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ECOWAS Ministers of Energy to Meet on Regional Power Market Documents

Ministers in charge of energy in ECOWAS Member States will meet on October 7, 2023 in Cotonou, Benin to review recommendations from regional energy experts on some documents which are considered critical to the operationalization of the electricity market.

The documents were validated by the experts whose two-day meeting ends today, October 6, 2023 in Cotonou. They are the Directive for the Harmonization of the Criteria for the Granting of Licences and Authorization to Participate in the Regional Electricity Market; the Regulation on the Surveillance of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market; and the Regulation on the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market Levy.

The Directive on the Harmonization of the Criteria for Granting Licenses and Authorization for Participation in the Regional Electricity Market is expected to promote a level-playing field for cross-border electricity trade among ECOWAS Member States.

Considering the different rules and procedures in Member States, a harmonized licensing framework will ensure that licensing does not restrict entry into the regional power market and will also provide the regulatory tools to assist regulators in their oversight functions.

For its part, the Regional Electricity Market Supervision Regulation will establish rules and procedures for the supervision of participants in cross-border power trade to promote a favourable regional approach to investment and capacity development.

The Market Supervision Regulation includes the mechanisms for monitoring Market participants' behaviour to support an efficient, reliable, and sustainable Regional Electricity Market in compliance with the Regional Market Rules, the Operation Manual of the West African Power Pool (WAPP), the Market Procedures and other approved Regional Electricity Market documents.

The Regional Electricity Market Levy Regulation seeks to establish a fee to finance the operation and functioning of the regional power market and ensure its effective supervision and regulation.

It will ensure the financial security and autonomy of ERERA and the Regional System Market Operator (SMO). The financial security and autonomy of ERERA and the SMO are necessary for their effective operation and

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their ability to carry out their functions with regard to the operation and regulation of the Regional Electricity Market.

The draft Directive on the Regional Electricity Market Levy applies to all participants of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market, and all cross-border electricity transactions within the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market, including electricity import and export between ECOWAS Member States as well as access, cross-border Interconnection and use of the Regional Transmission Network.