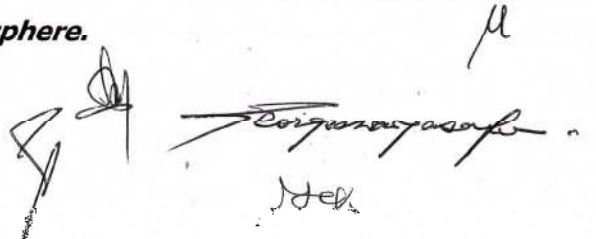
In his closing Speech, the Chairman of the Council congratulated the Council for the successful deliberations and completion of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NCTTCA Council of Ministers.

#### ***VOTE OF THANKS***

The Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Hon. Simon Mijok MIJAK, Deputy Minister for Transport, Roads and Bridges of South Sudan, congratulated his colleagues and fellow Ministers for the cordial discussions.

Finally, he thanked the host, the Democratic Republic of Congo, for the warm welcome and cordial hospitality extended to Council and their respective delegations during their stay in Kinshasa.

***The Council of Ministers convened in a warm and cordial atmosphere.***

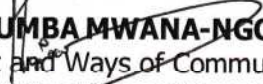
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Done in Kinshasa, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2015, in English and French languages, both texts being equally authentic.



**Hon. Virginie CIZA**

Minister for Transport, Public Works and Equipment  
**Republic of Burundi**



**Hon Justin KALUMBA MWANA-NGONGO**  
Minister of Transport and Ways of Communications  
**Democratic Republic of Congo**

**Dr. George MASAVU**  
His Excellency the Ambassador of Kenya to DRC  
For: Cabinet Secretary for Transport and Infrastructure  
**Republic of Kenya**



**Dr. Alexis NZAHABWANIMANA**

Minister of State for Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure  
**Republic of Rwanda**



**Hon. Simon MIJOK MIJAK**  
Deputy Minister for Transport, Roads and Bridges  
**Republic of South Sudan**

**Brigadier Julius CHIHANDAE,**  
Charge de Affaires ai Uganda Embassy Kinshasa  
For: Minister of Works & Transport  
**Republic of Uganda**