



جمهورية السودان

THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

وزارة النقل والطرق والجسور

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, ROADS & BRIDGES

Minister

وزير الدولة

The Statement of His Excellency Mr. Siraj Ali Hamid Hassab Eldaiem, the State Minister of Transport, Roads and Bridges of the Republic of Sudan, at the Global Sustainable Transport Conference , 26 – 27 November 2016, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations

Your Excellency Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov the President of Turkmenistan

Your Excellencies heads of Government and State

Honorable Heads and Members of Delegations

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning

Allow me first to sincerely thank His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon the Secretary General of the United nations for the kind invitation he extended to us to attend this important Conference on sustainable transport. I would also like to thank the government and the people of the Republic of Turkmenistan for hosting this important gathering and for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to our delegation since our arrival at Ashgabat Airport.

Excellencies, honorable attendees,

I believe you are all aware of the great importance the whole world attach to sustainable transport as it is closely linked to a number of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Considering the paramount significance of sustainable transport in today's world, it becomes increasingly imperative that all countries of the world seek to supplement the missing links in the global supply chains.

Excellencies,

The government and people of Sudan are gearing up efforts to link parts of our country with each other through a multimodal transport network that would stand the test of time and not degrade prematurely. The aim behind that is to enable our citizens to access the services they need, and to link areas of production with areas of consumption as well as with ports of export. Given the fact that our country is surrounded by a number of landlocked countries, we are joining forces with them in order to link them to our transport network via roads and railways so that they can use our ports on the Red Sea coast for their import and export activities.

Excellencies

I trust that most of you are aware that Sudan has a strategic location in Africa, linking northern Africa with southern Africa as well as eastern Africa with western Africa. That makes it an important link in the global sustainable transport network. In that context we are working with our brothers in Africa and with our development partners through our regional organizations such as COMESA and IGAD and others in order to link countries of the continent via a sustainable multimodal transport network. To translate this vision into reality we have the proposed transcontinental Dakar-Port Sudan Railway, which is 4000 km long, to link Port Sudan in Sudan with Dakar in Senegal, and it would pass through several countries along the way. It would have branches to link capital cities not on the direct route. This initial line would develop into a railway network that would cover the whole of Africa. There is also the Cairo-Cape Town Highway, known as Trans-African Highway 4, which would stretch the length of Africa from Cairo to Cape Town. Construction of a navigational line between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea is also a proposed project which is expected to be completed in 2024. The idea is to promote intermodal transport by integrating river, rail and road transport facilities along the Nile corridor.

Excellencies,

The African Union has also some flagship projects including the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), under the AU Agenda 2063; the African Integrated High-Speed Railway Network (AIHSRN); Smart Corridors for Transforming Africa's Trans-border Infrastructure and Trade Facilitation; and Increasing African Ports Capacity and Efficiency for Economic Growth.

Excellencies,

As you may already know, our country is endowed with vast rich natural resources, making it one of the world's potential breadbaskets. Accordingly, the international community has a considerable and constructive role to play in this domain. It should multiply efforts and provide more support for Sudan in order to achieve mutual interests for itself in particular and for the rest of the world in general. It should assist us in building a sustainable transport network so that the fruits of these mutual efforts could reach all our brothers in humanity.

Excellencies,

I would like now to declare on behalf of the government of the Republic of Sudan and on my own behalf our firm commitment to make every effort in order to achieve all the foregoing ambitious projects and ideas, paving the way for a decent life for our people and for our brothers and friends across the globe.

Finally, Sudan has many advantages to attract foreign investment in the following areas:

- 1- Rail transport infrastructure;
- 2-Road transport infrastructure; and
- 3- Air transport infrastructure.

Thank you.