



COUNTRY PROFILES - GEDI

Report on Inclusive and Responsible Artificial Intelligence in West Africa : Comparative analysis of political, legal and institutional frameworks Senegal · Benin · Côte d'Ivoire · Burkina Faso

Each country factsheet presents, for a given country: its political, legal and institutional framework for artificial intelligence; its score on the GEDI framework (Gender, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion); its degree of alignment with international frameworks (UNESCO, OECD) and with the African Union continental strategy; and the key message to retain..

INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence is playing an increasingly important role in development strategies in West Africa, with a structural risk: reproducing existing inequalities, particularly gender inequalities, if the frameworks governing AI do not explicitly integrate equity, diversity and inclusion.

This document provides a comparative analysis of the national frameworks of Senegal, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, examining for each country its political, legal and institutional framework, its GEDI score and its alignment with UNESCO/OECD frameworks and the African Union continental strategy.

SENEGAL



National AI Strategy 2024–2028 — “trusted AI”

Main vision	Ethical and trusted AI
AI strategy & timeframe	National AI Strategy 2024–2028
GEDI integration (policy framework)	Low to moderate

1. Political, legal and institutional framework

Dimension	Instruments & contributions to AI	GEDI level
Policy	AI Strategy 2024–2028; Digital Strategy, New Deal Technologique, Data Strategy; Cybersecurity Strategy.	Medium
Legal	“Digital Package” (2008).	Medium
Institutional	CDP – Commission for Personal Data Protection; DGCSSI – General Directorate of Information Systems Security; SODAV – Senegalese Society of Authors’ and Neighbouring Rights; ARTP – Telecommunications and Posts Regulatory Authority.	Low to medium

2. Legal framework — current status

Personal data protection law	Yes
Cybercrime law	Yes
AI processing explicitly addressed	No
Algorithmic transparency	No
Specific AI regulation	No

3. Competent institutions

Data protection authority	CDP
Cybersecurity authority	DGCSSI
AI-dedicated authority	No

4. GEDI score (Gender – Equity – Diversity – Inclusion)

Gender	Equity	Diversity	Inclusion
Low	Medium	Low	Medium

Human capital and “AI for all”, without a gender-specific measure.

5. Alignment with UNESCO / OECD frameworks

Areas of alignment	The “trusted AI” orientation incorporates legality, equity, transparency and accountability (UNESCO/ OECD frameworks).
Main gaps	Algorithmic governance remains underdeveloped: audits and impact assessments are not systematic. The gender dimension and inclusion issues receive limited attention.

6. Alignment with the African Union continental strategy

AU continental strategy recommendation	Status
Develop national AI strategies	✓
Prioritize a national pool of AI talent	✓
Declare AI a national priority	✓
Innovative safety / security regulatory frameworks	✓
Inclusive adoption: women, cultural diversity	✗
AI for underserved communities	✗
Reduce gender and rural / urban disparities	✗
Guarantee equity, justice and equal opportunities	✗
Promote AI for heritage and local languages	✗

KEY MESSAGE - Developed institutional and strategic framework, but limited operational integration of GEDI. The only country in the sample to plan a regulatory sandbox.

Although Senegal has one of the most developed institutional frameworks in the sub-region, gender considerations remain largely absent from existing mechanisms. Benin, with its SNIAM strategy adopted as early as 2023, offers a useful point of comparison on this same blind spot.



SNIAM 2023–2027 — regional pioneer in AI strategy

Main vision	AI as a lever for sectoral growth
AI strategy & timeframe	SNIAM 2023–2027
GEDI integration (policy framework)	Low

1. Political, legal and institutional framework

Dimension	Instruments & contributions to AI	GEDI level
Policy	National Strategy for AI and Big Data (SNIAM); “Benin 2060 Alafia” Vision; National Digital Security Strategy 2023–2026; PAG 2021–2026; other sectoral strategies (e-agriculture, education, digital).	Medium
Legal	Digital Code (2017): integrated and relatively modern framework.	Medium to high
Institutional	APDP – Personal Data Protection Authority; ASIN – Agency for Information Systems and Digital Technology; BUBEDRA – Beninese Copyright and Related Rights Office; SNIAM – National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence and Big Data; PAG – Government Action Programme. No AI-dedicated institution.	Low to medium

2. Legal framework — current status

Personal data protection law	Yes
Cybercrime law	Yes
AI processing explicitly addressed	No
Algorithmic transparency	No
Specific AI regulation	No

3. Competent institutions

Data protection authority	APDP
Cybersecurity authority	ASIN
AI-dedicated authority	No

4. GEDI score (Gender – Equity – Diversity – Inclusion)

Gender	Equity	Diversity	Inclusion
Low	Low	Low	Medium

AI ecosystem and sectoral uses are developed; GEDI is not explicitly mentioned in the strategy.

5. Alignment with UNESCO / OECD frameworks

Areas of alignment	Respect for privacy, accountability and sustainability; impact assessments are planned by the strategy.
Main gaps	Absence of the gender dimension and inclusion issues — a major shortcoming.

6. Alignment with the African Union continental strategy

AU continental strategy recommendation	Status
Develop national AI strategies	✓
Prioritize a national pool of AI talent	✗
Declare AI a national priority	✓
Innovative safety / security regulatory frameworks	✓
Inclusive adoption: women, cultural diversity	✗
AI for underserved communities	✗
Reduce gender and rural / urban disparities	✗
Guarantee equity, justice and equal opportunities	✓
Promote AI for heritage and local languages	✗

KEY MESSAGE · Regional pioneer (AI strategy since 2023), but GEDI is addressed indirectly. Notable initiative: “JaimeMaLangue” (late 2025), a participatory collection of voice data in national languages.

As in Senegal, Benin’s AI ecosystem has been structured without explicitly integrating gender and inclusion issues. Côte d’Ivoire clearly differs from this regional trend by making social inclusion a founding principle of its AI strategy towards 2030.





AI Strategy – 2030 horizon – country most advanced on inclusion

Main vision	Inclusive, ethical and responsible AI
AI strategy & timeframe	AI Strategy — 2030 horizon
GEDI integration (policy framework)	Moderate to high

1. Political, legal and institutional framework

Dimension	Instruments & contributions to AI	GEDI level
Policy	AI Strategy 2030: inclusive, ethical and responsible AI explicitly affirmed. National Data Governance Strategy; National Digital Development Strategy 2021–2025; National Cybersecurity Strategy.	High
Legal	Information Society and Data Law (2017), Data Law (2013), Electronic Transactions Law, Cybersecurity Law, Copyright and Related Rights Law. Nothing specific to AI.	Medium
Institutional	ARTCI – Telecommunications/ICT Regulatory Authority; ANSSI – National Agency for Information Systems Security; BURIDA – Ivorian Copyright and Related Rights Office. National AI Institute (INIA) project, still at project stage.	Medium

2. Legal framework — current status

Personal data protection law	Yes
Cybercrime law	Yes
AI processing explicitly addressed	No
Algorithmic transparency	No
Specific AI regulation	No

3. Competent institutions

Data protection authority	ARTCI
Cybersecurity authority	ANSSI
AI-dedicated authority	Project (INIA)

4. GEDI score (Gender - Equity - Diversity - Inclusion)

Gender	Equity	Diversity	Inclusion
Medium	High	Medium	High

Social inclusion and equitable access are explicitly affirmed in the strategy.

5. Alignment with UNESCO / OECD frameworks

Areas of alignment	Social inclusion and equity are strongly present; algorithmic audits and risk-based classification are planned.
Main gaps	System robustness and post-deployment monitoring are insufficiently addressed.

6. Alignment with the African Union continental strategy

AU continental strategy recommendation	Status
Develop national AI strategies	✓
Prioritize a national pool of AI talent	✓
Declare AI a national priority	✗
Innovative safety / security regulatory frameworks	✓
Inclusive adoption: women, cultural diversity	✓
AI for underserved communities	✓
Reduce gender and rural / urban disparities	✓
Guarantee equity, justice and equal opportunities	✓
Promote AI for heritage and local languages	✓

KEY MESSAGE - Strategically the most advanced country in the sample: explicit social inclusion, without a gender-specific measure. Priority sector #1: agriculture (decision support, drones, sensors).

Côte d’Ivoire stands out as the most advanced country in the sample on inclusion, with explicit commitments in this area. Burkina Faso offers the opposite contrast: in the absence of an adopted AI strategy, the country currently has no framework to assess on this dimension.



No adopted AI strategy — 2026–2028 roadmap underway

Main vision	Not determined at this stage
AI strategy & timeframe	None (roadmap underway)
GEDI integration (policy framework)	Not assessable

1. Political, legal and institutional framework

Dimension	Instruments & contributions to AI	GEDI level
Policy	Digital Strategy 2018–2027 (inclusion, gender, diversity); National Cybersecurity Strategy 2019–2023; National Cybercrime Strategy 2025–2029. No AI strategy yet.	Medium to high
Legal	Law No. 001-2021/AN on personal data protection: explicit reference to AI processing. Information Security Law, Cybercrime Law, Copyright and Related Rights Law.	High
Institutional	CIL – Commission on Information Technology and Freedoms; ANSSI-BF – National Agency for Information Systems Security of Burkina Faso; BBDA – Burkinabe Copyright Office. No AI-dedicated structure.	Low to medium

2. Legal framework — current status

Personal data protection law	Yes
Cybercrime law	Yes
AI processing explicitly addressed	Yes
Algorithmic transparency	No
Specific AI regulation	No

3. Competent institutions

Data protection authority	CIL
Cybersecurity authority	ANSSI-BF
AI-dedicated authority	No

4. GEDI score (Gender – Equity – Diversity – Inclusion)

Gender	Equity	Diversity	Inclusion
Not assessable	Not assessable	Not assessable	Not assessable

Not assessable in the absence of an adopted AI strategy.

5. Alignment with UNESCO / OECD frameworks

Areas of alignment	—
Main gaps	Without an AI strategy yet, Burkina Faso cannot be assessed on UNESCO/OECD alignment.

6. Alignment with the African Union continental strategy

AU continental strategy recommendation	Status
Develop national AI strategies	✗
Prioritize a national pool of AI talent	✗
Declare AI a national priority	✗
Innovative safety / security regulatory frameworks	✗
Inclusive adoption: women, cultural diversity	✗
AI for underserved communities	✗
Reduce gender and rural / urban disparities	✗
Guarantee equity, justice and equal opportunities	✗
Promote AI for heritage and local languages	✗

KEY MESSAGE - The only country without an adopted AI strategy, but its 2021 law is the only one in the sub-region to explicitly address AI-based processing.