

Supporting DRM in WATAF Member Countries: Development of a Compliance Risk Management Framework and Parliamentary Engagement

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Overview and objectives

- ❖ WATAF is the West African Tax Administration Forum. It is made up of 15 tax administrations in West Africa, with the mandate of ensuring that the region speaks in one cohesive voice in all international tax matters.
- ❖ WATAF provides a platform that enables West African tax authorities to collaborate on knowledge sharing, information exchange, and efficient tax legislation for national development and social services.
- ❖ WATAF assists its members in their domestic revenue mobilisation efforts.
- ❖ This presentation will highlight WATAF's support for its members' DRM journey, and possibly spark some enthusiasm in working together with donors and partners with similar interests.

Key initiatives of WATAF to promote DRM

- Capacity building training workshops that promote DRM.
- The development of a Compliance Risk Management (CRM) framework toolkit for member states, which The Gambia adapted to construct an environment-specific model.
- Creation of think-tank networks such as: WATAF's Tax Auditors Network (WATAF-TAN) and WATAF's Compliance Risk Managers Network (WATAF-CRMNet).
- Provision of technical assistance to members and key stakeholders. e.g. engagement of ECOWAS Parliament on emerging international tax issues and the engagement of the Gambian Parliament.
- Development of DRM framework: a step-by-step guide for West African tax authorities.

Compliance Risk Management (CRM) framework toolkit

- ❖ Development of a CRM Framework and toolkit for WATAF member states, and it was adopted by members in February 2021.
- ❖ The cardinal objective of the CRM Framework is to facilitate the optimisation and allocation of resources by revenue authorities through the establishment and implementation of fool-proof compliance risk management programmes that promote voluntary compliance while reducing the tax gap.
- ❖ WATAF supports member states in implementing the CRM Framework by:
 - ❖ Launching WATAF's Compliance Risk Managers Network (WATAF-CRMNet).
 - ❖ Provide technical assistance for member states.
 - ❖ Recommend experts to assist members in using the framework to create a model unique to each jurisdiction, e.g., The Gambia.

Parliamentary Engagement in the region



- ❖ WATAF understands the role of parliamentarians in improving DRM in the region and has done the following:
 - ❖ Engagement of the ECOWAS Parliament in 2022.
 - ❖ Roundtable with The Gambian Parliament in November 2022.
 - ❖ Ongoing plan to engage the Cabo Verdean Parliament this year .
 - ❖ Annual engagement with the ECOWAS Parliament and countries' specific engagement of the parliamentarians.

Conclusion

WATAF strongly believes that more can be accomplished when organisations with similar interests collaborate to accomplish a specific mission. We welcome donors and partners who are interested in collaborating with us on these initiatives.



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Je vous remercie
Thank you
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