

**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

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**GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM FOR REGULATORS  
Hong Kong, China, 7 -8 December 2002**

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**PRESENTATION**

**WATRA  
A REGULATORS ASSOCIATION FOR  
WEST AFRICAN STATES**

**Ernest C.A. Ndukwe  
Chief Executive Officer  
Nigerian Communications Commission**



## **WATRA - A REGULATORS ASSOCIATION FOR WEST AFRICAN STATES**

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**IN FURTHERANCE OF REGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

**PRESENTED BY**

**ERNEST C. A. NDUKWE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**



## **INTRODUCTION**

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- **West Africa hosts a significant number of the World's least Developed Countries**
- **Modern Telecom Infrastructure essential for Sustainable Economic Growth.**
- **Liberalization of Telecom Market and Private Sector Participation Essential for Attracting Financial Resources, Innovation and New Technology**
- **West African states are linked both geographically and economically.**
- **West Africa as a region must embrace Market Liberalisation to Prosper**



## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION**

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- **The Treaty Of The Regional Body –The Economic Community Of West African States(ECOWAS) – Recognised Need for Regional Cooperation For Development Of Essential Infrastructure**
- **Telecom Is Central To Socio-Economic Development In The Region**
- **There Is Therefore Need To Adopt strategies To Ensure Massive Buildout Of Essential Telecom Infrastructure To Stimulate Economic Growth**



## **ESSENTIALS FOR ATTRACTING TELECOM INVESTORS**

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- **Market Liberalisation Must Come With strong Regulatory Framework To Ensure Viable Competition And Facilitate Entry For New Operators**
- **Regulators Must Be Skilled, Well Trained And Empowered To Be Effective**
- **Regulatory Framework Must Be Clear, Well Defined And Predictable**
- **Reasonable Market Size**



## **BUILDING REGULATORY CAPACITY**

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- For Developing Countries, It Is Very Expensive To Build The Capacity And expertise Required For An effective Regulatory Environment
- Regional Bodies Can Share Resources, Facilities and Experiences To Reduce The High Costs of Setting Up Effective Regulatory Institutions
- The Region Would Also Be More Attractive To Potential Investors If Standards And Regulatory Processes Are Common Across The Region



## **WEST AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORS ASSOCIATION ( WATRA )**

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- Conceived 22nd September 2000

### **Goal**

- To Establish Cooperation Among Member States Towards Rapid Telecommunications Development In West Africa

### **Objectives**

- To Promote The Development Of Telecommunications In West Africa
- Share Expertise, Experiences And Resources
- Facilitate Liberalisation, Competition And Privatisation Initiatives
- Coordinate Regional Position On Telecom Issues
- Formulate Regulatory And Technical plans For The Region
- Encourage Adoption of Uniform Regulatory, Technical and Quality Standards
- Promote fair Interconnectivity Practices



## **WATRA**

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- Charter Endorsed By Seven Countries Last Month In Ougadougou
- Enjoys Support Of The ITU
- Will Strive To Work Closely With Other Sub-regional Bodies In Africa To Accelerate Telecom Development In Africa



## **CONCLUSION**

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**WATRA Will Co-operate with Similar Regional And International Bodies To Ensure That The ITU Dream Of Universal Access To ICT For All People No Matter Where They Are Is Realized.**

**THANK YOU**