

A portrait of Mrs. Regina Fleur A. BESSOU, a woman with short, styled brown hair, smiling and resting her chin on her hand. She is wearing a colorful, patterned top, a gold watch, and large earrings.

Mrs Regina Fleur A. BESSOU

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50 years old, Married,
Mother of two Children

- CORPORATE LAWYER
- EXPERT IN DIGITAL REGULATION
- GENDER ENGINEER
- CHAIR OF STUDY GROUP 1 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION - DEVELOPMENT SECTOR (ITU-D)
- OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF MERIT FOR POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE
- **24 YEARS** OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Summary of Career

Mrs. BESSOU Assoumou Regina Fleur, 50 years old, married and mother of two children, holds degrees in Legal, Administrative, and Fiscal Sciences, a specialized Master's degree (BADGE) in Telecom/TIC Regulation, and expertise in Gender Engineering from the UNESCO/EFPOD Chair (Gender Audit option).

She has been working in the telecommunications/ICT and postal sector since August 2001, accumulating 24 years of professional experience. She currently serves as the Technical Advisor to the Director General of the Telecommunications/ICT and Postal Regulatory Authority of Côte d'Ivoire (ARTCI).

Mrs. BESSOU is the Chair of Study Group 1 in the Development Sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-D), a specialized United Nations agency for Telecommunications/ICT, and has been re-elected since the last World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in 2021 in Kigali. She is the first African to hold this position.

Additionally, she serves as Vice-Chair of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and Africa Representative in the steering committee of NoW4WTDC (Network of Women for ITU-D). Previously, she held roles as Chair (2018-2021) and Vice-Chair of Study Group 1 for the 2010-2017 study periods. She was also a Rapporteur and Vice-Rapporteur for various ITU-D study questions related to consumer protection, telecommunications in rural areas, and cost determination methodologies.

Actively engaged in ITU-D Study Groups since 2004, she has contributed, coordinated, and led significant initiatives to increase participation from developing countries in ITU discussions, particularly in areas concerning their development needs.

Her work has enhanced the visibility of Ivorian and African expertise within the international community.

During her first term as Chair of Study Group 1 (2017-2021), she introduced the “3I Vision” (Interaction, Innovation, and Implementation), fostering leadership and collaboration within the group. Despite the impact of COVID-19 on work methods, her leadership ensured high-quality deliverables and substantial contributions to the WTDC-21 preparatory process.

In her second term (2022-2025), she has emphasized digital inclusion, increasing the participation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities. She has also driven collaboration between study groups, introduced innovative working methods, and engaged private sector and academic experts to enrich discussions and report content.

Her contributions to ITU-D, representing Côte d'Ivoire through the multisectoral regulatory authority (ARTCI), and the Africa region, have influenced global regulatory discussions, leading to the adoption of new regulatory topics by the WTDCs in 2010, 2014, and 2017, such as:

- Market dominance regulation in developing countries;
- Consumer protection in the convergence era;
- Strengthening the preparatory process for WTDCs;
- Revising Resolution 55 (WTDC-22) on digital inclusion and increasing female participation in ITU-D.
- Leadership and foresight: participation as Vice-Chair of the TDAG correspondence group on the future of study questions in telecommunication/ICT development (2022-2025).

She currently chairs the African Caucus preparing for WTDC-25, following her tenure as Vice-Chair of Study Group 1. Her regional contributions include guiding conference preparations and capacity-building for African experts in ITU leadership roles.

Professional Experience

Dec 2023-Present : Technical Advisor to the Director General (ARTCI)

2019-2023: Director of International Cooperation (ARTCI)

- Managed ARTCI's international engagement and legal monitoring
- Coordinated bilateral cooperation with other regulators
- Developed national regulatory collaboration strategies

2014-2018: Head of International Department (ARTCI)

- Oversaw ARTCI's international participation and regulatory monitoring
- Led bilateral regulatory cooperation

2010-2014: Head of Consumer Protection and Competitive Environment (ARTCI)

- Addressed consumer concerns and regulatory engagement
- Coordinated awareness and training on sector challenges

2001-2010: Head of Litigation and Complaints Service (ARTCI)

- Managed legal, fiscal, and administrative affairs
 - Led dispute resolution initiatives in telecommunications
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International Activities

Feb 2024: Chair of the African Caucus (African Telecommunications Union) for WTDC-25

Jun 2022-currently: Re-elected Chair of ITU-D Study Group 1, vice-chair of TDAG

2017-2021: Chair of ITU-D Study Group 1, Vice-Chair of TDAG

2010-2017: Vice-Chair of ITU-D Study Group 1

2006-2010: Active collaborator in ITU-D and T study groups

Education & Certifications

2019-2020: Gender Engineering (Gender Audit), UNESCO-EFPOD, Côte d'Ivoire

2020-2022: Specialized Master's (BADGE REGTEL), TELECOM Paris Tech, France

2017-2019: ITSO Certificate in International Telecommunication Regulation

Various professional certifications (2001-2016):

- ITU Excellence Center, Côte d'Ivoire (Telecom/ICT capacity-building)
- Arbitration and Mediation (Côte d'Ivoire)
- TEMIC Canada (Telecom regulation, tariff control, universal service)
- ESMT Dakar (Industrial policies, competition, public sector incentives)
- CODINORM (Quality management systems)

1998: Master's in Legal, Administrative, and Fiscal Sciences, National University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Languages

French: Fluent

English: Fluent

Associative Experience

- Founder Executive President, International Network of Women Digital Experts (RIFEN)
 - President, Women in Telecommunications/ICT of Côte d'Ivoire (AFATCI)
 - Member, Women & ICT NGO, Côte d'Ivoire
 - Vice-President, GOD Foundation (Gospel Dreams Foundation)
 - President, Women in Religious Communities
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Officially Certified