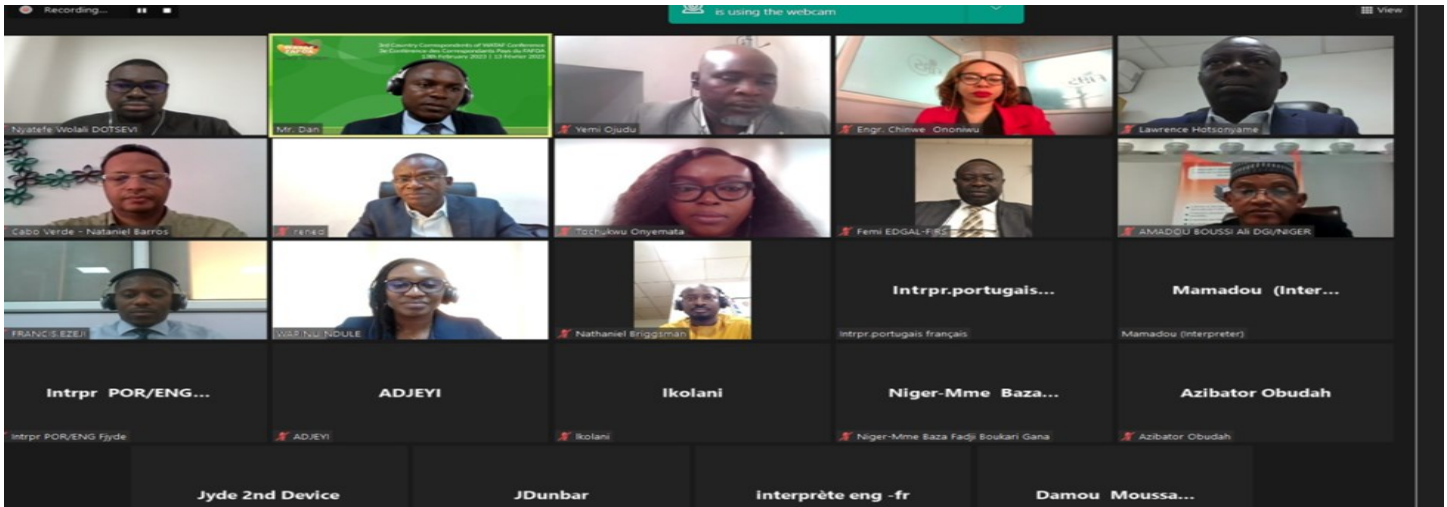




# TAX FOCUS WEST AFRICA

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Participants at the conference

## WATAF Introduces TACIMS to Evaluate Tax Administration, Uses Data to Generate Intelligence

The West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF) has developed Tax Administration Capability and Intelligence Maturity Systems (TACIMS). This was disclosed during a virtual Country Correspondents' Conference held on 13th February 2023. The theme of the conference was "The Digitalisation of the Tax Systems and the Future of Tax Administrations in West Africa." The conference was used to showcase steps that WATAF is taking in assisting member states in their digitalization jour-

ney in the next decade. These include: (i) capacity development programmes; (ii) needs-based technical assistance; and (iii) tools for assessing the level of digitalisation of tax systems, such as the OECD's Digital Transformation Maturity Model (DTMM) and the WATAF's Tax Administration Capability and Intelligence Maturity Systems (TACIMS). The TACIMS is a tool developed by the WATAF Secretariat for evaluating the tax administration system's maturity in terms of using data to generate intelligence about taxpayer compliance behaviour, using technology as a key enabler, and mak-

ing it simple for the taxpayer to communicate with the tax authority about general compliance and other activities. Even though there are other tools like TACIMS, it is made to deal with the problems that only tax administrations in West Africa face.

Speaking about the TACIMS one of the participants stated: "I see a resemblance between TACIMS and TADAT, which is being rolled out in many African countries. I think we need to develop our own assessment tools since we have a lot in common. TACIMS will surely be a good assessment tool for West African

countries."

Participants were also introduced to the concept of digitalisation of tax systems and its benefits to members' tax administration.

The conference was also an opportunity to update member states' country correspondents on the Forum's 2023 activities as well as outline their roles and expectations towards the realisation of the 2023 WATAF annual plan.

As always, the conference ended on a friendly discussions among country correspondents, peer learning, and networking.

## International Tax Committee: To Protect ECOWAS' Interest



WATAF International Tax Committee, which met for the third time on 2nd March, 2023, was mandated to make sure that the region's interests are protected in all objectives, which is "to ensure that all ECOWAS member states speak with one international discussions about international tax-

tion.

This fits one of WATAF's voice on tax policy and administration issues." In line with the committee's mission, this meeting provided an opportunity to talk about the "Call for Public Input: Promotion of Inclusive and Effective Tax Cooperation at the United

Nations" and "Tax Implications of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in the West African Region." [Read the submission sent to the UN Secretary General on the "Promotion of Inclusive Tax Cooperation at the United Nations."](#)

## Synergy for Outstanding Impact



A four-day retreat was organised by the Secretariat of WATAF at the Ibom Icon Hotel and Golf Resort in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, from 16th -19th February, 2023, for strategic planning. The theme of the 2023 retreat was "Synergy for Outstanding Impact". It was an opportunity to

analyse, evaluate, assess, and establish a strategic plan of action to increase the Secretariat's efficiency in implementing the 2023 annual plan as well as to evaluate the performance of the 2022 annual plan. [Read more...](#)

***"It was an opportunity to analyse, evaluate, assess, and establish a strategic plan of action to increase the Secretariat's efficiency in implementing the 2023 annual plan..."***

## AfCFTA Revenue Prospects, Implications: What Holds for W/A States

In line with its vision of fostering collaboration amongst its members with a view to improving the quality of tax administrations in the respective member states, WATAF organised a workshop in collaboration with the Office Togolais des Recettes (OTR) and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) Secretariat from 27th - 29th March, 2023, in Lomé, Togo, to

discuss the revenue prospects and implications of the AfCFTA in the region. The workshop provided participants with the opportunity to share experiences and best practices and learn from presentations. Experts spoke on how to optimise revenue mobilisation in the context of the AfCFTA.

One key observation made during the workshop was that AfCFTA, just like every other agreement, has its advantages and disadvantages. Although



there are potential impacts of the AfCFTA on tax revenues in West African countries, in the long run, an increase in economic activities resulting from trade creation is expected to help boost tax revenue in member states. [For more information about the revenue prospects and implications of the AfCFTA in the region, please read the outcome statement.](#)

## WATAF Consultant Bags Fellowship



Dr. Abiodun Adegboye, who works as a research consultant for WATAF, was awarded

research fellowship by the IBFD Centre for Studies in African Taxation. His award came as a result of collaboration between the IBFD CSAT and WATAF to conduct research on the impact of global minimum tax incentive regimes in West Africa. [Click here for more information on the collaborative research project.](#)



## WATAF ES, Oladapo Chairs 2nd International Professional Conference by Society of Women in Taxation



Mr Babatunde Oladapo, Executive Secretary, WATAF chaired the session on "Building Professional Women Leaders for the Future" at the 2nd International Professional Women Conference of the Society of Women in Taxation (SWIT) from 29th January – 1st February, 2023, in Banjul, The Gambia.

## Production of First Tax Expenditure Report on VAT in Nigeria

As a Committee member of the ECOWAS' Support Programme for Tax Transition in West Africa (PATF), WATAF participated in the workshop for the production of the first tax expenditure report on Valued Added Tax (VAT) in Nigeria, which took place from 20th - 24th March, 2023.

The workshop's overarching goal was to increase the technical ability of key government officials in evaluating and reporting VAT-related tax expenditures.

## **WATAF Signs Co-creation Agreement with News Central Media Limited**

WATAF has signed a co-creation agreement with the News Central Media Limited. The collaboration installs a 10-minute segment in the business show, Business Edge, that will be focused on tax-related issues in Africa.

It is aired on DSTV channel 422 or Startimes channel 274 every Thursday by 11:00 a.m. (WAT).

## **Tax Updates in West Africa**

Visit WATAF Blog to read about the submission sent to the UN Secretary General on the "[Promotion of Inclusive Tax Cooperation at the United Nations.](#)"

You will also find articles on "[Understanding the Significant Economic Presence \(SEP\) Tax Rule in Nigeria.](#)"

"[West African Countries' Public Finance Laws in a Context of Crises.](#)"

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