

PROGRAMME OF ERERA 2025 FORUM

Theme: Regional Energy Cooperation in West Africa: Current Dynamics and Integration Perspectives

Dates: Thursday 23 and Friday 24 October 2025

Venue: Hôtel Golden Tulip, Le Diplomate, Cotonou (Benin)

Day 1 – Thursday, October 23, 2025			
Time	Theme	Topics	Speakers
09:00	Opening Session	OPENING CEREMONY	
		SPEECHES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Address by the Chairman of ERERA Statement by the ECOWAS Representative Opening Speech – Minister of Energy of the Republic of Benin
			Group Photo
10:00		COFFEE BREAK Group Photo	
<p>Session 1: State of Regional Energy Cooperation: Review of Integration and Coordination Programs</p> <p>MODERATOR: Ing. Laurent Kocou TOSSOU, Chairman of ERERA</p> <p>Speakers: 1 – Mr Karimou Chabi Sika, Director General of CEB 2 – Ing. Abdoulaye DIA, WAPP Secretary General 3 - Ing. Etienne Bailly, CLSG Technical Director 4 - Mr. Ahmed Ramdane Sylla, Director of Regional Infrastructure, OMVS 5 – Ing. Brahim ABDALLAHI, Former Director General Energy of Mauritania, Independent Expert</p> <p>Summary: Speakers will assess progress and challenges in regional electricity integration in West Africa, including interconnection projects, institutional coordination, and the transition from physical interconnection to a fully functional and competitive regional electricity market, notably through the operationalisation of the Day-Ahead Market (DAM). The session will also address the prospects for expanding the Market to other non-ECOWAS countries.</p>			
10:00 - 11:30	Session 1	<p>State of Regional Energy Cooperation: Review of Integration and Coordination Programs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Topics to discuss</p> <p>Technical and Institutional Assessment of Major Regional Interconnection Projects (CEB, CLSG, OMVS, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What concrete results in connectivity have been achieved? What delays or difficulties remain? What is the level of physical and commercial integration reached ? What prospects for expanding the Market to other non-ECOWAS countries <p>Toward Commercial Integration of the Regional Market: Conditions and Prerequisites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What regulatory, commercial, and operational adjustments are required to move from bilateral exchanges to a transparent and competitive market? <p>Operationalisation of the Day-Ahead Market (DAM): Roadmap and Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory readiness and harmonisation, Roles and coordination among regional institutions, equitable network access mechanisms, and payment guarantees?
		Questions and Answers from the audience	
11:30 - 11:45		COFFEE BREAK	

Session 2: Geopolitical and Institutional Challenges: Impacts of Political Dynamics and Role of Regional Institutions

MODERATOR: Prof. William Alade Fawole, Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Obafemi Awolowo University

- Speakers:** 1 - Dr. Obindah Gershon, Chair, Centre for Economic Policy and Development Research (CEPDeR), Economics and Development Studies, Covenant University
 2 - Sandrine Wachon, International Energy Market Specialist
 3 - Béatrice Bianchi, Regional Political Analyst
 4 - Dr Seydou Ra-Sablga Ouédraogo, Executive Director of the Institut FREE Afrik

Summary:

This session will analyse how evolving political dynamics affect regional energy commitments, the functioning of the Regional Electricity Market (REM), and the institutional responses required to sustain regional cooperation. Speakers will assess how geopolitical tensions influence integration projects, examine adaptation strategies by regional institutions, and explore ways to maintain inclusive energy cooperation despite instability.

11:45 - 13:15	Session 2	Geopolitical and Institutional Challenges: Impacts of Political Dynamics and Role of Regional Institutions	Topics to discuss
			Strengthening Social Cohesion and Regional Solidarity • How shared energy infrastructure fosters cooperation, trust, and peacebuilding among neighbouring countries through mutual economic benefits.
			Political Tensions and Energy Security: Lessons from Global and Regional Crises • Case studies of cooperation blockages or suspensions due to regime changes, diplomatic disputes or instability. • prospect of strengthened sub-regional energy cooperation after the withdrawal of the AES countries from ECOWAS
			Resilience of the Regional Market in the Face of Political Turbulence • How can the regional market be shielded from political dynamics? Should clauses of neutrality or continuity be reinforced?
			Governance of an Inclusive and Neutral Energy Market in an Unstable Context • How can technical institutions remain independent and resilient amid regional uncertainty?
Questions and Answers from the audience			

13:15 - 14:30 LUNCH

Session 3: Role of Regulators in Managing Risks Arising from Regional Energy Interdependence

MODERATOR: Mr. Edouard Dahomey, Chairman, ARE Benin

- Speakers:** 1 - Mr. Ibrahim Niane, Chairman, CRSE (Senegal)
 2 - Mr. Emmanuel Mannah, DG, Sierra Leone Water and Electricity Regulatory Commission (SLWERC)
 3 - Mr. Augustus V. Goanue, Managing Director, Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC)
 4 - Dr. Abdulkadir Shettima, Director, African School of Regulation (ASR)

Summary:

The increasing interconnection of power systems exposes countries to shared technical, commercial, and regulatory risks. This session will analyse the tools available to regulators for monitoring, coordination, and emergency response, as well as mechanisms for crisis prevention, dispute resolution, and institutional capacity building at the regional level.

14:30 - 16:00	Session 3	Role of Regulators in Managing Risks Arising from Regional Interdependence	Topics to discuss
			Technical Risks Linked to Network Interconnection • Failures, overloads, frequency instability – what regulatory standards and alerts are needed?
			Contractual Failures in Cross-Border Exchanges • How to prevent and resolve non-payment, partial delivery or breach of obligations?
			Market Monitoring and Transparency Tools • How can regulators detect warning signs and monitor compliance?
			Dispute Resolution and Regulatory Role in Cross-Border Conflicts • Are regional mechanisms effective, independent and accessible?
Questions and Answers from the audience			

16:00 - 16:15 COFFEE BREAK

END OF DAY 1

Day 2 – Friday, October 24, 2025

Time	Theme	Topics	Speakers
Session 4: Digitalization and Cybersecurity Challenges			
MODERATOR: Mr. Julien Keller, European Affairs Officer, Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (RTE)			
Speakers: 1 - Mr. Olufemi Fajemirokun, Head of Information and Telecommunications, WAPP 2 - Mr. Alexis Rechain, Director General, Stratec-Arc 3 - Mr. Folukè Timothée Attikpati, Energy Markets Engineer, La Bellenergie 4 - Mr. Gabin Laurent, Expert, RTE International 5 - Dr CHETANGNY Patrice Koffi, Ecole Doctorale des Sciences de l'Ingénieur, Université Abomey-Calavi			
Summary: Digitalization enhances transparency and efficiency in the power sector but increases exposure to cyber risks. This session will explore ongoing digital innovations, emerging threats, and the role of regulators in developing regional standards, cross-border coordination, and cybersecurity preparedness.			
09:00 - 10:30	Session 4	Topics to discuss	
		Threats and vulnerabilities affecting operators and critical infrastructure; • What are the risks of a cyberattack on an interconnected network? How can we protect ourselves? • How to build resilience and the regulator's role in prevention?	
		Cybersecurity Landscape and Findings from the ASEA Annual Survey for West African Energy Stakeholders	
		Cybersecurity Challenges for Market Actors (Suppliers, Producers, Aggregators)	
		Addressing Cyber Risks: Solutions and Perspectives for the WAPP	
		Questions and Answers from the audience	
10:30 - 10:45		COFFEE BREAK	
Session 5: Harmonisation of Legal and Regulatory Frameworks			
MODERATOR: Mr. Ibrahima Niane, Chairman, CRSE (Senegal)			
Speakers: 1 - Ms. Adaku Ufere-Awoonor, Mission 300 Donor Management Officer, Sustainable Energy for All 2 - Ms. Bataba-Agamah Abide, Director of Legal Affairs, ARSE Togo 3 - Ms Louise Mathu, International Consultant (Kenya) 4 - Oumar BANGOURA, Legal Expert, ERERA			
Summary: Harmonising national regulatory frameworks is vital to regional electricity market integration, but significant discrepancies remain. This session will review progress made, identify obstacles, and define a joint roadmap for legal and institutional convergence, while respecting national specificities.			
10:45 - 12 :30	Session 5	Topics to discuss	
		State of play of national legal and regulatory frameworks • What are the main points of divergence observed between Member States in terms of access, pricing, licenses, etc.?	
		Regional texts adopted and level of national transposition • What is the progress of the legal integration of the regional market (directives, regulations) into national legislation?	



10:45 - 12 :30		Harmonization of Legal and Regulatory Frameworks	Obstacles to regulatory harmonization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the institutional, political, or administrative obstacles preventing rapid compliance?
			Tools to support harmonization: technical assistance, training, transposition guides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What good practices can help States harmonize without weakening their legal specificities?
			Regional roadmap for progressive and coordinated harmonization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the progress of the legal integration of the regional market (directives, regulations) into national legislation?
			Questions and Answers from the audience
12:30 - 13:45		LUNCH	

Closing Session MODERATOR: Mr. Edouard Dahomey , Chairman, ARE Benin			
13:45	Closing Session	Synthesis, Recommendations, and Regional Roadmap	Conclusions from all sessions, adoption of the Regional Roadmap, and open debate with participants.
15:30		Official Closing Ceremony	Closing remarks : acknowledgements, and conclusion.
		END	