

NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2024



TAX FOCUS WEST AFRICA

We are pleased to present the 2024 first quarter of our newsletter – Tax Focus West Africa – a quarterly publication of the West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF).

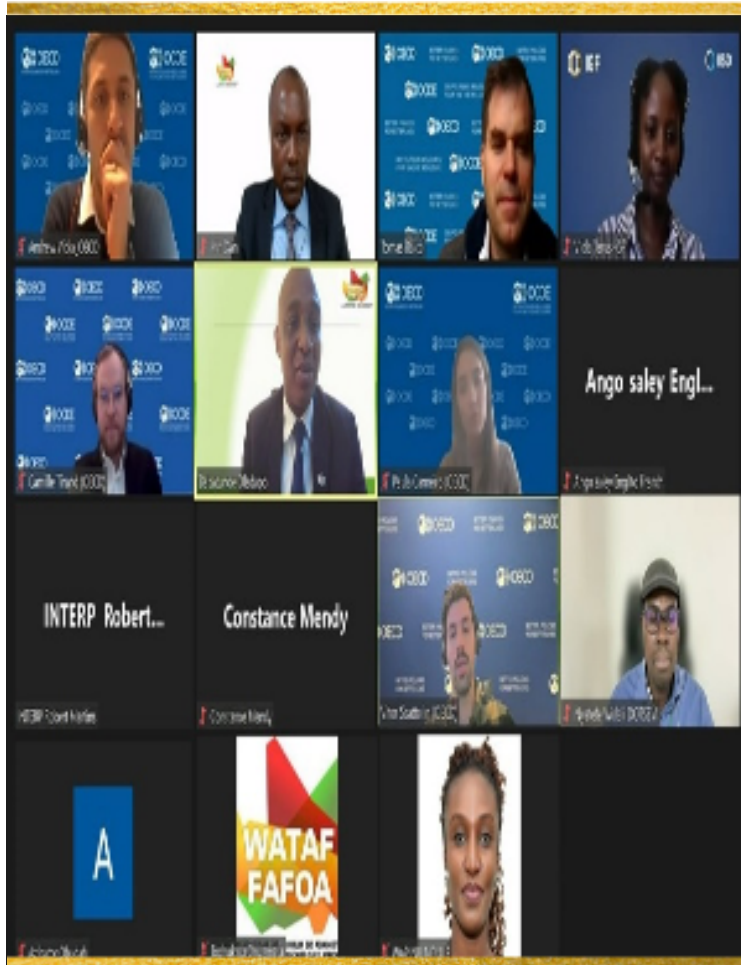
In this edition, we provide you with information on the various activities carried out by WATAF from January to March 2024.

Additionally, there are highly insightful articles and exciting news from our member countries' tax administrations that are well worth your time.

[HTTPS://WATAF-TAX.ORG](https://wataf-tax.org)

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2024

(i) IGF-OECD-WATAF Workshop



The West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF) in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Inter-Governmental Forum on Mining, Mineral, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF), convened a virtual workshop titled "Extractives' Taxation: Risk Assessment Based on Taxpayer Transfer Pricing Documentation" from January 24-25, 2024. Tax officials acquired knowledge on how to reduce transfer pricing risks in mineral valuation through customised sessions.

The series of seminars were initiated based on feedback from a May 2022 event in Lomé, Togo, where tax officials addressed the mining industry taxation challenges. This inaugural symposium, which was coordinated by WATAF and ECOWAS Cooperation/GIZ, alongside other stakeholders such as IGF, OECD, and International Bureau for Fiscal Documentation, incited a collective decision to enhance knowledge in the field of extractive taxation in West Africa.

As the series conclude, over a hundred officials are poised to reform mining industry taxation in the region. This collective endeavour exemplifies the efficacy of collaboration in promoting sustainable development.



(ii) Study Visit to Ghana Revenue Authority

The WATAF Secretariat recently conducted a study in Ghana on the potential revenue implications of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) in West Africa. Held from March 19–20, 2024, the study addressed pressing concerns in regional tax revenue mobilisation, including evasion, avoidance, and non-compliance challenges.

Given the launch of AfCFTA in 2018, there is mounting pressure on tax systems across West Africa, necessitating a proactive approach from tax administrations. The study aimed to equip these administrations with insights to navigate challenges and capitalise on opportunities, ensuring maximum tax revenue.

During the study, the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) facilitated key meetings with stakeholders, including the Ministries of Finance, Trade, Roads and Highways, as well as the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI). The study's recommendations will help WATAF countries implement AfCFTA provisions effectively.



Study Team with the Commissioner of Customs and Staff

Study Team with the Commissioner of Domestic Taxes and His Deputies, GRA





Study Team
with the
Officials of
the Ministry
of Finance,
Ghana

Study Team
with the
Officials of
the Ghana
National
Chamber of
Commerce
and
Industry



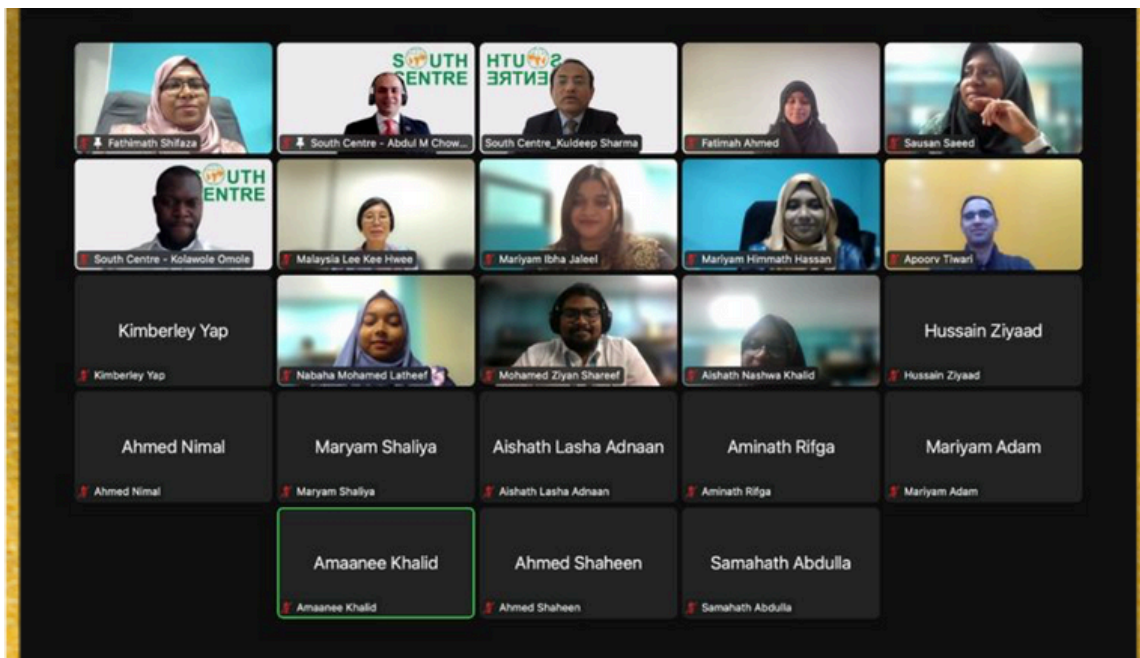


Study Team with Officials of the Ministry of Roads and Highways, Ghana

(iii). WATAF News and Participation at Partners' Events

a. Participation in South Centre Organised Webinars

WATAF contributed two expert speakers to the South Centre's virtual two-day capacity building workshop for the Maldives Inland Revenue Authority, focusing on the Two Pillar Solution and Alternatives, held on March 5-6, 2024. Additionally, WATAF participated in a joint closed technical briefing organised by the Platform for Taxation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PTLAC) and the South Centre on February 8, 2024. The briefing addressed the taxation of income from international shipping and air transport under Article 8 of the UN and OECD Model Tax Conventions (MTCs).



b. WATAF Comments on OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework's Report on Pillar One-Amount B

On February 19, 2024, the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework (IF) on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) released a report centering on Amount B of Pillar One.

After releasing the report, WATAF promptly conducted a thorough analysis to understand its implications for member states. Through deliberations with expert insights and careful consideration, WATAF formulated tailored recommendations in the best interests of its member states.

Read the [WATAF Comments on OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework's Report on Pillar One-Amount B](#)

c. 10th Annual International Tax Conference of WAUTI

The West African Union of Tax Institute extended an invitation to WATAF to attend its 10th Annual International Tax Conference in Cotonou, Benin, from February 28–29, 2024.



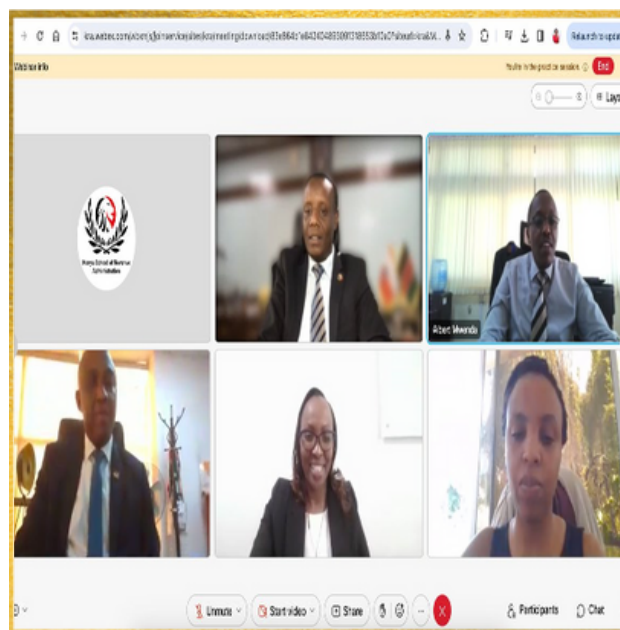
Mr. Babatunde Oladapo, the Executive Secretary, gave a presentation at the conference titled "Tax Litigation and Fiscal Transparency in ECOWAS States."

d. 8th KESRA Economic Dialogue



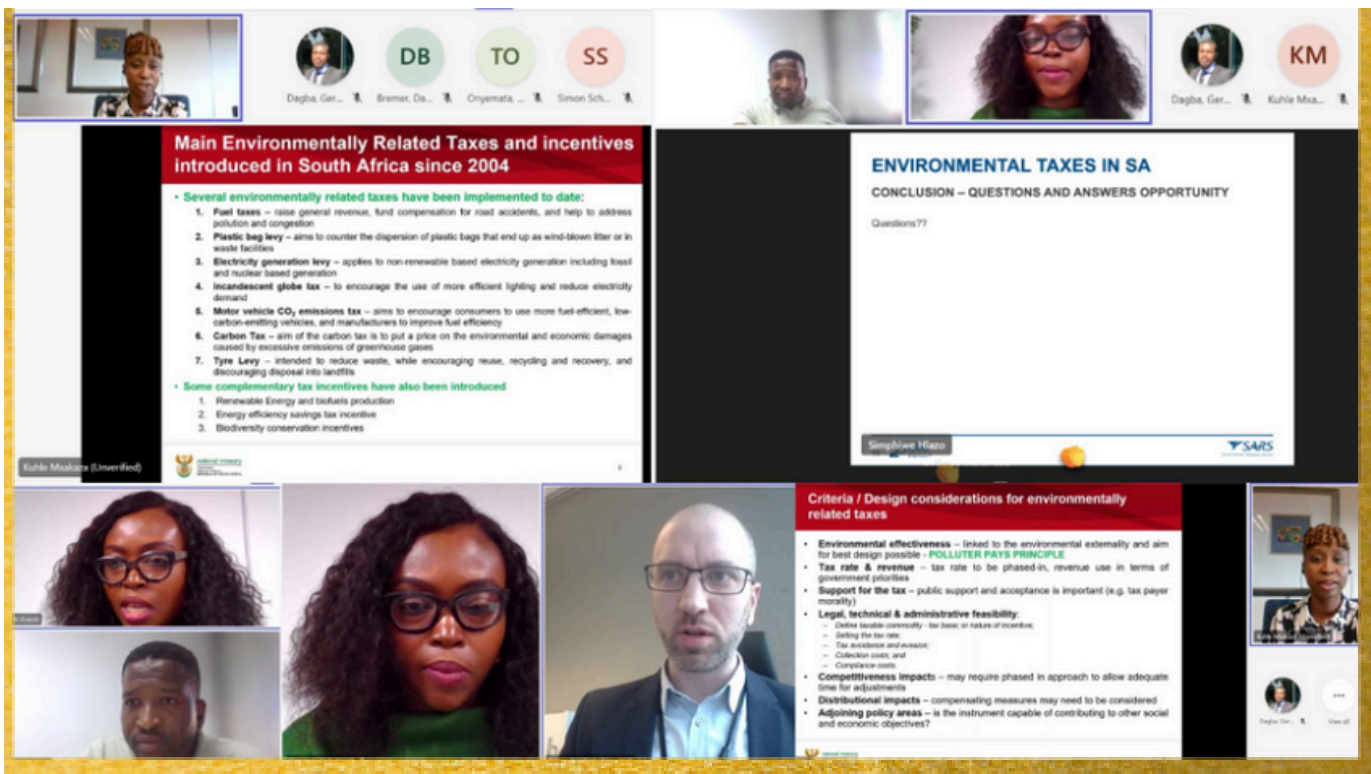
The Kenya School of Revenue Administration hosted its 8th KESRA Economic Dialogue Webinar on March 7, 2024. The webinar focused on the theme "Unlocking Public Revenue Potential in Africa: A Deep Dive into Revenue as a Percentage of GDP."

Among the esteemed panelists was Mr. Babatunde Oladapo, the Executive Secretary of WATAF, who provided valuable insights from the West African perspective on the topic.



e. NTO Webinar: Implementing Environmental Taxes: Best Practice and Lessons learned

The Network of Tax Organisations (NTO) hosted a webinar titled "Implementing Environmental Taxes: Best Practice and Lessons Learned" on March 26, 2024. Moderated by the Communications and Liaison Manager of WATAF, the event convened more than 150 tax officials from NTO member organisations worldwide, including WATAF members. [Read more...](#)



f. Press Conference on the Achievements of the Support Programme For Tax Transition In West Africa (PATF)

On March 28, 2024, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) hosted a press conference highlighting the achievements of the Support Programme for Tax Transition in West Africa (PATF). WATAF, a member of the PATF steering committee, was represented by Tochukwu Sandra Onyemata, Communication and Liaison Manager. The PATF has yielded favourable results, including the issuance of various directives tailored to meet the specific taxation requirements of our region. [Read the ECOWAS Directives...](#)



Upcoming Events

Please click [here](#) to view events designed to address the capacity building needs of our member states:



Tax Updates in West Africa

Visit WATAF Blog to read about current tax news in selected countries in West Africa.

Editorial Team

Publisher/Editor-in-chief:

Executive Secretary, **WATAF:**

Mr. Babatunde Oladapo

Editor: Tochukwu Sandra

Onyemata

Editorial Consultant: Ruth Karachi

Benson Oji

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