




## REPORT OF THE MEETING

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### FOURTH MEETING OF THE ERERA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES OF REGULATORS AND OPERATORS

  
Banjul, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## INTRODUCTION

The fourth meeting of the ERERA Consultative Committees of Regulatory Authorities and Operators was held at Kairaba Hotel, The Gambia, on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The meeting brought together representatives of energy ministries, national regulatory authorities in the power sector and electricity utilities of ECOWAS Member States.

The list of participants is attached as an Annex (A).

### A. OPENING CEREMONY

After having welcomed participants, the PURA Director General, **Mr. Abdoulie JOBE** underscored the importance of this fourth meeting of the Consultative Committees which should make it possible to examine the state of progress for ERERA activities and enable participants to jointly review futures prospects for improving the organization and functioning of the regional electricity market.

After the welcoming address, **El Hadji Ibrahima THIAM**, Chairman of ERERA, opened the meeting, recalling that the purpose of the meeting was to present the roll-out of the ERERA road map, the Directive on the organization and functioning of the regional electricity market, modalities for establishing Consumer Consultative Committees, as well as the methodology and data collection mechanisms for benchmarking.

He wished all participants fruitful discussions and all success as an outcome of their proceedings.

### B. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

The bureau for the session was decided as follows:

Chairman: **Abdoulie JOBE**, Director General of PURA;

Rapporteurs: **Aly Mar NDIAYE**, CRSE, Senegal;

**Kofi OWIREDU**, GridCo, Ghana.

### C. MEETING AGENDA

The agenda was adopted by the participants and is hereby attached as an Annex (B).

### D. MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Before giving the floor to presenters of the various themes, **Mr. Abdoulie JOBE**, Chairman, recalled that the meeting's objectives were primarily to inform participants about the implementation of ERERA's programme of activities and the election of the new Consultative Committee chairs.

The meeting proceeded to examine the following items:

### **1. Status of Implementation of the ERERA Road Map**

The presentation primarily focused on ERERA 2013 activities, namely:

- making ERERA operational through staff recruitment and drafting administrative and financial manuals on operating procedures;
- capacity building through the implementation of the Technical Assistance programme between NARUC and ERERA, consisting of holding workshops on regulation for clean energy ;
- validation of the regulatory studies.

The next phases of the road map were presented. They are, notably:

- finalization of ongoing market organization activities including, inter alia, the review of operating rules for interconnected networks of WAPP, and the design of operating rules for the regional electricity market, for approval by the Regulatory Council;
- adoption by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers of the Regulation on the payment of annual fees for the regulation of the cross border electricity exchanges, as well as the implementation of the five year strategic plan and the recommendations of the regulatory studies.

### **2. Directive on the Organization of the Regional Electricity Market**

The meeting was reminded of the major stages leading up to the adoption of the Directive, namely:

- the third Meeting of the Consultative Committees held in Lomé, in May 2013, which validated the studies on regulation;
- the tenth Meeting of ECWOAS Energy Ministers held in Yamoussoukro, in May 2013, which approved the recommendations from the said studies and submitted a resolution to the ECOWAS Council of Ministers to this effect;
- finally, the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers held in Abidjan, June 2013, which adopted and signed the Directive.

The Directive defines the general principles governing the Regional electricity market within the framework of the ECOWAS Energy Protocol, and the main provisions determines the design of the electricity market, the reaffirmation of the principle of free access and modalities for its implementation, regional electricity transmission tariff methodology, the mission assigned to ERERA to prepare model contracts for electricity exchanges, and strengthening the powers and missions of regulatory bodies.

### **3. Document on the Principles for the Regulation of Clean Energy**

Ms. Kristen Verclas of the 'National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) presented the principles for the regulation of clean energy.



As an introduction, Mrs. Kristen presented NARUC, previous and ongoing activities within the ECOWAS region. ECOWAS national regulators were called on to examine the document submitted by NARUC to ERERA and make comments and observations.

#### **4. Modalities for the Establishment of the Consumer Consultative Committee**

As provided for under Article 22 of Regulation C/REG.27/12/07 dated 15 December 2007 on the composition, organization, attributes and operations of ERERA, the Consumer Committee is composed of a representative elected by electricity consumers associations in each ECOWAS Member State under the supervision of the national regulatory authority, or the National Department responsible for the power sector in States without a regulator. ERERA's presentation pointed out the intention to involve market stakeholders in decision-making processes and sought approval for the decisions to be taken by the ERERA Regulatory Council.

To date, the Regulators Committee and Operators the Committee of Operators were established during the second ECOWAS Forum on power sector regulation held on 22 -23 November 2011 in Abidjan, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

In addition, the Regulation on the establishment of these Committees, laying out their attributes, their functions and rules of procedure, was adopted by the Regulatory Council on 14 December 2011.

Membership criteria for accession to the Committee were submitted for discussion and review by participants at the meeting.

After fruitful debate, notably discussing the type of consumers concerned, eligibility criteria and selection mechanisms for consumer representatives, the meeting decided to fuse the various proposals to be presented by ERERA at the next Consultative Committee meeting.

#### **5. Methodology and Data Collection Mechanisms**

ERERA presented the findings of the Benchmarking Study: the format for collecting information by operators and regulators was presented.

Participants recognized the importance of gathering information that will enable them to have access to best practice.

However, the need to harmonize data and data collection issues for certain kinds of information were raised. Attention was also drawn to the risk of overlapping with the work being done by WAPP and the need for seamless collaboration between WAPP and ERERA, as well as the need to involve national regulators in data collection activities.

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## **6. Election of Committee Chairs**

The meeting ended with elections of Consultative Committee Chairs.

After a voting session presided over by ERERA, the Director General of ANARE/ Côte d'Ivoire was elected by his peers as Chairman of the Consultative Committee of Regulators and the Director of Transport of CEB was elected Chairman of the Consultative Committee of Operators.

## **7. Choice of Venue and Theme for the Next Forum**

President THIAM reminded the meeting that ARSE, Burkina Faso, had offered to host the next forum. Mrs. NIKIEMA, CEO of ARSE/Burkina confirmed this invitation and stated that Burkina Faso wishes to host the 5<sup>th</sup> ERERA Forum to be held in 2014.

To this end, in the weeks ahead, ERERA shall send out a call for proposals for the theme of the next forum.

## **E. CLOSING CEREMONY**

The two Chairmen of the Consultative Committees made statements that were the highlights of the closing ceremony. Whilst recalling expectations and challenges to be overcome, both thanked their colleagues for the trust placed in them to carry forward their respective activities. They congratulated the outgoing team for the work done and reiterated their commitment to carrying out the plan of action adopted by each Committee.

The Chairman of ERERA expressed his satisfaction with the convening of the meeting and thanked participants for their valuable contribution to the debates. He went on to pay tribute to PURA and ERERA staff for their efforts that ensured the successful organization of the meeting.

The Chairman of ERERA brought the meeting to a close, wishing all participants a safe journey back to their respective homes.

**Done in Banjul, on 19 November 2013**

**For the Meeting  
Abdoulie JOBE**



**Chairman**

### **List of Annexes:**

- **Annex A: Agenda as adopted**
- **Annex B: List of participants**