

Speech of H.E. Dr/ Essam Sharaf
Minister of Transport
In the closure of the 6th Meeting of the COMESA Ministers of Transport & Communications
Sharm El Sheikh 14-15 September 2005

Your Excellency Ambassador / Naglaa El Hosseiny

My Colleagues your Excellencies Ministers of Transport, Aviation, Communications, public Works in COMESA countries

Ladies and Gentlemen Heads of delegations and Honorable delegations representing various transport sectors, Representatives of International Organizations

Ladies and Gentlemen of the press and the media

Ladies and gentlemen presents

Days have passed quickly and it is time to say goodbye, I am honored and ecstatic to be among you allow me to convey to your excellencies the gratitude of His Excellency Mr. President, Mr. Mohammed Hosny Mubarak for your worm congratulations to His Excellency on his election as a President of the Arab Republic of Egypt for a coming term.

I also convey the to you the greetings and gratitude of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Nazeef, the Prime Minister on enduring the trouble of the long journey to participate in our meetings, for your precious contributions, and your fruitful cooperation in order to the success of these meetings and to reach the recommendations we desired and hoped for which clearly outlined a new spirit: the spirit and enthusiasm of COMESA.

A vote of thanks to Libya

We would like to thank the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for joining the Organization and for its effective cooperation in these meetings.

A Brief on the meetings' results

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During five days which is the duration of the Transport and Communication committee and the ministerial meeting, the performance was significant and the results were outstanding in all transport sectors.

I would like namely to mention our agreement on concentrating our efforts, adopting Mega projects in order to ensure that the people of our countries feels them and be affected directly by them.

Moreover, I stress on our invitation to the media to promote the importance of COMESA to all of us: governments and people among our citizens.

An Invitation from Egypt to COMESA Countries to benefit from its capabilities

The positive participation that both the Transport and Communication Committee and the Ministerial meetings witnessed is a significant indicator that illustrates the cooperation spirit between the Member States and their sincere will to benefit from the African Continent capacities, the Continent which is rich with the magnificent mentalities of its sons. The optimum benefit can be achieved through the exchange of trade, ideas and culture. Having said that, I would like to add that Egypt will be honored if member states accept the invitation to benefit from the capabilities of training and researches specialized institutions in different transport fields as well as the participation in seminars, conferences and projects besides the use of projects implementation companies capacities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us adopt the spirit of Sharm El- Sheikh meetings. The decisions that we will issue today can have important impact on the development of transport and communications infrastructure if we have the will to implement them in order to fulfill the development objectives. This can only be achieved by concentrating efforts on one mega project for every sector in order to provide the necessary finance of each project with a time frame for implementation.

Let's all wish for seeing vessels calling our ports flying the COMESA flag and traveling on a high way passing through our countries with the COMESA-1 logo placed on it... and so on in all other fields of the Transport and Communications sector.

The resolutions taken today focusing on the 6 main projects in all transport sectors is an evidence of adherence to the COMESA spirit and the Alexandria Workshop recommendations.

I would also want to thank my colleagues their excellencies for accepting the MOU concerning the establishment of the COMESA Shipping Line Company and setting a time schedule for implementation after being legally reviewed.

Before concluding my speech I would like to thank the COMESA Secretariat for the magnificence role they played before and after the meetings, I also would like to thank the organizing committee – the Ministry of Transport and specially the Maritime Transport Sector for the great effort they exerted although they are not specialized in this field.

I thank also General/Mustafa Afifi for his warm welcome and his acceptance of holding the meetings in Sharm El Sheik the city of peace.

I also want to thank the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Security Entities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as all the press team for promoting the COMESA Organization and its objectives.

Thanks for all the entities and the private sector for participating in the meetings

Ladies and gentlemen

Let's all pray to God to give us the power and the success in accomplishing the decisions we have taken for establishing new roads, comfortable transportation means, a distinguished service with low cost in order to provide decent and a better life for the coming generations

Finally, I would like to convey to you the greetings of the Egyptian people and the wishes of the COMESA people of witnessing new mega projects with COMESA logo (Madeby COMESA)

I also wish you a safe trip back home and good memories in Sharm El Sheikh the City of Peace

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته