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TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

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DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

**FINAL COMMUNIQUE
MEETING OF WEST AFRICA TELECOMMUNICATION
REGULATORS' ASSOCIATION**

ITU/BDT

Meeting of West Africa Telecommunication Regulators' Association Ouagadougou, 17-18 November 2002

COMMUNIQUE FINAL

The Telecommunications Regulators of West Africa met in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 17 and 18 November 2002 in order to pursue discussions on the adoption of the statutes of Telecommunication regulators' association for West Africa.

Pursuant to the conclusions of the meeting held in Bamako in May 2002, the Ouagadougou meeting was chaired by Mr Modibo CAMARA, Director of the Telecommunication Regulation Committee of Mali.

The meeting was attended by delegations of the following countries :

Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo.

The meeting was also honoured by the presence of the following organizations:

- International Telecommunications Union (ITU),
- International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT),
- *Agence Internationale de la Francophonie (AIF)*,
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The meeting examined in detail the draft statutes of the West African Telecommunication Regulators' Association (WATRA), which it adopted with some amendments to make the Association's operation more flexible and dynamic.

The aforesaid amendments having been incorporated in the final version, the WATRA Statutes were then signed by the following delegations :

Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal.

Furthermore, the meeting elected a steering committee comprising Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and the Executive Secretariat of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS). The steering committee shall be responsible for preparing the first General Assembly of the Association, to be held in Abuja in March 2003, at the kind invitation of delegation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The meeting expressed its sincere thanks to all partners, and in particular ITU, the World Bank and USAID, who had spared no efforts to bring the creation of the West African Telecommunication Regulators' Association (WATRA) to fruition.

Finally the meeting expressed its deep gratitude to the Telecommunication Regulation Authority, the Government and the people of Burkina Faso for the warm welcome and hospitality which all delegations had received and for the facilities made available to ensure that the meeting was a success.

Done at Ouagadougou, 18 November 2002