

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

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African Union Calls its Member States to Discuss Russia-Ukraine Crisis Impacts and Common African Position for COP27

The African Union Commission (AUC) is set to convene the 2nd Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental, and Interregional Infrastructure, and Energy (STC-TTIE) from June 14th-16th to consider pressing issues pertaining to the Russia-Ukraine Crisis, CoP27 and pending decisions under the transport sector.

The meeting scheduled to take place via video conference is expected to discuss the impacts of the Russia-Ukraine Crisis on Africa's energy and infrastructure sectors whose knock-on effects transcend across many sectors. The session is especially expected to review a paper titled 'Implications of the Russia-Ukraine Crisis on the African Energy and Infrastructure Sectors' that aims at proposing imperative actions to mitigate the impacts and, support Member States to manage arising risks.

Another critical topic to be tabled before the 2nd extraordinary session of the STC-TTIE is a paper on Common African Position on Energy Access and Transition to be presented for the CoP27 set to happen in Egypt in November this year. The paper highlights Africa's short, medium and long-term priorities for energy transition while devising an apt approach to address the huge energy access gap in the continent compared to other regions despite the resource abundance.

H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, African Union, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, says Africa has great expectations from the COP27 which is happening on its soil for the fifth time. The Common Position is thus meant to clearly put Africa's expectations, pathways, and demands on the global climate agenda considering its strides to achieve the Universal Energy Access stipulated under goal 7 of the SDGs. "The COP in Sharm El-Sheikh is very critical for the continent as we seek to speak in one voice regarding our priorities on energy access and transition, and push for the outcomes to recognize and embrace Africa's unique realities," added the Commissioner.

The 2nd STC-TTIE is also expected to consider and adopt agenda items under the transport sector including the Dispute Settlement Mechanism for the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), policy guidelines for negotiation of air services agreements between African countries and other countries and regions as well as the final report of the study on African Road Safety Observatory (ARSO).

The event is expected to be attended by African Ministers of Transport and Energy, representatives from the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Pan-African Institutions and Specialized Technical Organs of the African Union.

Note to the editor:

About the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs)

The Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), which constitute an important technical organ of the AU, were established under Article 25 of the African Economic Community Treaty (the Abuja Treaty). With the transformation of the OAU into the AU, the STCs were carried over by the Constitutive Act of the African Union under Articles 14 to 16.

The STCs are expected to work in close collaboration with the various departments of the AUC to provide well-informed inputs and decisions in their areas of specialization to the work of the AU Executive Council. They should also be involved in monitoring development programmes implementation by the AUC and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Given the overall objective of accelerating continental integration and the importance attached to the effective implementation of programmes and projects of the Union, the operationalization of the STCs becomes imperative. To this end, the Assembly of the Union adopted the Decision: Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) reconfiguring the existing STCs and created one on Transport, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism (STC-TIIET). This STC held its maiden meeting in the Togolese Republic in March 2017 and meets on a biennial basis.

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