



**ECOWAS REGIONAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
(ERERA)**

2022 FORUM

**"Energy Security in ECOWAS Region through
Interdependence "**

Concept Note

Accra, October 2022



1. THE ENERGY CHALLENGE IN ECOWAS REGION

Issues relating to energy are among the most important and difficult challenges confronting the world today. Providing sufficient energy to meet the requirements of a growing population with rising living standards will require strong commitments by policy makers in energy supply and energy efficiency. There are many challenges and obstacles to achieving energy security of supply in developing countries among which includes dominance of fossil fuel resources and reluctance to embrace renewable energies which limits availability of finance, environmental changes, increased energy prices and technology advancement among others.

ECOWAS region has significant energy resources comprising both fossil fuels and renewable energy. Despite this potential, it remains one of the regions of the world where access to electricity is lowest and electricity prices higher. Currently, the average rate of access to electricity services is about 42%. This fact is generally due to a combination of various factors, including inadequate organization of national markets and / or inefficient management of power utilities and their poor financial situation (subsidized tariffs, collection problems, significant financial imbalances, etc.), political and managerial interference, lack of transparency and competence in the governance of the sector and insufficient investments.

Recognizing that one of the best responses to this dire energy situation could come from a concerted regional approach backed by strong political will, ECOWAS Member States decided to pool their efforts towards the implementation of cross-border energy interconnection projects for the efficient and optimum exploitation of energy resources unevenly distributed between countries.

The determination of the political leadership of ECOWAS to address the problem of energy supply in the region necessitated the established of West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) to make it the best appropriate framework for cooperation of States in the energy sector. The objective is to integrate the electricity systems of the ECOWAS Member States and establish a unified and prosperous regional electricity market to attract more investment in the sector, both for the development of generation and transmission facilities, for the expansion of the electricity network in each country, and to provide the population with clean, reliable, and affordable electricity.

To meet this challenge, ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA) has been working since 2009 for the establishment, in the region, of a stable, credible and consistent institutional, legal and regulatory framework, to promote the establishment and development of a unified and prosperous regional electricity market.



2. ENERGY SECURITY OF SUPPLY IN ECOWAS REGION THROUGH INTERDEPENDANCE

However, the current electricity generation and transmission capacities are still largely insufficient to meet sustainably, the regional demand, growing at an average rate of 7% per year. Thus, beyond the issues of organization and governance of the sector, the implementation of the regional electricity market requires the development of generation assets, transmission, and distribution of electric power, both at national and regional level. To ensure security of power supply is maintained the development of these generation and transmission capacities is imperative for the region. That is why the issue of mobilizing financing for the development of these infrastructures remains crucial for our States.

In view of the solidarity between nations which has always guided its leaders in their actions, ECOWAS and its specialized institutions, including ERERA, are still continuing to promote the establishment and development of an integrated regional electricity market, through the adoption and implementation of various Community policies and regulations to allow free movement and trade, without borders, including that of electrical power between our countries. But we must go beyond this textual solidarity by establishing an active, even interdependent solidarity. Hence, the following questions remains pertinent:

How do we guarantee a secured supply of energy through a more collective, better approach and greater cooperation at the regional or even continental level? How can this security of supply be ensured while developing electrical interconnections between our States and opening our national electricity markets to more competition and flexibility?

How can we mitigate the current global energy crisis and economic challenges through regional cooperation, by establishing a positive interdependence between our States?

These are the questions, to which this forum should provide answers while advancing possible policy and regulatory solutions that can strengthen cooperation and solidarity in our region, even at the continental level.

3. ERERA 2022 FORUM

The seventh annual forum of ERERA is aligned with this perspective and aims to encourage participants to consider and discuss all these issues, including:

- a. Improving the security of electricity supply through the regional electricity market
- b. Energy security of supply and regional energy connectivity



- c. Promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development, as well as
- d. Energy security of supply within global economic challenges and consumers protection.

The Forum is expected to bring together representatives of the Ministries in charge of Energy and Finance, national regulatory authorities, utility companies, parliamentarians, academics, researchers, consumer groups, civil society organizations, banks, regional and international development partners, to share ideas and discuss issues related to ensuring energy security of supply in our region and the development of the regional electricity market in ECOWAS.

Furthermore, the Forum will provide a platform for all stakeholders in the energy sector to discuss on how to move the sector forward and improve the standard of living of ECOWAS citizens and it will generate fresh ideas, innovations, and strategies to address the challenges of energy security, not only in West Africa but far beyond.

Based on current global realities, we have chosen the theme, “Energy Security of supply in the ECOWAS Region through Interdependence” for this Forum. Through the different technical sessions, we hope that this theme will reverberate as intended and deepen our awareness of our need for one another more specially to satisfy our increasing quest for reliable and low-cost electricity.

The sessions include areas such as improving the security of electricity supply by developing the Regional Electricity Market infrastructures, energy security and regional energy connectivity, promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development, how to address global economic challenges and consumer protection as well the role of women in energy conservation for the development of the Regional Electricity Market. During the two days of the forum, many topical topics have been carefully selected for discussion and deliberation by regional and international experts.

The presentations and discussions will focus on the economic, legal, technological, environmental and financial opportunities and challenges related to the topics mentioned above. The purpose is to develop strategic approaches and concrete action plans, as well as to enhance regional cooperation in the energy field.

4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The seventh Regional Forum will be an opportunity to:

- reaffirm the commitment of ECOWAS to good governance,
- strengthen the role of ERERA as an institution for the regulation of regional electricity market and harmonization of policies and regulatory practices of member states, and
- create a platform for promoting cooperation, exchange of information and sharing of regional expertise;
- sustain this space for exchanges and dialogue between stakeholders in the electricity market, the operators of the power industry, as well as donors and



- investors involved in ECOWAS Member States, so as to create conducive conditions for the development of the regional electricity market; and
- contribute to capacity building of electricity market regulators, managers, and operators of the electricity industry in ECOWAS Member States.

5. DATES AND VENUE

The forum will be held on 9 and 10 November 2022 in Banjul, The Gambia. It will be preceded by a meeting of the Consultative Committees of Operators and Regulators of ERERA on 7 and 8 November 2022.

6. DRAFT OF THE PROGRAMME

The forum programme is proposed as follows:

Day 1 – Wednesday 9th November 2022 – MORNING SESSION			
Time		Key Points	Speakers
09:00 – 10:00	OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FORUM		
	SPEECHES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome address by the Director General of PURA/The Gambia • Speech by the Chairman, ERERA • Speech - President, ECOWAS Commission • Speech -Minister of Energy of The Gambia 	
	Keynote Address:	<i>“Policy Initiatives towards integrating the West African Electricity Market”</i>	H.E. Badara Alieu Joof - The Vice President of the Gambia
10:00 – 10:30	COFFEE BREAK		
SESSION No. 1: Improving the security of electricity supply by developing the regional electricity market			
□ MODERATOR: Hon. Abdoulie JOBE (Minister of Energy, The Gambia)			
10:30 – 10:50	Energy gap and regional electricity market: ECOWAS initiatives to address the shortfalls in energy supply	1. Supply-demand deficit in West Africa: the current situation at national and regional levels. 2. Initiatives taken by the Region to fill the gap. (20 min)	Mr. Ki Appolinaire Siengu (Secretary General, WAPP)
10:50 – 11:30	Organization of the Electricity Markets in West Africa: from National market towards a Regional Electricity Market	Presentation of the ECOWAS Directives on the organization of the regional electricity market (15 min)	Engr Aly Mar NDIAYE (Council member, ERERA)
		Guidelines for the opening of national markets and the open access to the regional grid (10 min)	Mr Oumar Bangoura (Legal Expert, ERERA)
		Regulatory harmonization tools to enhance infrastructure connectivity (15 min)	Mr. Solomon SARPONG , Senior Energy Economist, African Development Bank



Day 1 – Wednesday 9th November 2022 – MORNING SESSION

Time		Key Points	Speakers
11:30 – 12:30	Opening of National Markets for better integration: Lessons and challenges	The Ghanaian Experience (20 min)	Mr. Oscar Amonoo-Neizer (Executive Secretary, Energy Commission Ghana)
		The Nigerian Experience (20 min)	Dr. Imamuddeen Talba (Board Member TCN Ltd and Former Ag. Chairman, NERC Nigeria)
		The Senegalese Experience (20 min)	Mr. Ibrahim SARR (Chairman, CRSE Senegal)
12:30 – 13:15	Questions & Answers (45 min)		
13:15 – 14:15	LUNCH		

Day 1 – Wednesday 9th November 2022 – AFTERNOON SESSION

Time		Key Points	Speakers
SESSION No. 2: Energy Security and Regional Energy Connectivity			
□ MODERATOR: Hon. POQUENA AUGUSTO, Minister for Energy and Industry, Guinea Bissau			
14:15 - 14:55	Regional Power System Connectivity: Challenges and Key Success Factors	Building trust and political consensus for cross-border energy connectivity (20mn)	Prof. Ignacio Perez-Arriaga MIT Energy Initiative and Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research (CEEPR) Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts (USA)
		Energy Connectivity and Regional Cooperation: Critical Success Factors (20 min)	Engr Abimbola Odubiyi Former Commissioner, NERC Abuja and former Executive Director, Abuja Electricity Distribution Company.
14:55 – 15:40	Financing and Cross-border Power System Infrastructure	Regional Power System Planning: WAPP Master Plan, a framework for regional cooperation towards achieving power grid integration (15 min)	Mr. Yawovi NEGBEGBLE (Power Expert, ERERA)
		Cross-border connectivity from a financial perspective: - Funding formulas for sub-regional initiatives - Specific funding gaps and challenges faced by sub-regional initiatives (15 min)	Rockfeler P. Herisse, Ph.D. , Regional Economic Growth Office Energy Team Leader, USAID
		Challenges in Settlement of Transactions: Perspectives of an Operator (15 min)	Mr Nane JUWARA Director General, NAWEC
15:40 – 16:35	Questions & Answers (60 min)		
16:35 – 16:55	COFFEE BREAK		



Day 1 – Wednesday 9th November 2022 – MORNING SESSION			
Time		Key Points	Speakers
Round Table 1			
□ MODERATOR: Mr Sediko Douka, Commissioner for Energy , Infrastructure and Digitalisation			
16:55 – 17:45		Issues and challenges in developing regional power infrastructure projects (prerequisites, risk assessment, etc) PANELISTS: Dr Emmanuel Mannah (SLEWRC), Mr Abimbola Odubuyi (former Commissioner NERC), Mr. Ki S (SG WAPP), Mr. Negbegble (ERERA), Mr. Solomon SARPONG (AfDB), Rockefeller P. Herisse, Ph.D. (USAID)	
17:45 – 18:15		Questions & Answers (30 min)	
End of the Day			

Day 2 – Thursday 10th November 2022 – MORNING SESSION

Time		Key Points	Speakers
SESSION No. 3: Promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development			
□ MODERATOR: Honorable Sophie GLADIMA (Minister of Petroleum and Energy, Senegal)			
09:00 – 10:00	Developing Sustainable Regional Power Projects	The point of view of a regional Operator: the case of CLSG Project (15 min)	Etienne Bailly Director of CLSG Project Implementation Unit
		Planning of the North Core Backbone (15 min)	Djibril Maille , Coordinator , North Core Project
		Point of view of a Generator-Operator (15 min)	Mr Oumar Nije KARPOWER (The Gambia)
		Perspective from a technical and financial partner (15 min)	Alagi BasiruGAYE , Operations Team Leader, Economic Infrastructure Islamic Development Bank
10:00 – 10:30		Questions & Answers (30 min)	
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK		
SESSION No. 4: ENERGY SECURITY AND CONSUMERS PROTECTION			
□ MODERATOR: Claude GBAGUIDI, Chairman of Electricity Regulatory Authority, Benin			
11:00 – 12:15	Electricity Consumers and Global Economic Challenges	Experience of Gambia (15 min)	Mr Yusupha JOBE , Director General PURA-The Gambia
		Experience of Nigerian Regulator (15 min)	Mrs Aisha Mahmud Bello Commissioner, Consumer Affairs, NERC-Nigeria
		Experience of Ugandan Regulator (15 min)	Engr Ziria Tibalwa Waako Chief Executive Officer Electricity Regulatory Authority, Uganda



Time		Key Points	Speakers
		Experience of Ghana Regulator (15 min)	Ishmael Ackah, Ph.D. Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Regulatory Commission, Ghana
		Perspective of Consumers advocate (15 min)	Mr Kofi KAPITO, CEO Consumer Protection Agency of Ghana
12:15-12:30	Women and the Development of the Regional Electricity Market (REM)	Designing power systems in a gender-sensitive way: Role of women in the setting up of the REM to promote equal opportunities. (15 min)	Mrs Boubacar Amina SEKOU BA Head of Legal department Energy Sector Regulatory Authority (ARSE) Niamey-Niger
12:30 – 13:30	Questions & Answers (30 min)		
13:30 – 15:00	LUNCH		

Day 2 – Thursday 10th November 2022 – AFTERNOON SESSION

Time		Key Points	Speakers
15:00 – 15:40	Preparation of the forum Report		
CLOSING SESSION			
CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Abdoullia JOBE, Minister of Energy, The Gambia			
15:40 – 16:00	General Summary Conclusions and Recommendations		
OFFICIAL CLOSING OF THE FORUM			
16:00 – 16:30	7th INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL FORUM OF ERERA «ERERA Forum 2022 ARREC»	PURA Speech ERERA Speech ECOWAS Speech The Gambian Government Speech	
19:30	DINNER		