



## WEST AFRICA TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORS ASSOCIATION (WATRA)

### PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES by

**Ernest C.A. Ndukwe**  
Chairman, WATRA

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## Introduction

- Founded 2002
- Constitution signed 2002 in Ouagadougou
- 12 member states signed up out of 16
- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting held March 2003 in Abuja
- WATRA Secretariat at ECOWAS Secretariat, Abuja, Nigeria
- Website: [www.watra.org](http://www.watra.org)

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## Objectives

- To encourage the establishment of independent and adequately empowered national telecom regulatory agencies
- To encourage development modern legal and regulatory structures for telecom services.
- To seek the development and harmonization of regulation and promote efficient and cost effective telecom networks and services
- To encourage increased liberalization and competition initiatives in the region
- To promote uniform standards for telecom applications and equipment
- To contribute to the development of policies to enhance universal access and telecom penetration in rural and underserved areas in the sub-region
- To facilitate the exchange of ideas, views and experiences among members on all aspects of regulation of telecoms sector
- To develop an ICT master plan for the sub-region
- To collaborate with other regional and international bodies.

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## Programmes

- Collaborative Agreements for Capacity Building with:
  - Commonwealth Telecommunications (CTO)
  - Global VSAT Forum (GVF)
- Development Partners:
  - ITU
  - ECOWAS
  - USAID
  - CTO
  - CVF
- Conducted Capacity Building Workshops on:
  - Effective Application of VSAT Technology in West Africa with GVF - Nigeria
  - Competition Policy with CTO - Ghana
  - Interconnection, Cost & Pricing with CTO - Nigeria
  - NetTel@Africa Pilot Test for WATRA with NCC/USAID - Nigeria

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## Programmes

- Next workshops planned (January – March 2004)
  - Human Resource Development Strategy I with CTO – The Gambia
  - Human Resource Development Strategy II with CTO - Ghana
  - Introduction to Regulations with CTO – Burkina Faso
  - Regulatory Governance with CTO – Dakar, Senegal
  
- Positive Discussions with USAID for funding for some programmes
  
- Sourcing for Consultants for Feasibility Studies on:
  - Roaming within WATRA Region
  - Cross Border Connectivity with the sub region

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## Future Programmes

- Feasibility study on the possibility of cross border roaming and interconnection in the region
- Feasibility study on Cross boarder connectivity - routing of international traffic within the ECOWAS region from one member country to another without going outside the region
- Study on the Harmonization of telecommunications standards in the region
- Consultancy on the establishment of Industry data base for the sub region
- Implementation of the harmonization of legal and regulatory framework for the region
- Preparation of administrative guidelines & procedures and funding of the Secretariat for the first 2 years i.e. salaries, travel and overhead expenses.

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