

**PRESS
RELEASE**



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ERERA Chairman Appeals for Support to Ensure Energy Environment for Development

The Chairman of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), Engr. Kokou Laurent Tossou, has called on key actors in the electricity sector in West Africa to lend their support in ensuring an energy environment for development.

He specifically called on ERERA's Consultative Committee of Regulators and Operators which include national regulatory authorities and members of the West African Power Pool (WAPP), private sector organizations involved in energy production, energy investors as well as technical and financial partners of ECOWAS, among others.

Engr. Tossou made the appeal while addressing participants at the 2023 Annual Planning Workshop on the Regional Programme "Promotion of a Climate-friendly Electricity Market in the ECOWAS Region" (PROCEM II) on January 30, 2023 in Ouidah near Cotonou in Benin.

He was speaking in relation to some challenges towards the launch of the second phase of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market which has been rescheduled for the last quarter of 2023. The first phase was launched in June 2018 in Cotonou, Benin as a transitional phase meant to last for a maximum of two years.

Engr. Tossou emphasized that an open and competitive electricity market for the ECOWAS region was possible through the mobilization of resources from the regulation of the power market, the contributions of ECOWAS Member States, and the active participation of private investors and development agencies featuring as technical and financial partners.

He reiterated ERERA's commitment to the development of the regional power market and its availability to collaborate on "constructive proposals in the best interests of the peoples of the ECOWAS region".

Engr. Tossou gave the assurance that ERERA, the West African Power Pool (WAPP), the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and the Energy Directorate of the ECOWAS Commission

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will continue to examine their complementary actions for the electricity market and will work hard to achieve a sustainable and efficient regional electricity market in the ECOWAS region.

He thanked the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for its coordination of activities for the Promotion of a Climate-Friendly Electricity Market in the ECOWAS Region.

The Director of Energy of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Bayaornibe Dabiré, the Secretary General of the West African Power Pool, Mr. Apollinaire Siengui Ki, the Executive Director of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Mr. Francis Semporé, and the GIZ Head of programme, Mr. Assani-Massourou Dahouenon, also addressed the opening of the two-day meeting.

Led by the ECOWAS Commission, the Promotion of a Climate-friendly Electricity Market in the ECOWAS Region (ProCEM II), which was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), covers the 15 ECOWAS Member States and will end in 2024.

The Promotion of a Climate-friendly Electricity Market in the ECOWAS Region is designed to help ensure better electricity market integration, including the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

It is envisaged that a common electricity market which would allow for more cross-border use of renewable energy, would further improve the quality of energy supply, lower costs and reduce investment risks.