



Special issue: Update on the African School of Regulation initiative

EDITORIAL

By Professor Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga - Interim Director

This is the first Newsletter of the African School of Regulation (ASR), published one year after the initiative to create the ASR was officially launched. This is a special issue, covering milestones achieved during the last year by the ASR and its immediate plans.

Significant progress has been made since the ASR Parties announced in January 2022 the launch of the ASR initiative. Funding has been received, allowing the recruitment of the first ASR staff, as well as several forms of in-kind support; a website has been built and a comprehensive corporate image is being developed, working contacts with several African entities have been made, a comprehensive search for the African future ASR host institution(s) is ongoing as well as the development of the guidelines for the future governance of the ASR, and an initial program of activities is being launched.

Numerous training courses and events on energy regulation are presently taking place in Africa, organised by many institutions. However, the need to build capacity and to hold high-level dialogues on energy regulation in the continent is enormous. The ASR is being created to add to this effort and to collaborate with existing institutions in win-win partnerships. All this will be described in this Newsletter.

The Parties to the ASR Agreement and the supporting entities

A Scientific Knowledge Partnership Agreement (the 'Agreement') was signed in December 2021 to establish the ASR. A large number of organisations held conversations during 2020 and 2021 supporting the creation of an African School of Regulation (ASR) focused on the energy sector. Finally, it was agreed that six of them would sign a Scientific Knowledge Partnership Agreement (the 'Agreement', signed in December 2021) to establish the ASR. The Parties to the Agreement are the European University Institute (EUI) via the Florence School of Regulation, the University of Cape Town (UCT) via the Power Futures Lab, the Pan African University Institute of Water and Energy Sciences (PAUWES), the Enel Foundation (EF), the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and the Energy Nexus Network (TENN). Three more parties joined the Agreement during 2022: the Rockefeller Foundation (RF), the Global Energy Alliance for the People and the Planet (GEAPP), and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The FSR was designated by the Parties of the Agreement to provide logistical support and coordination during the initial phase of creation of the ASR.



This initiative is also supported by the European Union (EU) via a Global Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) and, in different ways, by many other organisations, which also participated in the initial discussions leading to the signature of the Agreement, including - in alphabetic order - the Africa Europe Energy Partnership (AEEP), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF), the Africa Minigrid Developers Association (AMDA), the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), the Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (Gogla), Power for All, the RES4Africa Foundation, the Transforming Energy Access Learning Partnership (TEALP) at the UCT, and Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All).

Working contacts have been established later with other organisations, including the French Development Agency (AFD), the African Forum for Utility Regulators (AFUR), the African Energy Commission (AFREC), the Energy Regulators Association of East Africa (EREA), the Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA), GET.transform, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the OECD Development Centre, the South Africa German Energy Programme (SAGEN) funded and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI), and Tetra Tech.



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The human resources.



Hiring ASR staff during 2022 has proceeded as economic resources (initially provided by the Enel Foundation, then by the Rockefeller Foundation) have been made available. Funding to continue the core ASR activities during 2023 is secured.

The first member of the staff - Elias Zigah, economist from Ghana - was recruited in June 2022. On July 2022, Prof. Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga, from Spain, was appointed by the Parties to the Agreement as Interim Director of the ASR, and his contract with the EUI started on September 15th, 2022. Three senior external experts were provided by a Technical Assistance Facility of the European Commission, starting activities on September 20th, 2022.

They are Magdalena Wankowicz (from Poland and France, institutional relations and fundraising), Jacqueline Kabeta (from Zambia, communications) and Louise Mathu (from Kenya, technical programs). A General Manager, Olurotimi Awodiji, from Nigeria, was recruited starting officially on October 10th, 2022. On January 15th, 2023, a new member - Carol Ofaa, engineer from Kenya - joined the ASR staff, and a part-time Administrative Assistant - Baptiste Alfano, from France.

Since September 2022, the Enel Foundation has provided technical support with two part-time professionals who have joined the ASR team in their activities: Luca Spinosa and Mariano Morazzo, who has also the role of senior advisor to the interim ASR Director. Other ASR Parties have made available human resources when needed, supporting activities such as the development of the ASR website, or facilitating key contacts with African institutions. The search for the future ASR Director will start soon and a draft job description has been prepared already.

During the week of 17-21st of October, the entire team at that time met in person at the Florence School of Regulation. The purpose of this meeting was to get to know the key staff and the operation of the FSR, as well as to hold internal meetings to define the future activities of the ASR.



The objectives for 2023

According to the ASR Agreement, the establishment of the African School of Regulation will be executed in two phases. Phase 1 formally started in January 2022 and will last no more than 24 months, thus ending on December 31st, 2023. Therefore, during 2023 the objectives will be to meet the commitments made in the Agreement:

- o Select the ASR African hosting institution(s) and the governance of the future ASR.
- o Select the ASR Director.
- o Propose a programme of activities for the next Phase.
- o Propose a viable financing plan for the next first five years of operation of the ASR.

The management and operation of the ASR will be transferred to the identified African hosting institution(s) during Phase 2, which in principle will take place during 2024.

The search for the ASR hosting institution(s)

On November 27th, 2022, the process to find the host entity for the ASR has started by the publication of the invitation to the potentially interested hosting institution(s) to express their interest. The invitation was published on the ASR website in English and French, and also in some of the websites and social media of the ASR Parties, and it has been sent directly to about one hundred African entities. It can be downloaded at:

[Invitation to express interest in hosting the African School of Regulation \(ASR\) - African School of Regulation \(africanschoolregulation.org\)](https://africanschoolregulation.org)

[-Avis d'appel à manifestation d'intérêt pour accueillir l'Ecole Africaine de Régulation \(ASR\) African School of Regulation \(africanschoolregulation.org\)](https://africanschoolregulation.org)

The submission deadline for the proposals was initially fixed on January 27th, 2023, but it has been postponed to February 15th, 2023.

In parallel, a working group of the ASR staff and some of the ASR Parties is examining plausible hosting options models for the ASR, evaluating the pros and cons of each one, and preparing high level guidelines for the structure and governance of the ASR in relation with the hosting institution(s).

The ASR website and communication activities

The ASR website <https://africanschoolregulation.org> will offer access to the training activities, research briefs and reports, policy dialogues and a repository of documents and other resources of interest on energy regulation with a focus in Africa. The ASR website is being built slowly, as the activities are gradually unfolding.



The website features interviews with some key members of the ASR Parties (more are coming) and with the interim Director. The first flyer of the ASR was designed to be distributed during COP27, taking advantage of the presence of the ASR interim Director at this annual climate conference. It is displayed on the website. The corporate image of the ASR - logo, reports, working papers, briefs, videos, etc. - is mostly ready. For social media, the ASR has created its own LinkedIn profile: [African School of Regulation: À propos | LinkedIn](#)



The ASR to Gear up Energy Regulation Capacity

The immediate program of training and event activities

The ASR, in collaboration with AfDB, AFUR, AMDA, GEAPP and IRENA, will hold a three-day virtual conference - open to those that freely register - on January 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2023, from 3 pm to 6 pm CAT each day on “Sustainable and scalable minigrig business models”. The conference will be based on panel discussions by a reduced number of experts, focusing on the key aspects of the sustainability and scalability of the minigrig business models and the definition of actionable recommendations. See [Conference](#). A series of these three-day virtual conferences on timely energy regulation topics has been scheduled for 2023.

On February 23rd to 26th, 2023, the ASR, in collaboration with AEEP, RES4Africa and TBI, will hold a presentational three-day high-level policy dialogue in Madrid, Spain, on “Renewable generation and regional power trade in Africa”, as a side event of the International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC). This policy dialogue - on facilitating renewable generation by releasing the potential of regional power trade in Africa - will bring about 30 invited experienced participants - from power pools, system operators, ministries, regulatory agencies, development financial institutions, think tanks, private companies, and academia - who will debate under the Chatham House rule. Delegate travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the AEEP.

Preparation of a ten-week training course on “Regulation of the power sector in Africa” is ongoing, in collaboration with AFUR, AfDB, SAGEN (GIZ) and UCT for instructors and content. Most of the course will be online, but there will be a final optional presentational week focused on the discussion of practical case studies, sharing experiences and networking activities. The ASR closely exchanges with ESMAP on the different courses and is under discussion with them aimed at having structured collaboration with them.

A podcast series featuring interviews of key experts in the African power sector on timely energy regulation topics is scheduled to start in the Spring 2023.

Courses and other activities on energy regulation of partner institutions - like the Power Futures Lab of the UCT - are being announced at the ASR website.

For More Information

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