



WACMIC
West African Capital Markets Integration Council

*Facilitating the creation
of an integrated capital
market*

COMMUNIQUE

**4TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WEST AFRICAN
CAPITAL MARKETS INTEGRATION COUNCIL
(WACMIC)**

**SOFITEL HOTEL IVOIRE
ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE**

MARCH 31-APRIL 1, 2014



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The West African Capital Markets Integration Council (WACMIC) held its 4th meeting from March 31 to April 1, 2014 at Sofitel Hotel Ivoire, in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire to reiterate its commitment to the integration of capital markets in West Africa, and to finalize preparations for the commencement of Phase 1 of the integration initiative. The meeting was jointly hosted by the Bourse Regionale des Valeurs Mobilières (BRVM) and Conseil Regional de l'Épargne Publique et des Marchés Financiers (CREPMF) and sponsored by the ECOWAS Commission.
- 1.2 The Directors General of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Ghana, and the Managing Directors/Chief Executive Officers of the BRVM, Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), and Sierra Leone Stock Exchange (SLSE) were in attendance. The Secretary General of CREPMF, the Director General of SEC Nigeria and the Managing Director of the Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE) were represented by top management officials of the respective institutions. The Central Banks of Guinea and Liberia, as well as the ECOWAS Commission and West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) attended in their capacity as observers. The Chairpersons and Secretaries of the Sub-Technical Committees were also in attendance and presented their reports for consideration.

2. DELIBERATIONS AND KEY RESOLUTIONS

- 2.1 Members expressed their appreciation to ECOWAS Commission and WAMI for their support and efforts in the integration programme.
- 2.2 The meeting reinforced the importance of having an integrated capital market and expressed their commitment towards accomplishing set targets within the scheduled timeframe. The key objectives of integration were also emphasized and some challenges were identified to be resolved. The ECOWAS Commission agreed to continue to provide guidance as it relates to the ECOWAS Revised Treaty on the way forward. The Technical Committee was tasked to undertake additional research and provide additional information.



- 2.3 The meeting considered the Technical Committee's report and the recommendations therein and agreed as follows:

Phase 1:

Approval of Sponsored Access Framework

- 2.4 The meeting reviewed the recommendations that would enable dealing firms in member states to trade securities and settle in markets other than theirs through local dealing firms in those markets by means of Sponsored Access. Members passed a resolution for the adoption of the Sponsored Access Framework and related agreements to be approved by all member regulators, signaling the commencement of the integration of capital markets in West Africa.
- 2.5 Additionally, members agreed to ensure that the appropriate processes and systems are put in place in the respective jurisdictions to facilitate the implementation of the Sponsored Access model of integration, thus paving the way for jurisdictions to launch as they complete their processes and obtain all the requisite approvals.
- 2.6 Members further agreed on the guidelines and procedures for approving applications under the sponsored access framework.

Phase 2:

Approval of Harmonized Listing Requirements and Minimum Standards for Corporate Governance

- 2.7 Members also recognized the importance of not only harmonizing minimum listing requirements to ensure that they are at par with international best practices, but also aligning corporate governance standards of listed entities with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) principles. To this end, jurisdictions will set minimum requirements which will be enforceable by the regulators.



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Common Passports

- 2.8 Council adopted the guidelines for the issuance of common passports for Capital Market Operators (CMOs) to trade across the region.

Short-Term Professional Certification:

- 2.9 The meeting recognised the need to have minimum professional qualification standards. To this end, Council urged countries without training and certification institutes to immediately come up with some form of acceptable regime for qualifying and admitting brokers in the short term with a view to developing a curriculum for training its CMOs, following which a short training programme would be organized.

Long-Term Professional Certification

- 2.10 The meeting also recognized the increasing importance of standards and the need to have a body responsible for ensuring that all training and certifying institutes within the region maintain a harmonized curricula and standardized examination.

3. CONCLUSION

The Chairman appreciated the Council members as well as observers for quality deliberations towards the integration of the capital markets in the region.

Next Meeting

- 3.1 The next meeting of the West African Capital Markets Integration Council shall be hosted by Sierra Leone in Freetown on a date that would be determined.



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DONE IN ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE THIS 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 2014

SECURITIES COMMISSIONS

SECURITIES EXCHANGES

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Conseil Regional de l'Epargne Publique
des Marches Financiers

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Bourse Regionale des Valeurs Mobilieres

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Securities and Exchange Commission
Ghana

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Ghana Stock Exchange

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Securities and Exchange Commission
Nigeria

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Nigeria Stock Exchange

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Bank of Sierra Leone

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Sierra Leone Stock Exchange