

NEWSLETTER

Second Quarter - 2024



TAX FOCUS WEST AFRICA

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

We are pleased to present the second quarter edition of Tax Focus West Africa, WATAF's quarterly newsletter. This issue covers WATAF's activities from April to June 2024, including our participation in international tax fora and ongoing research initiatives. It also features insightful articles and news from our member countries' tax administrations, highlighting valuable updates and developments across the region.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2024:

(i) Workshop on AfCFTA trade-in and taxation in West Africa



WATAF and the AfCFTA Secretariat jointly hosted a three-day workshop on trade-in services and taxation in West Africa in April 2024 at Abuja's Stratton Hotel. The event brought together 64 regional policymakers, tax administrators, and experts to examine the opportunities and challenges of trade-in services under the AfCFTA framework, emphasising taxation and revenue generation.

The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Nigeria, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported and funded the workshop. The event emphasised the importance of integrating services into the regional trade agenda. Participants discussed how international trade-in services could boost revenue and reduce business costs within the AfCFTA framework. Proactive national strategies and stakeholder collaboration were identified as essential to unlocking this growing sector's full potential.

The event focused on digitalisation's role in trade and taxation, examining how technology is reshaping tax administration. Participants emphasized the need for innovative approaches to address digital economy complexities. The workshop also stressed the importance of regulatory harmonisation and cooperation among African tax authorities to ensure tax codes support the anticipated increase in trade-in services under the AfCFTA.

Participants rated the workshop 4 out of 5, praising its structure, content, and coordination. They valued the insights gained on AfCFTA provisions and the potential of trade-in services for economic growth and revenue generation. Video testimonials are available on our [official YouTube channel](#).

In conclusion, the workshop advanced trade and taxation initiatives in West Africa, paving the way for leveraging AfCFTA's trade-in services benefits. Ongoing collaboration among regional stakeholders and planned follow-up workshops aim to further support and develop this crucial sector.



(ii) Study Visit to the Tax Authority of Guinea Bissau:

A WATAF research team visited Guinea-Bissau from April 22-23, 2024, as part of its Open Society Foundation-supported study on the impact of political institutions on taxation in West Africa. This field visit, part of the second round of research activities, aimed to gather evidence and insights to inform regional tax policy development.

The Director-General of the General Directorate of Contributions and Taxes (DGCI) welcomed the WATAF team, comprising Dotsevi Wolali, Francis Ezeji, and Dr. Abiodun Adegboye. The researchers visited 19 key organisations across Guinea-Bissau's finance, shipping, banking, and communications sectors to gather data for their study.

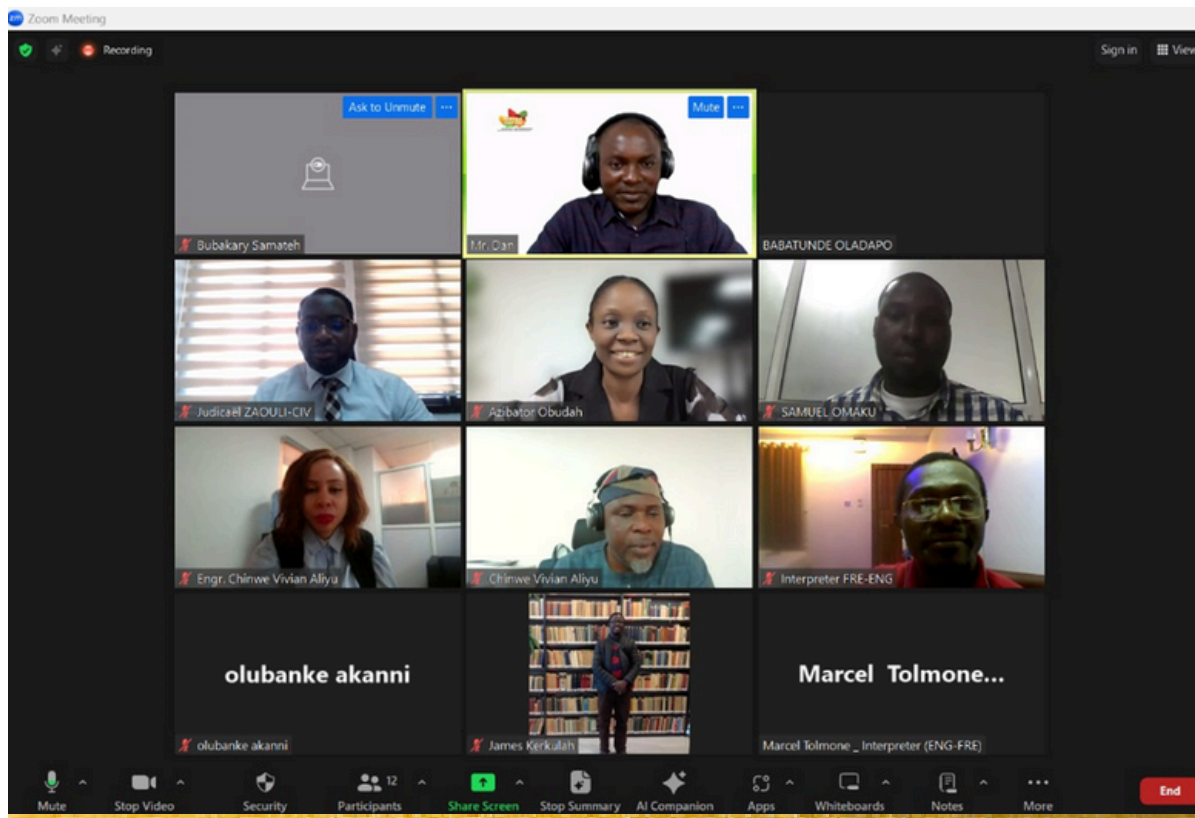
This research aims to illuminate the relationship between political institutions and taxation in West Africa, informing improved tax policies and governance across the region.



iii. Meeting of WATAF Technical Networks



On May 8, 2024, the WATAF Compliance Risk Management Network (CRM-NET) met to share best practices and identify strategies for reducing tax compliance gaps and increasing revenue collection among member countries.



The WATAF Tax Audit Network (WATAF-TAN) continues to improve audit practices across member countries. In a virtual meeting on May 23, 2024, members reaffirmed their commitment to developing a unified tax audit framework and were urged to maintain engagement in collaborative efforts to implement regional audit standards.

iv. WATAF News and Participation at Partners' Events

a. WATAF submits comments on the Zero Draft for the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation



WATAF, on June 21, 2024, submitted its comments on the Zero Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. [Read more...](#)

b. ATI General Assembly Spotlights WATAF DRM Framework

At the virtual 2024 Addis Tax Initiative (ATI) General Assembly from June 18-20, WATAF's Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM) Coordinator, Tochukwu Sandra Onyemata, presented the organisation's DRM Framework. This showcase provided WATAF an opportunity to seek partnerships for implementing the framework, which aims to enhance tax administration and revenue generation in West Africa. Attendees discussed strategies for leveraging collaborations to improve DRM effectiveness and sustainability.



c. WATAF Enhances Data Collection at CREDAF General Assembly



WATAF actively participated in the 37th General Assembly of the Centre de Rencontres et d'Études des Dirigeants des Administrations fiscales (CREDAF), held from June 11-14, 2024, in Brazzaville, Congo. Themed "Data Collection and Utilisation: From National Issues to an International Dimension," the event was an opportunity for WATAF to highlight its role in improving data collection and exploitation in West Africa. The Communications and Liaison Manager/ WATAF DRM Coordinator, Tochukwu Sandra Onyemata shared WATAF's insights into its training programmes and research publications, which aim to enhance the capacity of member states in these critical areas.

d. WATAF Shares Insights at OECD Global Forum



WATAF participated in the 15th Africa Initiative Meeting of the OECD Global Forum in Lomé, Togo, from June 3-5, 2024. The organisation contributed to discussions on tailoring tax transparency capacity-building initiatives for African countries and highlighted beneficial ownership transparency as a tool to combat illicit financial flows and enhance revenue mobilisation. Executive Secretary Babatunde Oladapo and the Coordinator of WATAF Networks/Finance Manager represented WATAF at the event.

e. WATAF Participates in IBFD Africa Tax Symposium



WATAF attended the 9th Africa Tax Symposium, hosted by the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD) in Nairobi, Kenya, from May 29-31, 2024. The event provided WATAF an opportunity to learn about recent international tax developments and showcase its efforts in supporting member states' domestic revenue mobilisation. Executive Secretary Babatunde Oladapo and Communications and Liaison Manager/DRM Coordinator Tochukwu Sandra Onyemata represented WATAF, demonstrating the organisation's commitment to staying current on global tax issues and enhancing regional tax administration capacity.



f. WATAF Represents West Africa at CIAT General Assembly



WATAF participated in the General Assembly of the Centro Interamericano de Administraciones Tributarias (CIAT) in Foz de Iguazu, Brazil, from April 22-25, 2024. Executive Secretary Babatunde Oladapo presented the West African perspective on "Prevention and Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, and Promotion of Voluntary Compliance." The event allowed WATAF to exchange ideas on enhancing tax administration and voluntary compliance, aiming to improve revenue collection and tax governance in the region.

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

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