

**WEST AFRICAN MONETARY  
AGENCY (WAMA)**



**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN A STUDY**

**TITLED:**

**Harmonization of Accounting and Financial  
Reporting for Banks and other Credit  
Financial Institutions in ECOWAS**

Freetown, January 2011

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) is a specialised autonomous Agency of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) responsible for the monitoring, coordination and implementation of the ECOWAS Monetary Co-operation Programme (EMCP). The ultimate objective of the EMCP is the establishment of a single currency managed by a common Central Bank for its fifteen (15) member's states.

Within the framework of implementation of the ECOWAS Single Currency Roadmap, WAMA intends to commission a study on "**Harmonization of accounting and financial reporting for banks and other credit financial institutions in ECOWAS**". In this regard, WAMA is calling for bids from Prospective Consultants who would undertake this study in accordance with the objectives and others terms enshrined in the terms of reference outlined herein.

## 2.0 REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS OF CONSULTANT

The tender for the study is open to Consultants (individual experts or accounting firms) with relevant international experience in banking. Two or more experts with varied backgrounds can jointly undertake the study. Prospective bidders would be required to submit an application which would include a technical and a financial proposal. The Consultant should indicate references in the technical proposal as to institutions he had previously provided similar consultancy services. Due consideration would be accorded to a citizen of ECOWAS.

In terms of qualification and experience, the Consultant should:

- be an accredited chartered accountancy firm or a group of persons having an advanced academic/professional qualification, preferably, in finance or accountancy (a Chartered Financial Analyst would be an added advantage);
- have a minimum of ten years professional experience in the practice of accounting in banking;
- have an in-depth experience in areas related to the activities of banking and finance in ECOWAS would be an added advantage.

## 3.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

At its 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in Abuja on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2008, the ECOWAS Convergence Council directed that an 'Inter- Institutional Working group,' comprising ECOWAS Commission (Chairman), WAMA, WAMI, UEMOA Commission and the Central

Banks be established to consider all relevant issues regarding the implementation of the Single Currency in West Africa.

Subsequently, the ECOWAS Commission organized a Retreat for regional institutions and Central Banks involved in the implementation of the ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Programme in Abuja from 16 to 18 February 2009. The report of the Retreat, proposed the Roadmap for the ECOWAS single currency programme, was adopted by the ECOWAS Convergence Council on the 25 May 2009 in Abuja.

Under the programme of activities within the roadmap, the WAMZ monetary union would be launched on or before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 with the establishment of its Central Bank and introduction of its common currency (Eco). It also envisages launching of the ECOWAS monetary union by 2020 with the establishment of the ECOWAS Central Bank and introduction of a common Currency.

In conformity with the Council's directive, the ECOWAS Commission convened a meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2010 to, among other issues, discuss modalities for the effective implementation of the roadmap. In line with the above, the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) was mandated to draw up the terms of reference and plans of actions for a study on the "Accounting and Financial Reporting framework for Banks and other Credit Institutions", working closely in collaboration with WAMI and BCEAO for necessary technical support.

### **3.1 Background**

The accounting and financial Reporting framework of banks and other credit institutions are normally guided by the Accounting Standards, the Banking and Corporate Laws, the reporting format for subsidiaries of Group Banks, the Level of Adherence to Basel Core Principles 1 & 2, and for those Banks and other credit financial institutions that are listed on the Stock Exchanges, by the laws and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission of the country or zonal grouping concerned.

The variations in legal and regulatory provisions in member States have resulted in differences in the reporting formats, especially in the area of accounting and financial reporting. In all the francophone West African countries, corporate and banking laws are derived from French Corporate and Banking laws. In the Anglophone bloc, the corporate and banking laws derive from British corporate and banking laws. Similar variations in the legal and regulatory principles also exist in the Lusophone countries of Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau that derive their colonial heritage from the Portuguese.

