

NEWSLETTER

Fourth Quarter - 2024



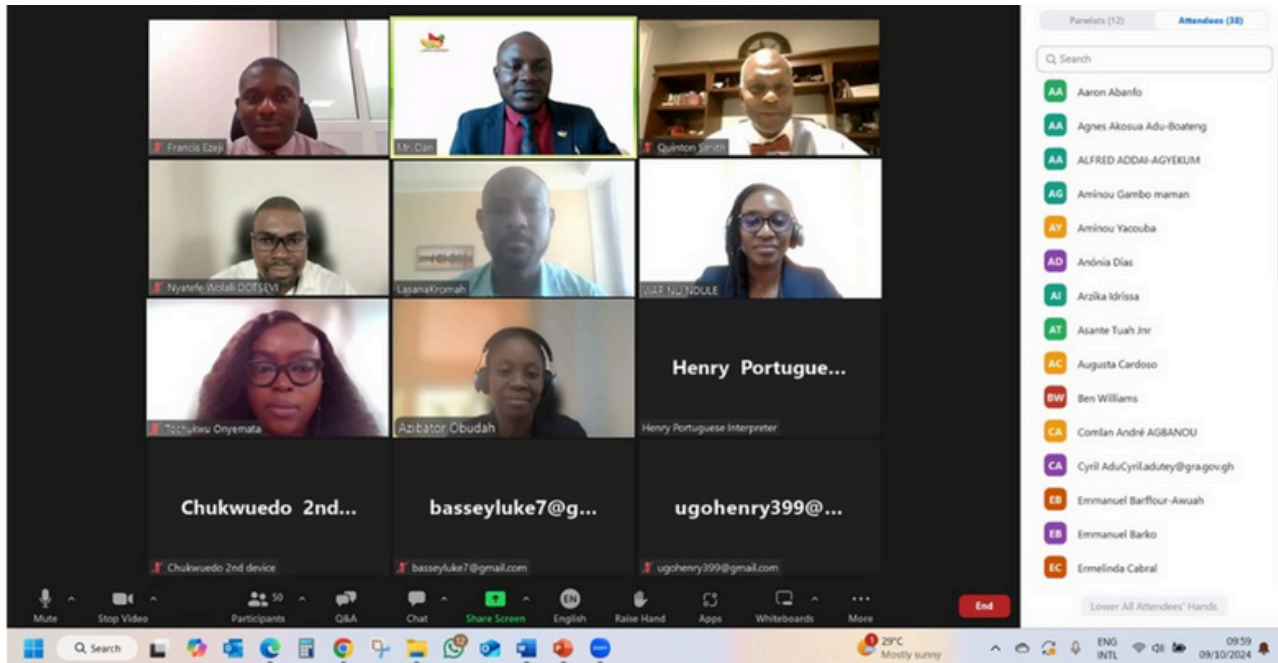
TAX FOCUS WEST AFRICA

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

We are pleased to present the fourth quarter edition of Tax Focus West Africa, WATAF's quarterly newsletter. This issue covers WATAF's activities from October to December 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 FOURTH QUARTER OF 2024:

(i) WATAF Strengthens Debt Management and Arrears Recovery Strategies:



From October 9–10, 2024, WATAF, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Treasury, hosted a two-day virtual workshop on Revenue Mobilisation for Development: Arrears Recovery and Debt Management. The event brought together tax officials and experts from across West Africa to explore best practices for improving revenue collection and ensuring fiscal sustainability.

Participants engaged in insightful discussions on key topics such as legal frameworks for arrears recovery, risk management in debt collection, and the role of technology in enhancing revenue mobilisation. Experts from WATAF, the U.S. Treasury, and regional revenue authorities shared practical strategies and case studies, equipping attendees with actionable tools to enhance debt management processes in their respective countries.

Feedback from participants highlighted the workshop's effectiveness in providing relevant knowledge and skills. The participants called for continued capacity-building initiatives, periodic follow-ups, and stronger regional cooperation to further enhance debt recovery efforts.

Through initiatives like this, WATAF remains committed to supporting member countries in strengthening their revenue mobilisation strategies and driving sustainable economic development.

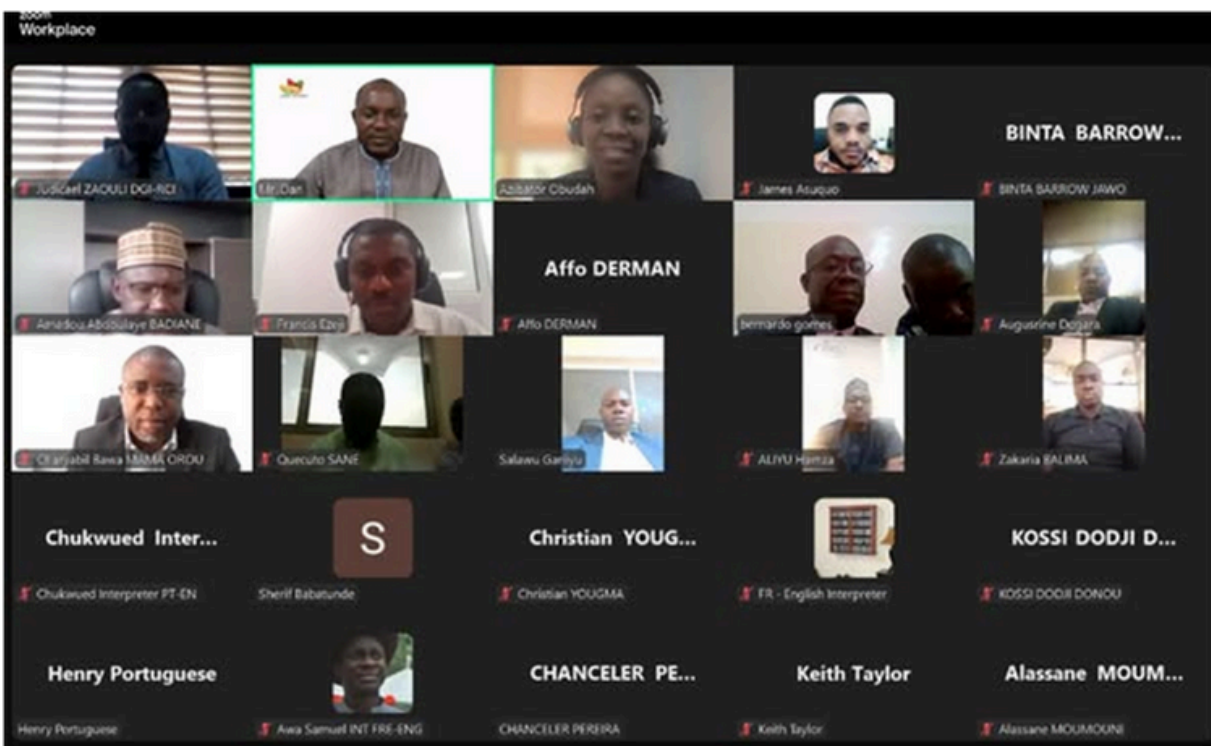
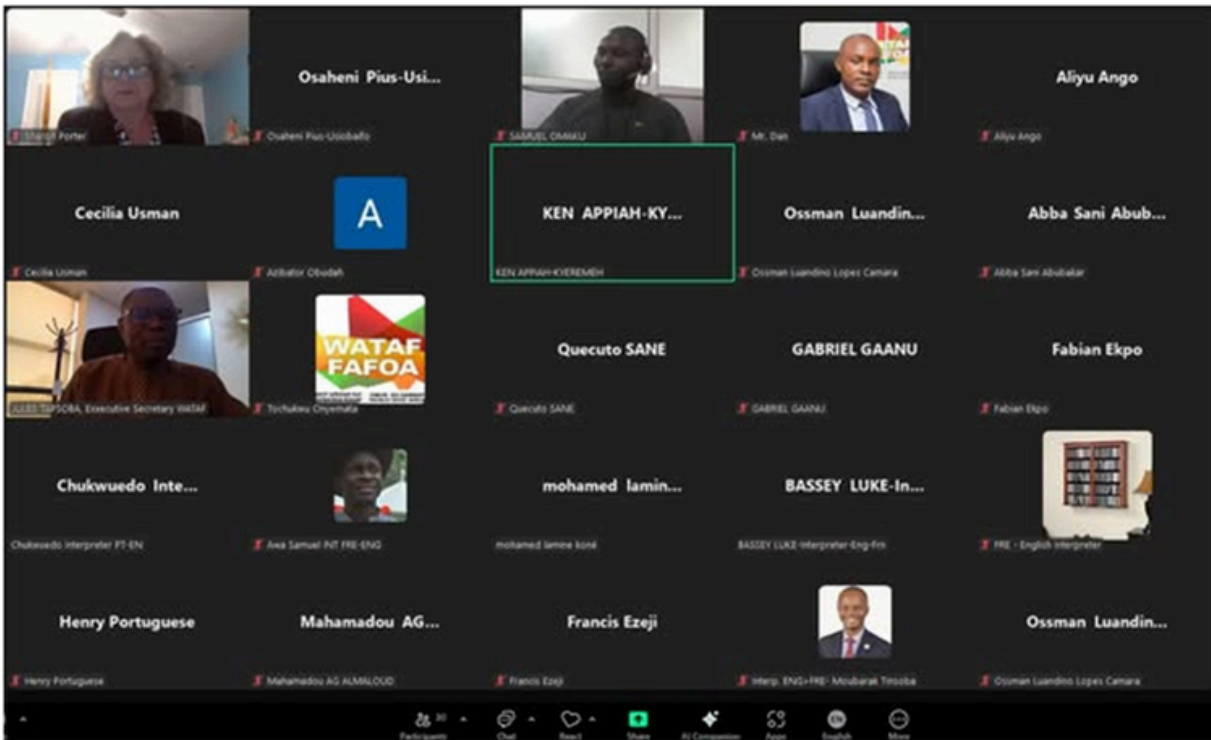
(ii) WATAF Hosts Virtual Workshops on Tax Audit and Compliance Risk Management for Member Countries:

In a bid to tackle the growing challenges in international tax cooperation, WATAF hosted two impactful virtual workshops aimed at strengthening tax administration capacity in member countries.



The WATAF Tax Auditors' Network (WATAF-TAN) held its workshop on 27th November, with WATAF Executive Secretary, Mr. Jules Tapsoba, underscoring the importance of collaboration in addressing international tax issues. "The international tax cooperation challenges we face demand collaboration," he noted in his opening remarks. "By sharing expertise, experiences, and innovative solutions, we can strengthen the capacity of tax administrators in tax audit and management, ultimately optimising revenue mobilisation." Sharon Porter from the U.S. Department of Treasury shared insights on international best practices in tax audit, offering valuable lessons from the U.S. experience.

On 28th November, WATAF's Compliance Risk Management Network convened for its virtual meeting, where participants discussed the role of compliance risk management in fostering economic growth. The meeting emphasised that “effective compliance risk management is not just about mitigating legal or regulatory risks; it plays a central role in unlocking opportunities for sustainable economic growth.” Keith Taylor, also from the U.S. Department of Treasury, shared his expertise on strategies for strengthening compliance risk frameworks, highlighting practical approaches used in other jurisdictions.



Both meetings highlighted the importance of enhancing tax auditing and compliance risk management capabilities to drive better fiscal governance and ensure efficient resource mobilisation. Through these collaborative engagements, WATAF continues to promote capacity building and knowledge-sharing among tax administrations, empowering countries to face emerging challenges in a unified manner.

(iii) WATAF Comment on UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation



On November 27, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to establish a Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. This represents a significant step forward in addressing long-standing inequities in global tax governance. WATAF recognises this milestone as a critical opportunity to create an inclusive international tax system that prioritises fairness, transparency, and effectiveness.

WATAF commends the leadership of the African Group in championing this initiative and successfully tabling Resolution 78/230, setting the stage for negotiations beginning in February 2025. This aligns with our ongoing advocacy for a multilateral approach that enables all nations, particularly developing countries, to participate equally in decisions shaping global tax rules. [Read more...](#)

(iv) WATAF Chairman and Executive Secretary Engage in Key Exchange Visits to Togo and Nigeria



As WATAF enters a new era of leadership, the WATAF Chairman, Ms. Talato Eliane Djiguemde/Ouedraogo, who is also Burkina Faso's Director General of Taxes, accompanied by newly appointed Executive Secretary Mr. Jules Tapsoba, initiated a regional tour in November. Between November 4 and 8, 2024, their visits to Lomé, Togo, and Abuja, Nigeria, marked a strengthened commitment to regional collaboration and laid new foundations for WATAF's strategic mandate. [Read More...](#)

(v) WATAF Host Guest from AFREXIMBANK



On November 15, 2024, Dr. Sampawende Jules Tapsoba, Deputy Chief Economist & Director of Data Management & Model Development at African Export Import Bank (AFREXIMBANK), alongside Mr. Falana Gbenga, a renowned fiscal expert and consultant, paid a courtesy visit to the Executive Secretary, WATAF, Mr. Jules Tapsoba.

Exploring possible areas of cooperation between WATAF and AFREXIMBANK was the main goal of the visit. It was a chance to get a thorough grasp of WATAF's prior successes, current initiatives, and long-term goals.

WATAF is thrilled about the opportunities this visit has created and is dedicated to advancing partnerships that will improve economic growth and tax administration in the West African area.

(vi) Building the Capacity of the Tax Administration in Guinea-Bissau: A Mission to Launch WATAF's Activities



In line with its mandate to enhance domestic revenue mobilisation (DRM) across West Africa, the West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF) carried out a technical assistance mission for the tax administration of Guinea-Bissau. The mission, funded by the Open Society Foundations (OSF), focused on assessing the income tax administrative system and exploring the potentiality of establishing specialised tax units for low-, medium-, and high-income taxpayers. This initiative underscores WATAF's commitment to fostering stronger regional integration and sustainable development through technical assistance tailored to the current needs of revenue authorities. [Read More...](#)

(vii) WATAF Strengthens Collaboration with Senegal's DGID



In a move to deepen partnerships within the region, the Director General of Senegal's Direction Générale des Impôts et des Domaines (DGID), Mr. Abdoulaye Diagne, welcomed a delegation from the West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF) during a courtesy visit on 25 November 2024. The delegation, led by WATAF Executive Secretary, Mr. Jules Tapsoba, included Institutional Development and Corporate Affairs/Project Manager, Ms. WapinuNdule, and Research Consultant/Technical Lead, Dr. Abiodun Adegboye. [Read More...](#)

WATAF'S PARTICIPATION AT PARTNERS' EVENTS

i. WATAF Participates at ECOWAS Regional Meeting in Lagos



WATAF, represented by Training and Capacity Development Manager, Mr. Ozayashi Dan'Asabe, participated in the regional meeting organised by ECOWAS, in Lagos, Nigeria, from December 16–19, 2024.

The meeting focused on evaluating the progress of member countries in publishing and implementing the Regional Directives and Supplementary Acts. WATAF's pivotal role in the ECOWAS Fiscal Transition Program was highlighted, showcasing its past contributions through collaborative initiatives and capacity-building activities as well as outlining its forward-looking plans to enhance domestic revenue mobilisation (DRM) across the region.

The importance of expediting the implementation of regional directives was emphasised, and member states were urged to align their fiscal policies with ECOWAS's overarching goals of fostering economic integration and achieving sustainable development.

ii. WATAF Strengthens African Tax Cooperation at ATAF Annual Meeting 2024



WATAF reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing Africa's role in global tax governance during the ATAF Annual Meeting 2024, held in Kigali, Rwanda. The Executive Secretary of WATAF, Mr. Jules Tapsoba, played a central role in the discussions, moderating Session 6 titled, "Africa's Agenda for International Tax Cooperation."

The session explored strategies for strengthening Africa's voice in global tax reform while tackling critical issues such as illicit financial flows and tax transparency. Mr. Tapsoba led impactful discussions with panelists and participants, underscoring WATAF's dedication to driving Africa's tax cooperation priorities.

On the sidelines of the conference, Mr. Tapsoba held a productive meeting with his ATAF counterpart, Mr. Logan Wort, and they exchanged ideas on innovative ways to enhance collaboration and advance tax administration efforts across the continent. Reflecting on the strong partnership between WATAF and ATAF, Mr. Tapsoba remarked, "It's always a pleasure to connect with my friend and colleague. Together, we can achieve great things for the benefit of our member states and the continent as a whole."

Through these engagements, WATAF continues to champion Africa's tax cooperation agenda, fostering stronger alliances and collaborative solutions for sustainable revenue mobilisation.

iii. WATAF Members' side meeting during the ATAF Annual Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda

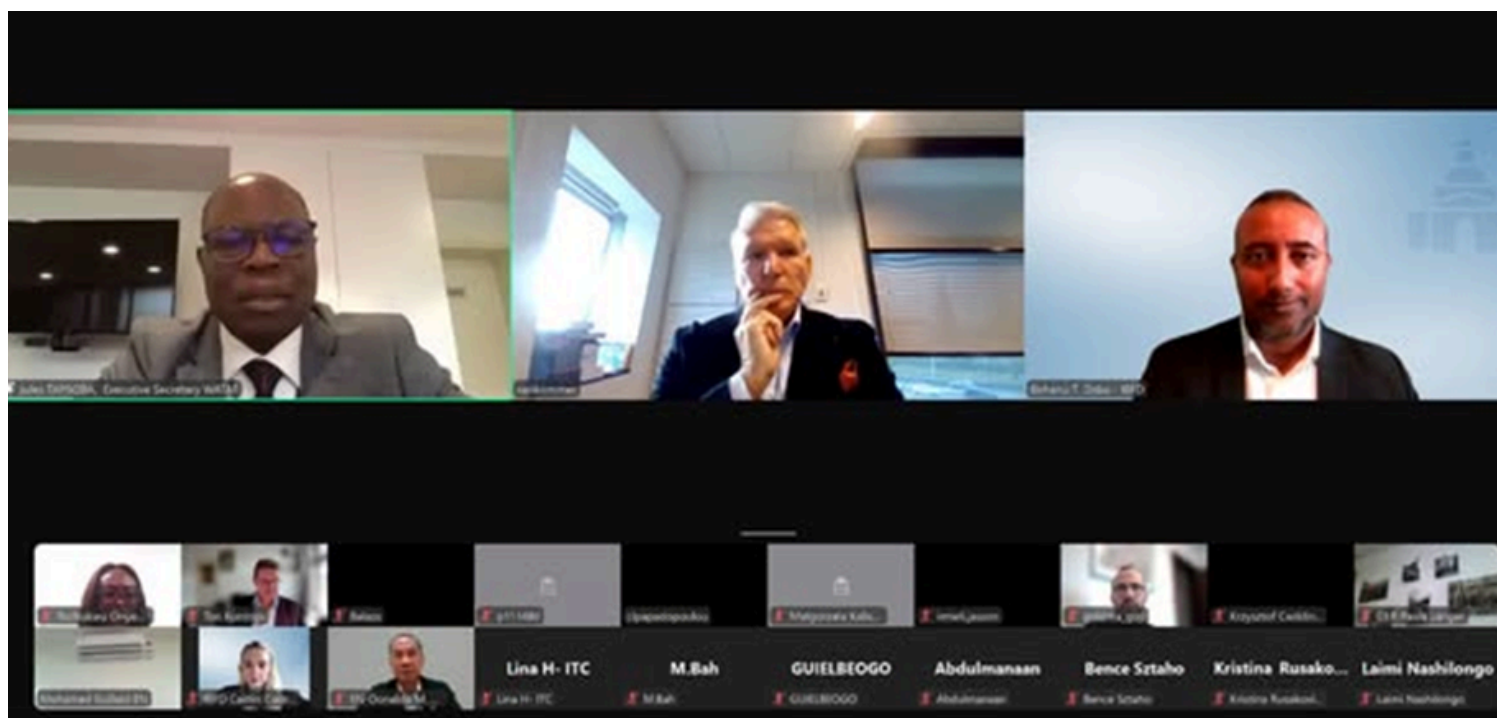
Members of the West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF) gathered for a side meeting during the ATAF Annual Meetings 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda.



The meeting provided a platform for WATAF members to discuss strategies for strengthening tax administration in the West African region.

The ultimate goal of the meeting was to foster a united front for the West African region, enabling WATAF members to speak with one voice on tax administration matters.

iv. Executive Secretary of WATAF delivered closing remarks for the NTO/IBFD online training on Beneficial Ownership



Mr. Jules Tapsoba, Executive Secretary of WATAF, delivered the closing remarks for the NTO/IBFD online training on Beneficial Ownership. Representing the Network of Tax Organisations (NTO), Mr. Tapsoba expressed heartfelt gratitude to IBFD for delivering an impactful and highly beneficial training programme. He highlighted the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from participants, underscoring the programme's success and value to attendees. [Read more...](#)

Upcoming Events

WATAF in collaboration with the Federal Inland Revenue Service will be hosting the Country Correspondents Conference and Training for Heads of Communications Departments and the 18th Council Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, from 18-19 March 2025.

Tax Updates in West Africa

i. **Appointment Announcement:** Hamadou Fall DIANKA Named Director General of Direction Générale des Impôts (DGI), Mali, on 18 December 2024.



We are pleased to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Hamadou Fall DIANKA on his appointment as Director General of Direction Générale des Impôts (DGI) Mali. This well-deserved achievement reflects his dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

We are confident that under his leadership, DGI Mali will reach new heights of success. His vision and innovative approach will undoubtedly drive positive transformation in tax administration, strengthening revenue mobilisation and fostering sustainable growth.

As he embarks on this new and exciting journey, we wish him great success, fulfillment, and impact in his role. We look forward to witnessing his remarkable contributions to the advancement of tax administration in Mali and beyond.

Best wishes for a successful tenure!



ii. 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. Jules Tapsoba**

Editor: Ms. Tochukwu Sandra Onyemata

Editorial Consultant: Dr. Ruth Karachi Benson Oji

For real-time updates on WATAF's activities, follow us on our social media platforms:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wataftax>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WATAF.FAFOA/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wataf-fafoa>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiC8NrxPkvy54eIIsgt-VVQ>