Ministerial Sub-regional Consultation on the implementation of UN Resolution 69/150 banning female genital mutilation
Dakar, 26-27 April 2016

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS BIOGRAPHIES
COUNTRIES DELEGATIONS

Benin

Dr F. Sibylle Assavedo
Deputy Director of Health, Mother and Child, Ministry of Health, Benin

Dr F. Sibylle Assavdo graduates as a doctor in public health and Manager of Health Services and Quality Care. She has a profound experience with the clinical practice as well as the management of health systems. Dr. Assavedo was a medical practitioner for nearly twenty years and coordinated in this function the activities related to the administration, monitoring and evaluation of technical tasks. Due to her great knowledge on quality management, she occupied the position as Chief Service Assurance Quality Care Benefits at the National Directorate of Care Institutions within the Ministry of Health of Benin until 2010. Since October 2015, she holds the position as the Deputy Director of the Directorate of Health, Mother and Child, as which she is participating in the development and implementation of policies and protocols for maternal, children’s and adolescents’ health. She is further in charge of developing and coordinating maternal health programmes and programmes addressing the health of newborns, children, adolescents, family planning, infertility, genital mutilation and nutrition.

Mr Florent Maroya
Women and Gender Promotion Direction, Ministry of Family, Social Affairs, National Solidarity, the Disabled Persons and Pensioners, Benin

Mr Florent Maroya is a trained Socio-Anthropologist with a professional qualification in Community Development Project Management. He is currently completing his doctoral degree in Sociology at the Humanities Department at the University of Abomey (Benin). Before engaging in the civic administration of Benin, Mr. Maroya held several other positions, including the position as General Treasurer at the Union at the Faculty of Humanities. In 2011, Mr. Maroya entered the civil service as Research Officer at the Ministry of Family, Social Affairs, National Solidarity, the Disabled Persons and Pensioners, where he currently holds the function as Head of the Socio-Economic Promotion, Education and Training of Women. He is responsible for identifying the main economic obstacles of women and the possible intervention strategies to strengthen their participation in economic development. He monitors the effective implementation of national laws and international instruments, which ratified by Benin, regarding women’s rights. Moreover, he is responsible for promoting the right to education of children, in particular girls, as well as to support women’s organisations in promoting their rights, such as through legal protection measures against gender-based violence for women.
Mrs Adjouavi Elzie Judith Sossou, épouse Nouclai
Head of the Gender and Development Unit, Ministry of Justice, Legislation and Human Rights, Benin

Mrs Sossou is Archivist and Expert on Cultural Heritage and graduated from the National School of Administration and Magistracy of Benin. She is the Head of the Pre-Archiving Service and Knowledge Management as well as the Head of the Gender and Development Unit of the Ministry of Justice, Legislation and Human Rights. Mrs Sossou is responsible for the inventory of liabilities in the different jurisdictions of Benin and the organs under the supervision of the Ministry. She further is in charge of updating the tools for managing the archives and for developing the respective budget. Mrs Sossou is also responsible for activities of the Ministry’s Gender and Development Unit. This includes conducting environmental impact studies, organising the celebration of the International Women’s Day, following and facilitating trainings for different actors on a gender-sensitive approach, realising studies in the field of gender and implementing the Gender Action Plan of the Ministry.

Mrs Mèmouna Baboni Yacoubou married Sinimbou
President of GSAT CI-AF Benin

Mrs Mèmouna Baboni Yacoubou married Sinimbou is an Economist Manager and Director of Financial Institutions by profession. She has competence in several areas related to financial management, microfinance, gender issues, development, adult education and organizational development. She had already several years of professional experience, including within FECECAM (Federation of Savings Banks of Crédit Mutuel), prior to enrolling in a Specialized Degree on Higher Studies in Micro Business Management in CIESA-CANADA (CED-COTONOU) in 2004. In addition to her professional experience at FECECAM, Mrs Baboni Yacoubou has held various political positions, including the position as Technical Advisor for Social Affairs of the President of the Republic and Member of the Committee of the Working Group on Women and Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

H.E. Mrs Laure Zongo born Hien
Minister of Women, National Solidarity and Family of Burkina Faso

H.E. Mrs Laure Zongo Hien is the Minister of Women, National Solidarity and Family of Burkina Faso. She has obtained a Master Degree in Business Administration (MBA) coupled with a Certificate in Management of Development Projects at the University of Moncton in Canada. She further holds a Masters in Sociology from the University of Ouagadougou. Mrs Zongo has participated in LUTRENA, a regional program against child trafficking in West and Central Africa, and at a staff meeting of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) of the ILO in Dakar. She has received trainings for United Nations Staff on security measures and the monitoring and documenting of human rights violations, as well as several other trainings such as on the method REFLECT method which is used in educational
and vocational trainings. She was the Regional Coordinator of the Project "Strengthening the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)" of five countries of West Africa and Assistant to the Program of the Swiss NGO Workers' Aid (OSEO). She has further acted as Coordinator of the Subsidies Department on Grants and Business Development as well as Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Country Representative of the Swiss Foundation Terre des Homme in Lausanne in Switzerland.

**Mrs Victoria Ouedraogo**  
**Secretary General, Voix de Femmes, Burkina Faso**  
Mrs Ouedraogo is Magistrate of distinguished rank of the High Communication Council of Burkina Faso. She has successively occupied the positions of the Substitute Prosecutor in Ouagadougou, Judge in Ouagadougou Administrative Tribunal, Government Commissioner in the same Court, Government Commissioner and finally Judge Advisor to the State Council of Burkina. Mrs Ouedraogo has further been Councilor of the Minister for Political Reforms and Relations with the Parliament before she became the Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice and Promotion of Human Rights.  
She has been also member of several civil society association such as the Association of Women Jurists Burkina Faso (AFJBF) and the Movement for "Memory and Conscience."

**Mrs Perpetue Toe**  
**Permanent Secretary of the National Council against the practice of female circumcision, Burkina Faso**  
Mrs Perpetue Toe is the Permanent Secretary of the National Council against the practice of female circumcision and Administrator of Social Affairs. She is a lawyer of profession. In her professional life she is responsible for coordinating the work of the network, NGOs and associations that are involved in promoting the elimination of female genital circumcision. She is a trainer in IEC / CCC, FGM, SR- Human Rights, gender and a trainer on social norms and conventions. Mrs Perpetue Toe is also a legal counsel for social protection and family law. In addition, she has received an honor since she is Knight on the merit of the Health and Social Action.

**Ivory Coast**

**Mrs Noëlle Caroline Grekou born Touré**  
**Director of Cabinet Minister of Promotion of Women, Family and Child Protection, Ivory Coast**  
Civil Administrator, Ms. Grekou is a member of the Prefectural Corps since February 2016 and appointed as Director of Madame Cabinet Minister of Promotion of Women, Family and Child Protection. The screen, she served as Chief of Staff functions Honourable Minister of Health and the Fight against AIDS January 2012 to March 2013 before returning to the Ministry in charge.
of the Interior Ministry of its origin. From June 2001 to January 2012 Ms. Grekou served as Sub-Prefect of Prefecture Secretary General. Since 2013, she moved to the Department Prefect grade and has the Ministry of Promotion of Women, Family and Child Protection

**Imam Djiguiba Cissé**  
President, Fondation Djigui - La Grande Esperance, Ivory Coast

His Eminence Imam Cissé Djiguiba is a very well known in the world of religious and civil society personalities. In 2009 he became a member of the Scientific Committee of advocacy for the adoption of a UN resolution on FGM. Thanks to its constant commitment, Imam Cissé Djiguiba became in December 2012, permanent member of the monitoring committee for the implementation of the UN resolution on the intensification of global action for the elimination of the practice of FGM in the world at the initiative of the IAC. His courageous positions have significantly helped to break the silence on many harmful traditional practices as FGM, early child and forced marriage, wife inheritance and sororate. Silence also broken on issues related to HIV / AIDS, women's participation in decision-making bodies. Wrongly judged by some as a fierce opponent to the perpetuation of traditions, Imam Cissé is actually attached to the respect of human dignity. Therefore, it continues to defend the right of women to control their own bodies. Main Imam of the Grand Mosque of Plateau, Ivory Coast, Director General of the Islamic National Radio Al Bayan, is the Founding President of the Foundation Djigui Great Hope that exists since 2001. He has a Bachelor of Arts obtained in Saudi Arabia, Imam Cissé Djiguiba graduated in Educational Sciences of the American Academy of Washington.

**Gambia**

**Dr Isatou Touray**  
Executive Director of the Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, Gambia

Dr is a Feminist activist and the Executive Director of the Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (GAMCOTRAP), a national and international leader in the fight against female genital mutilation (FGM). Dr. Touray is a founder of the Gender Unit of the Management Development Institute and introduced a diploma in gender and development programme. She served as a Board member and Secretary General of the Inter African Committee (IAC) a Pan African Network on the elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices (2009-2014). She hold B.A Honours Degree in Education and English from the Usmanu Dan Fodio University, Sokoto, (NG). A Masters Degree in Gender and Development at the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague, the (NLD). She holds a Doctorate Degree in Development Studies at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, UK. She is a Laureate of the Bellagio Institute (IT).
H.E. Mrs Della Sowah  
Sous-ministre du Genre, des Enfants et de la Protection Sociale, Ghana

H.E. Mrs Della Sowah is the Deputy Minister of Gender Children & Social Protection of Ghana as well as Member of the Ghanaian Parliament where she represents the people of the region Kpando. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Social Sciences from the Kwame Nkrumah University and a Master Degree of Business Administration from the Cambridge International College. H.E. Mrs Della Sowah has multiple years of experience in marketing and corporal development, where she has focused in particular on the social development of underprivileged groups in rural areas. Her broad societal engagement encompasses different issues such as microcredits, the use of contraceptives among young adults and the empowerment of marginalized groups of people in education.

Mr John Yaw Appiah  
Director, General Administration, Ministry of Health, Ghana

Mr. John Yaw Adjei Appiah has obtained a Bachelor degree in Political Science as well as a Master degree in Public Administration. He has twenty-five years of experience as an officer in the administrative class of the Ghana Civil Service. He has worked at the local government level, at the regional government level and now at the central government level. He identifies with the position of the Government of Ghana that women must enjoy the same rights as men and that female genital mutilation is an illegal act that is banned in Ghana. Despite the fact that he is currently not directly engaged in activities to ensure that women enjoy equal rights or that female genital mutilation is eliminated, he is fairly conversant with literature on the subject matter and should be in a position to contribute meaningfully to discussions on the subject of women’s rights and female genital mutilation.

Mrs Gertrude Eunice Maasodong  
President of the Ghanaian Association for Women and Welfare GAWW, Ghana

Mrs Gertrude Eunice Maasodong is a journalist by profession and currently holds the position as a Chief Editor in the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC), a state media company. Mrs Maasodong has been member of the Ghanaian Association of Women's Welfare (GAWW) since 2000, for which she initially acted as the Secretary. In 2014, Ms. Maasodong was elected as the President of GAWW and replaced the former President Ms. Florence Ali. Mrs Maasodong has been strongly involved in the process of revising the Ghanaian legislation on FGM and has been in charge of the media coverage on the topic of FGM. She regularly writes narratives on FGM which are aired on the GBC Radio and Television channels. She also organises press conferences to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation on 6 February. She has worked closely with GAWW’s former President Mrs Florence Ali, who has
participated in the processes leading to the establishment of the UN Resolution Banning FGM worldwide.

**Guinea**

**H.E. Mr Cheik Sako**  
*State Minister of Justice, Guinea*

H.E. Mr. Cheick Sako, Doctor of Law, has been registered at the Bar Association of Montpellier (France) since 1992. After having carried out teaching activities, including at the Law Faculty of Montpellier, he continued his career focusing on his interest in the work of associations and unions. He is in particular specialised in the rights of persons and public law. He has been a Board Member of the Bar Association from 1999 to 2001, a member of the Association Lawyers Without Borders which he chaired from 1998 to 2001 and from 2010 until now, a delegate all the African Bar Association in Montpellier, member of the Union of Lawyers of France and elected member in the trade union in 1997 and 1998. His numerous missions in Africa, as a consultant to the United Nations Development Programme and UNESCO, have earned him the recognition of his colleagues and many African leaders.

**H.E. Mrs Camara Sanaba Kaba**  
*Minister of Social Affairs, Promotion of Women and Children, Guinea*

H.E. Mrs Kaba Camara Sanaba is the Minister of Social Affairs, Promotion of Women and Children, and the President of the Resource Mobilization Committee of the National Committee against the Ebola crisis. She graduated from the Polytechnic Institute at Gamal Abdel Nasser University of Conakry. During her time at the University, she gained a profound knowledge in information technology and acquired skills in corporate management and customer services. As the Assistant to the Minister of State she was in charge of policy questions and member of the National Social Protection Group. Ms. Camara Sanaba was also Vice-President of the Board of the National Agency for Microfinance (ANAMIF). As the Councilor of the Mission of the Presidency of the Republic and loan officer she was responsible for granting and monitoring loans and organising training of and monitoring them.

**H.E. Mr Abdourahmane Diallo**  
*Minister of Health, Guinea*

He is a Medical Doctor with a Master degree in International Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health with close to 20 years of clinical and international public health experience. He is currently the Minister of Health of Republic of Guinea. His responsibilities include overseeing and leading his project’s activities worldwide in public health and supply chain systems strengthening. In addition, he oversees the technical work of more than 22 country offices, leading USAID core
funded activities. Areas of work include strategic planning, health systems management and policy to strengthen public health supply chain systems in developing countries, and HIV/AIDS and clinical laboratory logistics programs. He was responsible for the overall management of country office strategic, technical, administrative, administrative and financial activities.

His objectives include continuing to save lives in the developing world as a public health professional in some leadership capacity, preferably as a Country Director/Representative of an international public health organization.

**Dr. Koyagbè Koné**  
President, Cellule of Coordination on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, Guinea

Dr. Koyagbè Koné is the Head of the Finance and Management section of the Health Facilities in the Direction of the Hospital Facilities and the Health Ministry of Health of the Republic of Guinea. She is Advisor of violence based on gender/Female genital mutilation in FCDK-PROSMI Foundation of the First Lady of the Republic of Guinea. Mrs Koyagbè graduated from the Medical School of Conakry in Guinea and is a specialist in the Hospital Management and teacher of evaluation and supervision of Health Services and of female genital mutilation. She is a member of the National Coordination Unit office on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (CPTAFE). She organized a training and information Journalists and Communicators Workshop on Traditional Acceleration of the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation and Finalization of Prevention of Rape and sexual violence against women in Guinea.

**Guinea Bissau**

**H.E. Mrs Valentina Mendes**  
Minister of Women’s Affairs, the Family and Social Cohesion, Guinea Bissau

H.E. Mrs Valentina Mendes currently holds the position as the Minister of Women’s Affairs, the Family and Social Cohesion of Guinea Bissau. Before this post, she was the Minister for Public Health as which she was strongly involved in the dealing with the Ebola crisis starting in spring 2014. Her effective management of the crisis brought her the trust to be elected to the Minister of Women’s Affairs, the Family and Social Cohesion in 2015.
H.E. Mrs Aida Injai Fernandes  
**Minister of Justice, Guinea Bissau**

H.E. Mrs Aida Injai Fernandes is currently the Minister of Justice of Guinea Bissau as which she deals with multiple legal issues, including human rights, counter-terrorism and the consolidation of peace. Before she held this position, she acted as the President of the National Commission for Human Rights – an important role for protecting and promoting human rights in Guinea Bissau. She has also been part of civil society movements regarding human rights.

Mrs Fatumata Djau Baldé  
**President of the National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Traditional Practices for the Health of Women and Children in Guinea-Bissau**

Mrs Fatumata Djau Baldé is the President of the National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Traditional Practices for the Health of Women and Children in Guinea-Bissau. She has received a formal education various areas over the last 33 years, including public administration, education, human rights, management of organizations of the civil society, international cooperation, advocacy lobbying for the adoption of legislation and its implementation. She has been a Member of the Executive Management of the IAC, Member of the Administrative Council of the Pan African Institute for Development and Member of the Forum of Organizations of the Civil Society in Lusophone African Countries.

Liberia

H.E. Mrs Madame Siane Abdul-Baki  
**Deputy Minister for Gender, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Liberia**

H.E. Mrs Madame Siane Abdul-Baki since 2014 works as the Deputy Minister for Gender, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. She heads the Department of Gender which has oversight responsibilities for gender and adolescent girls programs and policies. These include the issues of Gender based Violence and Harmful traditional Practices. Prior to her appointment she served as the Program Officer and Special Assistant to the Minister under the Senior Executive Service program (2009 – 2014). Since 2009, she has represented Liberia at the UN framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Mrs Abdul-Baki has worked in various capacities such as; Project Coordinator with the Commodity Clearing House (CCH), Special Advisor and Teaching Assistant with the Early childhood development program at the Lincoln Community American School in Ghana. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the University of Ghana and a Post graduate studies at the Cape Coast University (Ghana) in
Democracy, Governance, Law and Development. She also studied at the Eastern University of Finland earning a post graduate diploma in Environmental, Multilateral Agreement.

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**Mr Kutaka Devine Togbah**  
*Head of the Department of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, Liberia*

Mr Kutaka Devine Togbah is Head of the Department of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia. Before holding this position, Mr. Togbah worked for the Ministry of Justice as a Research Officer (2011-2014), then Deputy Director (May 14, 2015) with objectives amongst others, to research on Human Rights situation in Liberia. He led an inter-governmental initiative to draft Liberia’s first National Human Rights Action Plan; a five years plan to address a broad range of human rights issues in Liberia. Between 2009 and 2015, Mr Togbah participated in many professional training on Human Rights organized by International Organizations. These training, along with his work at the Ministry of Justice have boosted Mr Togbah’s skills and professionalism on the issue of Human Rights. He earned a Baschelor of Arts (B.A.) in Sociology at the University of Liberia, Capitol Hill (2011) and is pursuing a second degree in Criminal Justice at the African Methodist Episcopal Zion University (AMEZU), Benson Street, Monrovia.

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**Dr Samson K. Arzoaquoi**  
*Acting Assistant Minister for Preventive Services at the Ministry of Health, Liberia*

Dr Samson K. Arzoaquoi since 2015 is the Acting Assistant Minister for Preventive Services at the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Liberia and before holding this position, Dr Arzoaquoi worked as County Health Officer for Bong County. He worked as a General Practitioner in public rural hospitals from 2006 to 2012 in various capacities, from Ward Physician to Medical Director of a maternity hospital. In 2005, he earned the degree, Doctor of Medicine (MD) from the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine, University of Liberia after serving several years as a high school biology teacher. He enrolled at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana, earning Masters of Public Health Degree, MPH in 2013. Dr Arzoaquoi took also a Bachelor Degree in General Zoology in 1992.

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**Mrs Phyllis Nguma-Kimba**  
*President NATPAH, Liberia*

Mrs Phyllis Nguma-Kimba is a nurse, sociologist and Gender-Based violence trainer. Since 2002 is the Executive Director of the National Association on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of women and girls (NATPAH INC.) Before holding, this position Mrs. Phyllis N. Kimba worked for the Ministry of Health, Republic of Liberia as a Clinical Supervisor (1978 – 82) and Administrative Coordinator (1982 – 84). Between 1984 and 2009, she was Coordinator for the Public Health of Women at the national level under the Health and Development Programme. Mrs Kimba is a registered nurse (RN) from the Tubman National Institute of Medical Arts John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital since 1978 and she took a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology (BA), with a minor degree in Public Administration, at the University of Liberia in 1994.
Mali

Mrs Nana Kadidia Traoré
Technical Counsellor in charge for health issues, Minister for Women, Children and Family Promotion, Mali

Mr Youssouf Bagayoko
Acting Director of the National Programme of Fight against Excision, Minister for Women, Children and Family Promotion, Mali
He holds a Master in Anthropology and a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DEA) in Anthropology of social change and development. The theme of his DEA’s thesis focused on female circumcision. He works at the PNLE since 2007. He was responsible for the program in the division monitoring/evaluation from 2007 to 2013 and Head of Division from 2014 to the present. He coordinated a joint project on the transboundary excision with Burkina Faso in 2011-2012. As an expert in the field of female circumcision, it is currently Acting Director of PNLE.

Mrs Camara Fata Gorko Mondo Maiga
Project Manager in the Office of the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Mali
She is Project Manager in the Office of the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Keepers of the Seals as well as project leader to the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. Mrs Camara was also in charge at the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and State Reform and Executive Officer at the Ministry of Public Service and Relations with Institutions. She also worked at the Ministry of Promotion of Women, Children and Family, in addition to having been Communications Consultant to the Office for the Promotion of Women. Mrs Camara also realized and presented the program "Voices of Women" at the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.
Mr Moustapha Touré  
MC, Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, Mali

Mr Brehima Ballo  
Programme Officer in AMSOPT (Malian Association for the Monitoring of Traditional Practices), Mali

Mr Brehima Ballo is Programme Officer in AMSOPT (Malian Association for the Monitoring of Traditional Practices), an NGO working on the elimination of FGM / C and other gender based violence since 25 years. He has 16 years of experience in project management for the elimination of FGC and is involved in the management and project planning. He is further responsible for monitoring and evaluating the projects of AMSOPT. Today, his NGOs has reach over 152 villages and 96 of those have formally renounced the practice of FGM. Of these 152 villages, 46 have also abandoned early marriages.

Mauritania

H.E. Mrs Fatoumetou Habib  
Minister of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family, Mauritania

Mr Abdallah Diakite  
Counsellor of the Minister of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family, Mauritania
Mrs Baba Sy
Presidente of the Association for the Promotion of Gender and Human Rights Equality, Mauritania

Mrs Baba Sy has a doctorate in Sociology and Social Science. In 1996 she became Inspector in the Ministry of Health and chained in 1997 with a mission of responsible post in the Ministry of Social Affairs. She became in 2005 Director of Planning and Cooperation and Secretary General to the Ministry of Decentralization and Regional Planning in 2006. In 2013 she was elected deputy to the National Assembly and Chairman of the Parliamentary Network of Women of Mauritania. She is now President of the Mauritanian Association of Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children became the Association for the Promotion of Gender and Human Rights Equality from 1994 to now a member of the committee Inter African.

Niger

Mr Issa Zoumari Kallekoye
Secretary General within the Ministry for the Population, the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children, Niger

Mr Issa Zoumari Kallekoye is the current Secretary General within the Ministry for the Population, the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children. He worked for a long time in the field of education where he has organized trainings for teachers. Furthermore, he has conducted research on different topics, including agricultural development as well as women’s rights.

Nigeria

Mr Zubair Ilyasu Omar
Assistant Chief Social Welfare Officer, Women and Gender Affairs Department, Nigeria

Ilyasu Omar Zubair was born in the year 1967 at Okene LGA, Kogi State, Nigeria. He received his early education from Okene where I had both primary and secondary school certificates and later graduated from Bayero University Kano, with a B.Sc. in Political Science and Diploma in Public Administration. He has also obtained certificates in the field of gender, such as the International Gender Certificate and the International Certificate in Women in Mining from Ghana and Australia. He started his career in civil service in 1989 as a Finance Assistant in the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory (defunct). He currently holds the position as Cadre as Assistant Chief Social Warfare Officer in the Nigerian Public Service.
Mrs Mercy Vivian Agada
Assistant Director International & Comparative Law Department, Ministry of Health, Nigeria

Mrs Mercy Vivian Agada was born in Kaduna State, Nigeria in 1972. She attended the Saint Louis College, Jos and thereafter, obtained a Law Degree from University of Jos, Plateau State, in 1992. Subsequently, she was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1993. In 2013, she obtained a Master’s Degree (LLM) in Human Rights from the University of East London, United Kingdom. During her 22 years of legal practice she mainly worked for the Federal Ministry of Justice of Nigeria. Employed as a State Counsel, she rose to the rank of Assistant Director. She had ample opportunity of exposure to issues related to human rights, employment and tax litigation by representing the Federal Government and its Agencies at various Courts. She currently focuses on Women’s Rights, Gender Based Violence and the impact of Harmful Cultural Practices, such as Female Genital Mutilation, on the Human Rights of Women and Children.

Madame Modupe Onadeko
President IAC Nigeria

Sierra Leone

H.E. Mrs Madina Rahman
Deputy Minister of Health, Sierra Leone

Mrs Madina Rahman is the current Deputy Minister of Health of Sierra Leone. She has been a nurse in different specialties over 30 years and hence, a lot of practical experiences with the Sierra Leonean health care system. During the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone, starting in spring 2014, Hon. Madina Rahman has been strongly engaged in the national and international response to this deadly virus.
Mr John Arrow Bockarie  
**Deputy Minister of Justice, Sierra Leone**  
Mr John Arrow Bockarie is the present Deputy Minister of Justice. He is a barrister and Solicitor for over 20 years. He was called to the Bar of Sierra Leone in September 1993. He has been practicing in Bo since 1993 until 2010 when he was appointed Deputy Minister of Justice. Between 2003 and 2007 he worked for the Special Court for Sierra Leone as Co-Defense Counsel for Fofana Defense team. He is married with five children.

Mr Abdul Rahim Kamara  
**Executive Director, Manifesto 99, Sierra Leone**  
Mr Abdul Rahim Kamara is an Human Rights Activist and the Executive Director of Manifesto 99 a Sierra Leonean NGO that monitors the compliance of the government of Sierra Leone with International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law treaties, to which Sierra Leone is a state party. Manifesto99 is a member of the coalition that campaigned for the adoption of the resolution banning FGM worldwide and has worked extensively on issues surrounding the International Criminal Court.

Mrs Justine M. Azanledji-Ahadzi  
**Magistrate, State Council at the Supreme Court, Togo**  
Mrs Justine M. Azanledji-Ahadzi began her professional career in 1990 as Magistrate Prosecutor of the Lomé Court, a position which she held until 1996. In 1997, she was appointed Vice President of the Trial Court in Lomé and in charge of matrimonial matters. From 1998 to 2008, she served as an advisor to the Lomé Appeal Court, where she successively served as a judge of the criminal division, as a pre-trial judge in civil and commercial matters and as the President of the Social Chamber. Since 2008, she holds the position of First State Council at the Supreme Court of Togo where she represents the society and the state in all cases before the Court. Furthermore, she is a member of the Higher Council of the Judiciary. Alongside her function, she is also the focal point for HIV/AIDS and Human Rights within the Ministry of Justice and chairs the anti AIDS core of the Ministry. She provides expertise in this area to her Ministry and the National Council against AIDS as well as other partners such the civil society. She further organises courses on at Training Centres for justice professionals in Lomé and conferences on the rights of women and others.
Dr Edouard Deti Kossi
Chief of the Health Division for Youth and Adolescent Health at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Togo

Doctor Kossi Deti Edouard holds Doctor Degree of Medicine from the University of Lomé, Togo. In addition to his studies in Togo, he obtained a specialized degree in Public Health and Social Medicine of the University of Bordeaux 2 in France. Currently he is the Chief of the Health Division for Youth and Adolescent Health at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Togo.

Madame Assibi Napoe
General Secretary of CI-AF, National President CIAF-Togo

Ms Assibi Napoe is a trained psycho-pedagogue and activist of Human Rights and Trade Union Rights. In addition to her career in the civil service in Togo, she has been a Member of the National Commission of Human Rights of Togo (CNDH), General Secretary of the Togolese Trade Union for the Education (FESEN), Member of the Global Executive Committee of International Education (IE) and Coordinator of the IE Regional Office for Africa and the Middle East. She was further the Founding President of the Togolese League for Women's Rights (LTDF) which was created in 1994. Ms. NAPOE joined CI-AF in 1995 where she revitalised the National Committee of CIAF / Togo, of which she became the President in 1996. She also assisted in the adoption of Act No. 98-016 prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Togo. Ms. NAPOE was elected CI-AF’s General Secretary at its last General Assembly held in Burkina Faso in 2014. Due to her commitment to the Rights of Women and Children, she has received several awards including the Legion of Honour of France in 1999.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

United Nations

Madame Bianca Pomeranzi
Comité pour l’élimination de la discrimination à l’égard des femmes des Nations Unies, Italie

Bianca Pomeranzi has been elected as member of the CEDAW since 2013 and until 2016. She participates to the activities of the Bureau of the Working Group for Gender Equality of OECD/DAC. Ms Pomeranzi has more than thirty years of experience in the promotion of women and in
the implementation of the Convention both at national and international level: she was the co-founder of the first Italian NGO adopting the “Gender and Development” approach. Moreover, she has played the role of human rights expert for the Italian Development Cooperation, especially in the context of the political dialogue with partner governments. Ms Pomeranzi has a proven experience in the elaboration and management of Programs aiming at the implementation of the Convention. Ms Pomeranzi is a well-known militant of the national and transnational women movement for the full enjoyment of the rights of women; many of her essays and articles on these themes have been published on specialised magazines.

Mr Mabingue Ngom  
**Regional Director of the United Nations Population Fund UNFPA**

Mr Mabingue Ngom, 56 years old, is a Senegalese development and public policy specialist. Formed in Dakar Senegal and Washington (USA), since January 2015, Mr. Ngom is the Regional Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the twenty-three countries in West and Central Africa. He worked at the International Planned Parenthood Federation in Nairobi (Kenia) at the GFATM (Global Fund against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and malaria) in Geneva (Switzerland).

Equality Now  
**Faiza Jama Mohamed, Director Africa Office**

Madame Faiza Jama Mohamed  
**Director of Equality Now's Africa Office**

Faiza Jama Mohamed graduated from Ahfad University College for Women's School of Management in 1983 with Distinction. She holds a Masters in Business Administration from the California State University at Fresno and has a human rights certificate from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) at The Hague, The Netherlands. She is the Director of Equality Now’s Africa Office since 2000 and has more than 20 years of experience working with international organizations. Prior to joining Equality Now she was an active member of the women’s movement in Somalia for many years and was instrumental in the coalition-building of women’s organizations with a focus on promoting peace, gender equality and advocacy for women’s rights. In 1998, she received the Hundred Heroines award for recognition of her activism in support of the human rights of women in Somalia. In 2008, she was awarded the Africa prize of the Hunger Project. She serves in various committees and Boards and closely supports the work of the African Union Commission.
Mrs Mariam Lamizana
President of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, Burkina Faso

Mrs Mariam Lamizana was the former Minister of Social Action and National Solidarity and currently holds the position as President of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC) and the NGO Voice Women of Burkina Faso. Her involvement in the early hours of the fight against FGM has its roots in her desire to make a contribution to improving the health conditions and promoting the rights of women and children in Burkina Faso. It has been under her leadership as the first President and Permanent Secretary of the Comité National de lutte contre la Pratique de l’excision (CNLPE) that the fight against FGM was coordinated in Burkina Faso and that programs against FGM were put in place in the whole country.

Dr Morissandra Kouyaté
Executive Director of the Inter-African Committee (IAC) on Traditional Practices

Dr. Morissandra Kouyaté is Executive Director of the Inter-African Committee (IAC) on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC,a regional and international non-governmental organisation affiliated with the United Nations, the African Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union.

He has held this post since 2011, having spent the previous 9 years as IAC’s Director of Operations. He served 10 years as medical Doctor countryside in Guinea before serving as National Director of the Hospitals and Director of Foreign Relations for the Ministry of Health in Guinea. Born and trained as a Medical Doctor Pediatrician at the University in Guinea, Dr. Kouyaté subsequently obtained diplomas in infertility treatments and HIV/AIDS at Johns Hopkins University (in the United States - US) and in Health Services Management and Behavioral Change Communications at Clark Atlanta University (also in the US). He has received numerous awards and international recognition for his work combating the practice of FGM worldwide, an issue to which he has dedicated his professional life for decades, including a Certificate of High Appreciation from the US Peace Corps and an Award of Excellence from the World Bank.
Madame Emma Bonino
Founder of No Peace Without Justice, Italie

Emma Bonino, former European Commissioner and former Italian Foreign Minister, is a pioneer and activist in the fight against FGM in the world. She remains convinced that the freedom of women goes through the establishment of democratic institutions in their countries. In 2002, participating in the World Day of Human Rights in the European Parliament, Emma Bonino proposes to lead the fight against FGM in the political field. She states as followed: "We must achieve the political area, because it will never exist no freedom for African, Arab or Asian women without the advent of political democracy in their country."