



Outstanding Work Items for the Next Study Cycle

WATRA Working Group on Infrastructure
Development

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1 Introduction

Due to time constraints, the Working Group on Infrastructure Development was unable to undertake detailed consideration of the following key initiatives during the current session:

- Unified Reporting Framework for Terrestrial Infrastructure (Fibre & Towers)
- Harmonised Quality of Service (QoS) Regulations

The Working Group therefore agreed to defer further work on these initiatives to the next working period (2026–2028).

2 Unified Reporting Framework for Terrestrial Infrastructure (Fibre & Towers)

The Working Group considered a proposal on the adoption of a unified reporting framework for terrestrial fibre and communication tower infrastructure across WATRA Member States.

Discussions highlighted the current fragmentation in infrastructure data reporting across the sub-region, which limits visibility of cross-border connectivity, constrains effective infrastructure planning, and reduces the attractiveness of the region for investment.

The Working Group acknowledged the strategic importance of harmonising infrastructure data reporting and noted that the adoption or adaptation of international standards such as the Open Fibre Data Standard (OFDS) and Open Tower Data (OTD) could provide a suitable foundation for a common framework.

It was recognised that a unified framework would:

- Improve transparency and availability of infrastructure data;
- Support identification of connectivity gaps and critical “missing links”;
- Facilitate infrastructure sharing and open access;
- Enhance regional planning, redundancy, and network resilience; and
- Increase investor confidence by reducing information asymmetry.

Way Forward (2026–2028):

The Working Group will:

- Examine the applicability of OFDS and OTD within the WATRA context;
- Develop a harmonised regional reporting framework for fibre and tower infrastructure;
- Explore the establishment of a regional infrastructure data repository or dashboard;
- Build capacity among Member States for data collection, management, and reporting.

Advancing this work will strengthen data-driven decision-making and support the development of an integrated and efficient digital infrastructure ecosystem across West Africa.

3 Harmonised Quality of Service Regulations

The Working Group initiated discussions on the development of harmonised Quality of Service (QoS) regulations for telecommunications services within the ECOWAS sub-region. This initiative is expected to improve service quality, enhance user experience, and promote regulatory consistency across Member States.

The following initial roadmap was identified:

- **Establish a Regional Working Mechanism:** Create a dedicated structure comprising representatives from national regulatory authorities, mobile network operators, and relevant regional bodies to guide the harmonisation process.
- **Conduct a Baseline Assessment:** Review existing QoS regulatory frameworks, key performance indicators (KPIs), and performance data across Member States to identify similarities and gaps.
- **Develop Common QoS KPIs:** Define a core set of harmonised KPIs and target thresholds covering both voice and data services, taking into account varying national contexts.
- **Standardise Measurement Methodologies:** Adopt common approaches for QoS data collection, testing, and reporting to ensure consistency, comparability, and reliability.
- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** Strengthen the capabilities of national regulators in QoS monitoring, analysis, and enforcement, and promote continuous knowledge exchange across the region.

4 Conclusion

The Working Group reaffirmed the importance of both initiatives in supporting regional integration, improving service delivery, and enhancing investment attractiveness.



5 Recommendations

Member States are encouraged to actively participate in the Working Group activities and nominate appropriate technical experts to contribute to the development of these frameworks.

