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ERERA, Mauritania's National Regulator Hold Talks on Integrated Electricity Market

ERERA and the Regulatory Authority of Mauritania (ARE) have ended a two-day meeting in Nouakchott with the resolve to deepen their relations towards ensuring an active ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market.

More specifically, both institutions agreed to better coordinate their efforts, in collaboration with all other Mauritanian and ECOWAS regional stakeholders, with a view to creating an inclusive and mutually beneficial framework for a harmonious development and functioning of the regional electricity market.

In this regard, ERERA and ARE will set up a working group composed of representatives of their two organizations, ECOWAS energy institutions as well as the main actors of Mauritania's national electricity sector to reflect on, and explore, possible solutions that would allow an effective participation of Mauritania in a common and integrated West African electricity market.

This decision was reached on 4th April 2019 in Nouakchott when an ERERA delegation, led by its Chairman, Prof. Honoré Bogler, made a working visit to the Regulatory Authority of Mauritania.

This mission was part of the general framework of the cooperative ties established between the ERERA and ARE and sealed by a 19th March 2013 Memorandum of Understanding, which seeks to develop and strengthen a mutually beneficial partnership in the area of electricity regulatory compliance and development of electricity interconnection infrastructure in West Africa.

At the start of the visit, a technical working session was conducted with the Chairman of ARE and his senior officials. The session afforded both parties the opportunity to apprise

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themselves of developments in the electricity sector regulation in Mauritania as well as on progress in the establishment and regulation of the ECOWAS regional electricity market.

The ERERA delegation, accompanied by representatives of ARE, also met with key players in the national electricity sector, including the Minister of Energy and his representatives, senior executives, and the Director General of SOMELEC, the national electricity company. They exchanged ideas on areas of common interests, notably on the evolution of the Mauritanian energy sector and on the prospects of its role in the West African regional electricity market.

Mauritania's enormous potential for energy development, particularly its renewable energy resources, as well as its ability to position itself as a net exporter of electricity, were highlighted during the meeting.

The mission was further enriched by a visit to the 180MW Hybrid Power Plant and the 50MW Photovoltaic Power Plant in Nouakchott.