



Ecowas Gender Development Centre EGDC NEWS EXPRESS



ALL FOR EQUALITY OF RIGHTS BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE ECOWAS AREA -

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MAINSTREAMING GENDER AND YOUTH ISSUES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FINANCIAL AND CROSS-BORDER CRIMES IN WEST AFRICA :

Consultative Meeting of Experts in Accra, GHANA, from 28 to 30 August 2017 for the establishment of an ECOWAS regional action plan.



Group photo of participants of the joint CCDG / GIABA Regional Consultative Forum from the 15 ECOWAS Member states

About forty experts in gender and financial and cross-border crime in West Africa are meeting in Accra, Ghana, from 28 to 30 August to reflect on the effective ways of mainstreaming gender and youth issues in transnational organized economic and financial criminality in the ECOWAS region. Co-organized by the Intergovernmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) the ECOWAS Center for Gender Development (EGDC), and the Government of the Republic of Ghana, this Regional Consultative Forum was opened on Monday, August 28, 2017 by Honorable Gifty Twum Ampofo, Deputy Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection of the Republic of Ghana, in the presence of Mrs. Sandra Oulaté Fattoh, EGDC Director, and Mr. Brian Sapati, Deputy Director General of GIABA. At the end of this experience-sharing exercise, the experts are expected to come up with a regional framework on the gender and youth dimensions of the fight against transnational and cross-border financial crimes in West Africa; set up a framework for a sustainable regional partnership on gender, youth and the fight against cross-border financial crime in West Africa; and establish a network of practitioners to combat financial crime, money laundering and terrorist financing with a gender and youth perspective.



Dignitaries at the opening ceremony of the meeting



A cross-section of participants at the Joint GIABA / CCDG Regional Consultative Forum



Honorable Gifty Twum Ampofo, Ghana's Deputy Minister for Gender Children and Social Protection, hosted by Mrs. Sandra Oulaté, Director of the EGDC and Mr. Brian Sapati, Deputy Director General of GIABA.

As two ECOWAS institutions that can create synergy and convergence in addressing the gender and youth dimensions of financial crimes and their ramifications, in particular money laundering, terrorist financing, drug trafficking, Cybercrime and human trafficking, GIABA and the EGDC have the responsibility to work together to develop a comprehensive framework for action in this area.



Overview of participants during the performance of the anthems of the Republic of Ghana and ECOWAS

In West Africa, out of a population of about 349 million, women represent about 52%. It is also estimated that 66% of the West African population is under 25 years of age. A significant proportion of these young people are out of school and unemployed. As a result, there is a very high risk that these young people will be targeted by terrorists and other criminals to be enlisted in their networks, as is the case with Boko Haram. There is a growing trend of the direct involvement of women and young people in financial crimes such as money laundering, cybercrime, drug and arms trafficking, terrorist activities, violent extremism and radicalism.



Question-and-answer session with the Ghana press after the opening ceremony of the GIABA / CCDG meeting

