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News Release

CESO marks International Women's Day in partnership supporting business women in Cote d'Ivoire

March 7, 2019 – CESO is partnering with *Réseau International des Femmes Leaders* (RIFeL) in Côte d'Ivoire to support the growth of the new agency dedicated to advancing women as leaders in business and politics.

“Our partnership with RIFeL emphasizes our commitment to increasing and strengthening women’s participation in economic and social development in Côte d’Ivoire,” said Wendy Harris, CESO President & CEO.

Last week, business and political leaders attended the official launch of RIFeL in Abidjan, a city of 4.7 million people on the Atlantic coast of the African nation.

“Every woman has the capacity to lead,” said Chantal Fanny, President of RIFeL, during the event. “Together with our partners, our aim is to enable every woman who wants to contribute to her community as a political leader or a business woman.”

“This partnership will provide women across the country with a network of Canadian expertise through CESO that will help them accelerate their growth and increase their capacity in business and leadership,” said Zoumana Coulibaly, a CESO Country Representative, during his remarks at the launch.

Currently, two CESO expert Volunteer Advisors (VAs) are on-site to support the establishment of RIFeL. Rabia Chaouchi, CESO expert and a senior team leader at the City of Montreal, is working alongside the RIFeL team to develop and implement a strategic plan to guide the association in achieving its mission and vision. At the same time, CESO expert Anny Jalbert is helping the team pursue fund and partnership development to finance RIFeL’s future projects and activities.

The new partnership agreement is part of CESO’s international economic development work, funded by Global Affairs Canada through its Volunteer Cooperation Program. CESO also works in partnership with the City of Montreal to tap into a network of city staff interested in sharing their professional experience and knowledge as CESO expert VAs.

Harris adds, “With International Women’s Day being celebrated (March 8), it’s important to note that CESO remains dedicated to elevating women as leaders in public and private sectors in our economic development work around the world and in Canada.” (Watch CESO’s International Women’s Day video [here](#).)



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About Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO)

CESO is an international economic development engine growing sustainable, inclusive businesses, and strengthening government infrastructure. CESO deploys its experts to communities, partners, governments and people starting or growing their businesses around the world and in Canada. A not-for-profit organization since 1967, CESO's experts are volunteer advisors who devote their time and energy toward economic and social change in more than 450 assignments each year.

CESO thanks and gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Global Affairs Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and our private-sector supporters as listed on our website, www.ceso-saco.com.

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