

## UNCTAD-IsDB-TRLC Webinar

### Promoting and Commercializing the Trans-Saharan Road Corridor (TSR)

Tuesday 15 December 2020, 14:00-16:00 (Algeria, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Switzerland, and Tunisia) |  
13:00-15:00 (Mali)

*(with simultaneous interpretation French/English)*

UNCTAD, in close collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Trans-Saharan Road Liaison Committee (TRLC), is organizing a webinar on “Promoting and Commercializing the Trans-Saharan Road Corridor (TSR). The purpose of this two-hour webinar is to share key findings of a regional study carried out by UNCTAD and funded by the IsDB with a view to the promotion and commercialization of the TSR. Insights gained from the analysis and the proposal put forward and advocating the establishment of a relevant corridor management mechanism, will enable the regional Corridor to evolve and emerge as a viable and successful economic corridor.

Members of the TRLC, namely Algeria, Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Tunisia have invested heavily in the implementation of the TSR corridor road network, through their own financial resources or with the support of financing institutions, with a view to enhancing sub-regional economic integration. However, investments in physical connectivity infrastructure, while necessary, are not, in themselves, sufficient to transform the existing road corridor into an efficient regional logistics and economic corridor. Transport and trade facilitation measures and services which are equally important but often complex and difficult to implement are also required.

The competitiveness and the performance of the TSR corridor requires, among other factors (i) additional infrastructure (e.g. missing road links), (ii) appropriate transport and trade facilitation measures and services (e.g. regulations, policies, technological means), (iii) harmonization and simplification of information exchange, international conventions, governance and institutional framework, and (iv) efficient regional transit systems. There is also a need for upgraded skills and capacity building, security, management mechanisms, coordination and monitoring.

International experience shows that improving infrastructure, services, institutions, and management mechanisms needed for connectivity (national, regional, and global) has a positive impact on competitiveness and, consequently, on job creation and income growth. Lower transportation costs will improve opportunities for trade and the movement of people and goods. By generating economies of scale, competitive and efficient corridors can help member countries to offer high-capacity transport systems and services that reduce transport costs and delays and minimize overall trade costs.

Against this background, the webinar aims to share information about the main findings of UNCTAD’s study on the TSR commercialization and promotion as well as generate insights and gather TSR stakeholders’ input. Comments and feedback received will help chart the way forward to ensure that the TSR Corridor become a regional economic corridor and inform the development of an action plan that would inter alia (i) establish the framework for regional cooperation, (ii) set up a suitable and effective corridor management mechanism.

## Programme

### **14:00-14:15: Welcome remarks and introduction**

*Ms. Frida Youssef*, Chief, Transport Section, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

*Mr. Syed Quadri*, Acting Director, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

*Mr. Mohamed Ayadi*, Secretary General, Trans-Saharan Road Liaison Committee (TRLC)

### **14:15 -15:00: Presentation of the Regional Study on the Promotion and Commercialization of the TSR, and its Evolution towards an Economic Corridor**

*Mr. Abdelmoula Ghzala*, International Consultant, UNCTAD

### **15:00 - 15:15: Q&A**

### **15:15-15:30: Experience from the field**

*Mr. Aloys Rusagara Bayiro*, Director, Transport Policy & Planning, Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA)

### **15:30-16:00: Q&A and Discussion**