



# Press Release

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## AIR SIDE EVENT

*The African Institute for Remittances (AIR) presented on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017, in Dakar, Senegal the main outcome of its baseline assessment on remittances markets conducted in six AU Member States.*



**Outcome**  
*Capacity gaps in remittance data collection and inadequate remittance market regulatory frameworks to be addressed by AIR through its TA programme to the assessed countries.*

## **Lowering Costs of Remittance Transfers to and within Africa**, King Fahd Palace Hotel, 25 March 2017, Dakar, Senegal

The African Institute for Remittances (AIR) organized a side event under the title: ‘Lowering Costs of Remittance Transfers to and within Africa’ in the margin of the 10<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

During the side event, the Institute presented the findings of the Baseline assessments on remittances markets conducted by AIR in selected six AU Member States, namely Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania and Zimbabwe. Though progresses have been registered on the reduction of remittances transfer costs – from an average 12% in 2011 to 9% in 2016 – the levels remain high and the contributing factors include, among others, lack of competition, absence or limited use of new technology solution and inadequate regulatory frameworks. AU member state also face significant challenges in compiling timely and accurate data on remittances. The reduction of remittance transfer costs will require effective collaboration among all stakeholders, including central banks, regulatory authorities and the private sector.

AIR has developed a Technical Assistant (TA) programme which aims at supporting Central Banks and other agencies to improve regulatory frameworks to ensure market competition leading to the reduction of transfer costs as well as improvement of remittance statistics. The overall objectives and components of the TA were presented.

The event was attended by about 30 participants including representatives from 12 AU Member States namely: Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, The Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania and Senegal; as well as international organizations: Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), UNICEF and UNDP as well as the private sector. They urged AIR fast-track its Technical Assistance.