

## Final Statement

The **Colloquium AFRICARAIL / UNIDROIT** on the topic “**The Cape Town Convention and its Rail Protocol: A new driving force for rail investments in Africa**” was held on Friday 17 November 2006 in Lomé.

Organised with the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and sponsored by the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Togo:

- Considering that the ECOWAS and the WAEMU have written in their treaty the objective of harmonious economic development of the member States of the two Organisations in the area of transport for the purpose of facilitating freedom of movement of persons and goods;

- Considering that the two sub-regional Organisations have in their regional economic programme reaffirmed the importance of rail transport in the development of their economies, the increase in growth and in their gross national products;

- Considering that the ECOWAS and the WAEMU have in this perspective recently adopted a common programme for the connection of railways in the two regions;

- Considering that railways call for very large investments and complex, particular management;

- Considering the need to provide Africa with opportunities for attracting funding for the achievement of its planned railway infrastructures;

The participants at the Lomé Colloquium recommend States to ratify the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment adopted on 16 November 2001 in Cape Town, South Africa and its first Protocol on Matters specific to Aircraft Equipment.

They urge States to participate in the Diplomatic Conference to be held in Luxembourg from 13 to 24 February 2007 to adopt the new sectorial Protocol on Matters specific to Railway Rolling Stock.

Lastly, the participants invite the African States to join immediately UNIDROIT in order to participate in the preparation of legal rules designed to facilitate business and create the appropriate useful legal tools adapted to their development needs.

The participants express their sincere gratitude to the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg for its financial support that permitted the organisation of the Colloquium and to the Togolese authorities for their contributions.

Done at Lomé this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2006

**The participants**