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ERERA, WAPP HOLD TALKS ON ORGANIZATION OF ELECTRICITY MARKET IN WEST AFRICA

Chief executives of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA) and the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) met on Friday, 9th October 2015 in Accra to review issues relating to the organization of the electricity market in West Africa.

The talks, led by ERERA's Acting Chairperson, Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ikeonu and the institution's Regulatory Council Member (Economist), Mr. Alagi Gaye as well as WAPP's Secretary General, Mr. Siengui Apollinaire Ki - who was accompanied by WAPP's Programme Manager, Mr. Moustapha Cisse - specifically focused on key steps to be taken by both institutions fundamental to the kick-off of the regional power market. The launch of the regional market is planned for the end of 2016.

Key documents developed by WAPP and approved by ERERA for the facilitation of the Regional Market including the WAPP Operations Manual, the Regional Transmission Tariff Methodology and the ECOWAS Regional Market Rules were formally presented by ERERA to the WAPP Secretary General. The approval of these key documents are a critical milestone in attracting more investment to the ECOWAS electricity sector and will address the twin challenges of energy access and energy security.

The Regional Market Rules addresses the market design and phases for the regional market and specifies clearly the role of market participants and other stakeholders.

The Operational Rules define the technical parameters for connecting to the regional transmission network while the tariff methodology defines the method for the calculation of tariffs for cross-border transmission and wheeling charges.

Both ERERA and WAPP were established to develop the West African Electricity Market. While WAPP's core function relates to the infrastructural development of transmission lines in the region, ERERA's core mandate is to regulate cross-border trade in electricity amongst ECOWAS Member States.

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ERERA is also required to establish clear and transparent tariff setting methodology for regional power pooling, assist national regulatory bodies in ECOWAS on capacity building and technical issues upon request, as well as help ensure an attractive environment for investors.

To facilitate the realization of their core mandates, the ERERA-WAPP leadership set up the ERERA-WAPP Technical Committee Group, which last meeting was held in August 2015 in Cotonou, Benin where WAPP has its headquarters.