



ECOWAS REGIONAL COMPETITION AUTHORITY
AUTORITÉ RÉGIONALE DE LA CONCURRENCE DE LA CEDEAO
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INAUGURAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ECOWAS REGIONAL COMPETITION AUTHORITY (ERCA)

THEME

Competition Policy and Market Integration in ECOWAS: Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities

PROGRAMME

Duration: 3 days

08:30 – 09:00: Registration of Participants

09:00 – 10:00: Official Opening Ceremony

- Address by President of the ECOWAS Commission.
- Opening keynote by H.E. Mr. Adama Barrow, The President of the Republic of The Gambia.
- Cultural events / Official Group Photograph.

10:00 – 10:30: Break/ Networking

DAY 1 – Institutional Framework and Regional Cooperation

10:30 – 11:20: High-Level Opening Panel: Competition Policy as a Pillar of Regional Economic Integration: Issues, Perspectives and Opportunities

Moderator: Dr. Juliette Twumasi Anokye, Chairperson ERCA Council.

Panelists (3): Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture, ECOWAS Commission; Mr. Mod K. Ceesay, Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of The Gambia; Prof. Eleonor Fox, professor emerita at New York University School of Law.

11:20 – 13:00: Plenary Session 1 - Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation in Competition Enforcement

Moderator: Mr. Saïd Kechida, Competition Expert, OECD Competition Division.

Keynote Address (10 mins): Strengthening Cross-Border Enforcement Mechanisms

Speaker: Dr. Simeon Koffi, Executive Director of ERCA.

Panel Discussion: Coordination tools, institutional asymmetries, data sharing

Panelists (4): Dr. Troy Waterman, Executive Director of CARICOM Competition Commission, Dr. Willard Mwemba CEO of CCCC; Mr. Malick Diallo AfCFTA Head of Competition Division; Mr. Sudesh Puran, Head of Investigation of Competition Commission of Mauritius

13:00 – 14:15: Lunch Break

14:30 – 15:30: Plenary Session 2 - Harmonisation of National and Regional Competition Frameworks

Moderator: Mr. Bashiru Njie, Executive Secretary of GCCPC

Keynote Address (10 mins): Harmonisation of Competition Laws in Africa

Speaker: Mr. Tunji Bello, Executive Vice-Chairman, FCCPC

Panel Discussion: Alignment of national frameworks, Challenges of convergence, International best practices

Panelists (5): Mr. Gaye Sowe, Director of Legal Affairs of ECOWAS Commission; Dr. Seydou Sacko, Competition Expert (Fmr. ECOWAS Commission Officer in charge of competition), Prof. Alban Ahouré, Commissioner of Côte d'Ivoire National Competition Commission; Mr. Melaine Tchokponhoue, Director of Competition – UEMOA, Mrs. Annie L. Nyama Ortiz, Director of Trade and Competition CEMAC.

15:30 – 16:30: Breakout Group Sessions

Group 1: Harmonisation of Legal Frameworks.

- *Chair:* Mr. Adama Diomande - ERCA Council member.
- *Speakers (3):*

Group 2: Governance and Independence of Competition Authorities.

- *Chair:* Prof Festus Okechukwu Ukwueze, Dean Emeritus, Faculty of Law, University of Nigeria.
- *Speakers (3):* Ms. Thembelihle Dlamini, Legal Adviser and Company Secretary at Eswatini Competition Commission, Call for papers (2).

Group 3: Regional Cooperation and Information Exchange.

- *Chair:* Mr. Yahya Samateh, Head of Competition and Economic Research Division, ERCA.
- *Speakers (3):* Call for papers.

Group 4: Strengthening Technical and Operational Capacities.

- *Chair:* Mr. Miguel Semedo, Chairman of Cabo Verde Competition Authority
- *Speakers (3):* Call for papers.

16:30 – 17:15: Report Back from Working Groups

17:15 – 17:30: Summary of Day 1