



**SIGMA**

**1XBET**

## **GAMING REGULATORS AFRICA FORUM PARTNERS WITH SIGMA TO ADVANCE REGULATORY ALIGNMENT AND RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING IN AFRICA .**

The Gaming Regulators Africa Forum (GRAF), in partnership with SiGMA, will convene a high-level Regulatory Forum at SiGMA Africa 2026, bringing together African regulators, industry leaders and key stakeholders to move the continent's gambling regulatory agenda from discussion to direction.

Titled "From Discussion to Direction: Advancing Harmonised Licensing, Responsible Gambling and Technology-Enabled Solutions in Africa," the three-hour Forum will take place on Thursday, 05 March 2026, from 09:00 to 12:00 at the GrandWest's Roxy Revue, followed by a networking lunch.

The Regulatory Forum will host an invite-only, senior-level audience of African gambling regulators and selected non-GRAF stakeholders, including chairpersons, CEOs and executive decision-makers with expertise in licensing, compliance, responsible gambling and cross-border regulatory collaboration.

### **Building Momentum for Regulatory Alignment**

The Forum builds on outcomes from the recent GRAF Conference, where regulators, operators and stakeholders explored the feasibility of harmonising gambling licensing frameworks across Africa. Against the backdrop of the continent's rapidly expanding betting market, the Forum responds to growing demand for practical, technology-enabled regulatory solutions that strengthen player protection, enhance compliance and provide greater certainty for licence holders operating across multiple jurisdictions.

*"Africa's gambling markets are evolving rapidly, and regulators must evolve with them," said Mabutho Zwane, President of the Gaming Regulators Africa Forum. "This Regulatory Forum represents a decisive step toward practical regulatory alignment - one that prioritises responsible gambling, leverages technology and supports cooperation across borders. By partnering with SiGMA, GRAF is ensuring that African regulators are not only part of the global conversation, but are actively shaping solutions that reflect Africa's unique regulatory realities and future ambitions."*

## A focused, action-oriented programme

Designed to move beyond open debate toward actionable outcomes, the Regulatory Forum will feature:

- Country presentations from selected African jurisdictions, highlighting licensing frameworks, responsible gambling measures and regulatory technologies currently in use
- Survey-based insights assessing feasibility, barriers and priority areas for regulatory harmonisation

### Two expert panel discussions addressing:

- Which elements of licensing harmonisation are realistically achievable across Africa; and
- How responsible gambling principles can be effectively implemented through technology and cross-border cooperation

The Forum is expected to deliver a consolidated view of African licensing frameworks, identify priority areas for harmonisation, generate practical technology-enabled recommendations and provide strategic insights to inform future GRAF initiatives, including the GRAF Conference 2026.

## Strengthening Collaboration Across the Continent

Through its partnership with SiGMA, GRAF is leveraging a leading global platform to advance African-led regulatory collaboration. The Regulatory Forum underscores a shared commitment to strengthening regulatory capacity, enhancing player protection and fostering a more coherent, transparent and sustainable gambling ecosystem across Africa.

The GRAF Regulatory Forum at SiGMA Africa, powered by 1xBet, reflects SiGMA's ongoing commitment to creating meaningful alignment between regulators and industry stakeholders. More than a standalone session, the forum is designed as a working platform where authorities and operators can engage directly, address shared challenges, and explore practical pathways for sustainable growth.

SiGMA Chief International Relations Officer Heathcliff Farrugia said that through this initiative, SiGMA continues to strengthen its position as a connector within the global gaming ecosystem. "By bringing regulators into the same room as operators, service providers, and technology leaders, the event supports open dialogue on compliance, market development, consumer protection, and regulatory best practice. The objective is not simply conversation, but progress, ensuring that industry expansion across Africa is matched by robust governance and collaborative policymaking.

This partnership contributes to a broader vision: building trust, encouraging transparency, and fostering a regulatory environment that balances innovation with accountability.

## SiGMA Africa 2026

The summit takes place this March from 03 to 06 at Cape Town's GrandWest Casino and Entertainment World. A two-day conference and expo opens on the 4th, with plenty of ancillary networking activities lined up over the week. For more information on the full programme, visit our online agenda.

---