

**PRESS
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ERERA Is Committed to Eliminating Gender Discrimination in the Energy Sector, Says Chairman

“The management of ERERA is fully aware of the need to advance gender equality by implementing measures that can give women and girls access to the same rights and opportunities for development as men, both professionally and socially”.

Those were words of assurance by the Chairman of ERERA, Professor Honoré Bogler, at a joint webinar held on March 29, 2022, and co-hosted by the three energy institutions of ECOWAS - the West African Power Pool (WAPP), the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and ERERA, based in Cotonou, Benin; Praia, Cape Verde and Accra, Ghana, respectively.

The webinar was organized to mark the March 8, 2022 International Women’s Day for female staff of the three regional energy institutions.

In his opening remarks, Professor Bogler stated that support for gender equality “could not be otherwise”, considering that ERERA is a specialized ECOWAS institution that “fully shares the ideas on gender mainstreaming that led to the ECOWAS Policy on Gender Mainstreaming for Energy Access and the ECOWAS Directives on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Projects”.

As stated in the Gender Mainstreaming Policy, there are five primary strategic objectives that, if achieved together, will represent the successful gender mainstreaming in energy access.

The Directive serves as a legal framework to guide policymakers and regulators in ECOWAS Member States on the required steps to ensure that energy projects undertaken in the region conform to the objectives of the ECOWAS Policy on Gender Mainstreaming for Energy Access.

Professor Bogler disclosed that under these two important instruments and intending to contribute to the development of women's access to energy services and projects, ERERA has requested a consultant to develop its gender mainstreaming strategy which will include a capacity-building programme on gender mainstreaming for ERERA staff and national energy regulators in Member States.

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More specifically, ERETA will seek to develop a regional guideline on gender mainstreaming to assist the National Regulatory Authorities put in place the required interventions at the national level.

Professor Bogler further informed participants that ERETA has nominated a staff as its Gender Focal Point whose role includes raising awareness on gender considerations among ERETA staff.

“Ladies, I would like to assure you that, like its two other sister institutions, ERETA is committed to playing its part, alongside you, in the battle to eliminate inequalities between men and women in the energy sector for a shared sustainable future”, Professor Bogler concluded.

The maiden webinar was organized in collaboration with the German cooperation agency, GIZ.