

International association of Women judges
Advancing Human Rights and Equal Justice For All

Regional meeting of Africa Woman judges

Abidjan, from June 3 to 7, 2019

16th African regional conference, june,3-7 , 2019

**Topic : Mutual assistance, judicial cooperation and solidarity among
the women judges in the enforcement of sub-regional, regional and
international laws**

**Terms of Reference of the Regional Meeting of Magistrates /
Judges of Africa Women**

Abidjan, from June 3 to 7, 2019

Context

The International Association of Women Judges (AIFJ) was created in 1991 in the US to contribute to **advance** human rights, justice and capacity building of women judges around the world. It currently has more than 3,000 members from 171 countries. The Association of Women judges of Côte d'Ivoire (AFEMCI), founded on May 7, 2016, affiliated with the (AIFJ). AFEMCI participated in the 13th and 14th congress of the International Association of Women Judges held respectively in Washington, in the US in May 2016 and in Buenos Aires, in Argentina in May 2018. AFEMCI also attended the Africa Regional Meeting, AIFJ, in Nairobi, Kenya, in May 2017, after which it was designated to organize the next regional meeting of women judges of Africa **in 2019**.

The regional meeting of the International Association of Women Judges (AIFJ) allows women magistrates of the region to reinforce their capacities and their leadership. It is also an opportunity to exchange experiences, network and plea for a better law enforcement and a better consideration of gender in the field of justice.

The conference theme in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, is *"Mutual assistance, Judicial Cooperation and Solidarity among Women Magistrates / Judges for the enforcement of Subregional, Regional and International Human Rights legal Instruments"*.

The implementation of legal standard is the responsibility of the judges. In the discharge of their judiciary missions, they have several legal instruments, including national, subregional, regional and international legal instruments. However, national judges tend to apply more the national legal instruments. This is proved by the scarcity of references to international standards in case law. Whereas internalisation has made these international legal instruments an integral part of the national normative corpus.

In order to improve this established facts, the capacity building of legal professionals through the exchange of experiences and good practices is essential. One of AFEMCI's objectives is to promote Human Rights which is of the responsibility of our states. This guarantee is ensured both through legal instruments and through jurisdictional mechanisms. Thus, these instruments and mechanisms make it possible to know and reinforce human rights and, in case of violation, to provide a judicial response.

The increasingly transnational character of human rights violations justifies increased cooperation. Solidarity among women judges contributes to the strengthening of this judicial cooperation, guaranteeing the effectiveness of prosecution and repression. International mutual legal assistance remains an asset for stronger justice and better protection of people.

The overall objective of this meeting is to help to reinforce mutual assistance, judicial cooperation and solidarity among women judges / magistrates.

The specific objectives are:

- 1-Reinforce the capacity of women magistrates and judges on subregional, regional and international legal standards
- 2- Improve the use of subregional, **regional** and international legal instruments and mechanisms for better protection of populations

The expected results:

- 1- The capabilities of women magistrates on subregional, regional and international legal instruments are strengthened;
- 2- The use of international instruments and mechanisms is improved;
- 3- Solidarity among women magistrates / judges is increased and their connections for more effective and efficient justice are strengthened;

Programme from 3 to 7 june 2019

Day/time	Activities
Tuesday 4 june 2019 9:00 – 15:00	Welcome and registration
16:00 – 19:00	Opening ceremony Cocktail
Wednesday 5 june	Welcoming word
Wednesday 5 june 2019 9:00 – 13:00 Continuous coffee-break	Inaugural Conference: mutual assistance, judicial cooperation and solidarity among women judges / magistrates for better implementation of subregional, regional and international legal instruments Overview of subregional, regional and international instruments
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
Wednesday 5 june 14:00 -17:00	Session I : Judges and the enforcement of legal instruments relating to the protection of vulnerable people Presentation of legal instruments concerning the protection of vulnerable persons, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation of child perpetrators and victims of violence • What protection for people in detention ? • The case of people living with a disability: access to their rights, fight against discrimination

<p>Thursday 6 june 2019</p> <p>Continuous coffee-break 9:00 am -1 pm</p>	<p>Session II : Protection of persons against transnational organized crime</p> <p>Presentation of legal instruments related to organized crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human trafficking and smuggling of migrants ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrorism ; • cybercrime
<p>13:00 – 14:00</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>
<p>Thursday 6 june</p> <p>14:00 -17 :00</p> <p>Continuous coffee-break</p>	<p>Session III : Justice and gender</p> <p>Overview of the legal instruments relating to gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual violence ; • Access to justice (legal and judicial assistance, access to rural land, inheritance ...)
<p>Friday 7 june</p> <p>9:00 am – 1 pm</p> <p>Continuous coffee-break</p>	<p>Session IV : justice and development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fight against corruption and money laundering • Justice, digitization and digitalization • Judicial standards and performance indicators
	<p>Closing ceremony</p>