



CV of Alexander NTOKO

Candidate for the post of BDT Director (ITU)

SUMMARY

A native of Cameroon, educated in the United States and with a vast international experience, Alexander Ntoko has always been a champion of digitalization and pushing the boundaries to provide meaningful and affordable use of ICTs for all. From a young age he was passionate about technology and the power of creating solutions today to solve tomorrow's problems.

With more than 30 years of experience in the ITU, Alexander has worked in the United States as Software Engineer. As he always believed that knowledge is power and in supporting youth as a key enabler to society, he decided to return to Cameroon as a Lecturer of Computer Science at *École Nationale Supérieure Polytechnique*.

Later he was responsible for the United States Department of State Automation Systems in Cameroon till 1990 when he received a call from the Chief of Computer Department of ITU. As Alexander understood the local challenges, he decided to bring his solutions at the international level, by joining ITU in March 1990. This was his first step towards building solutions for a digital world for all. He led the design development and implementation of an e-commerce platform which was demonstrated at the WTDC-98 in Valetta, Malta.

Since joining the ITU, he has worked tirelessly to promote the acquisition of the benefits of ICTs in countries from all regions of the world, gender equality in tech, support for young innovators and inclusive working methods for all. By becoming the next Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), he aims to bring such changes to the next level, by promoting the active participation and use of innovative ICT solutions to all ITU members of the development sector.

His activities span more than 150 countries and cover a wide range of areas such as security, health, agriculture, public administration, ICT policies and strategies etc. References to his work have been made in both scientific and academic publications (more than 20 in academia.edu alone). His activities in ICTs for development have been cited in several press including Time Magazine, International Herald Tribune, Middle East Communications, International Security Review, Tribune de Geneve, AGEFI and Süddeutsche Zeitung with articles in several languages including Chinese, Japanese, Polish, French, Swiss, Spanish, Bulgarian and Arabic languages in both printed and electronic media.

NAME: Alexander Ngome NTOKO

GENDER: Male

NATIONALITY: Cameroonian

DATE OF BIRTH: 16 June 1963

PLACE OF BIRTH: Buea, Southwest Region of Cameroon

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE WITH +20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Information Technologies, Finance Management, Management, Human Resources, Telecommunications and ICTs, ICT Policies and Strategies

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Fluent in English and French.

EDUCATION

1987 Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Computer and Information Sciences from State University of New York (SUNY)

1985 Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Computer Science from State University of New York (SUNY)

Alexander believes in continued education, especially in the fast-changing tech field. He has therefore continued his journey and is a holder of various IT certifications.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

June 2012- Present: Chief, Operations and Planning Department (ITU/TSB)

In his current position he directs the coordination and planning support for the activities of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) of the ITU. With an international team of high impact individuals in areas such as information technology, events organization, logistics and publications, he directs activities to bring efficiencies and innovation in the services and operations of the Standardization Sector and in some cases, extend to other parts of ITU. Under his leadership, technical and logistical support for the organization of events such as the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), AI for Good Global Summit and more, are provided for the smooth running of these events both in hybrid and online only modes.

He identifies strategic issues, opportunities and risks and puts in place the appropriate strategies for the use of relevant technologies for a timely delivery of high-quality services for the Sector. To facilitate bridging the standards gap, he launched the Smart Incubator initiative to link innovation to standardization to empower startups and SMEs by contributing to bridging the standardization gap through proof-of-concept applications based on frontier technologies such as AI, IoT and Blockchain.

Over the years and especially during the COVID-19 period, he played leadership role in directing the development and deployment of many innovative applications including based on technologies such as AI, IoT and block chain to bring innovation to the working methods and processes of the standardization Sector. In February 2021, ITU was given an award for innovation at the 6th Geneva Engage Awards based on his activity.

His previous ITU experience includes the following roles given below:

March 2007 – June 2012: Head, Corporate Strategy Division (ITU/General Secretariat)

- a) As Secretary of PP10 Working Group of Plenary (WG-PL), coordinated Secretariat work on the review and adoption of many key PP Resolutions.
- b) Played key role in 2007-2010 sessions of ITU Council in elaborating, presenting and explaining many ITU Secretary-General's reports.
- c) Chaired the Secretariat Group which coordinated the work on the content of the ITRs. Played key role in identifying possible broad principles which could be relevant for the review of the ITRs by WCIT-12.
- d) Played lead role in transforming ITU Secretary-General's vision in Cybersecurity into a concrete global initiative (GCA) with many partners and participation of more than 150 countries.
- e) Chaired ITU Secretariat Group responsible for the re-design of the ITU Strategic Plan (and establishing a framework for measuring its performance).
- f) Chaired the Contracts Committee and led the work on the review and adoption in 2011 of the new ITU procurement policy replacing the 1993 version.

June 2002 – March 2007: Chief, E-Strategies Division (ITU/BDT)

- a) Played active role in preparations for the outcome of WSIS especially in raising awareness among Membership on the importance of ICT applications for social and economic development.
- b) Played key role in enabling the adoption by Membership of a new Programme at WTDC-02 leading to an extension of the mandate of ITU-D into a wide range of e-applications, Internet and Cybersecurity.
- c) Managed e-Strategies/ programme which provided benefits to more than 120 countries including 45 Least Developed Countries. The assistance included the implementation of a wide range of ICT projects (e-government, e-health, e-agriculture, e-education, e-legislation, e-commerce, MCTs, Internet, Cybersecurity etc.) in countries from all regions of the world.
- d) Provided direct assistance to many countries in formulating national ICT policies and regional policies and strategies based on ICTs being a vital instrument for social and economic development.

Nov 1999 – June 2002: Project Manager and Head of EC-DC Unit (ITU/BDT)

- a) Performed live demonstration of the launching of an operational e-commerce project (EC-DC) at the plenary session of WTDC-98 in Valletta, Malta.
- b) EC-DC received Award in June 1999 at the Global Bangemann Projects Challenge in Sweden.
- c) EC-DC cited by Time Magazine as a major global e-commerce initiative.
- d) Initiated and managed the establishment of agreements with World Trade Centers and partnerships with leading information technology companies.
- e) Partners contributed more than 7 million US dollars (mostly in-kind) to the EC-DC project. More than 100 countries responded to ITU invitation to be part of the global deployment.
- f) Implemented e-commerce infrastructure for the 3000-member strong Association of Women
- g) Entrepreneurs (ASAFE) representing more than 20 countries.
- h) Published original papers on e-commerce technology strategies in leading e-business reviews, participated in international panels and has been cited in many international press articles on e-commerce.

Jan 1995 – Nov 1999: Systems Analyst (ITU/General Secretariat)

- a) Played lead role in the introduction of new services and applications to ITU infrastructure in the domains of Internet and e-commerce.
- b) Led the development of a credit card-based payment platform for ITU enabling the automated processing of Visa, Mastercard, Diners and JCB payments for transactions conducted over the Internet. This innovative platform was used on a cost recovery-basis by other UN agencies to sell their products and services via the Internet.
- c) Led the team that developed the ITU Electronic Bookshop. This made it financially (for the first time) viable to sell individual ITU-T Recommendations in a cost-effective manner. Due to the heavy cost overhead to process individual ITU-T Recommendations, they were sold only in Series. Product range was expanded to ITU-R Recommendations and other products.

Jan 1992 – Dec 1995: Analyst/Programmer (ITU/General Secretariat)

- a) Was first Gopher Administrator and Web Master in ITU. Developed and hosted Gopher and Web services for some Diplomatic Missions (e.g., United States, Japan, France).
- b) Extended the range of TIES services (including the widespread use of electronic messaging based on ITU-T X.400) to support the work of ITU Membership.
- c) Developed a gateway application at ITU to enable X.400 messages to be delivered to Internet recipients.

Mar 1990 – Dec 1991: Computer Communications Specialist (ITU/General Secretariat)

- a) Introduced new range of TIES services for ITU Membership.
- b) Together with another colleague, was responsible for the migration and widespread use of electronic messaging services in ITU.

Additional senior management roles (past and present) within the ITU

- a) Chair of Contracts Committee (for more than 12 years)
- b) Member of Appointment and Promotion Board
- c) Member Crisis Management Team (CMT) Chaired by ITU Secretary-General
- d) Member of Appeal Board (more than 20 years)
- e) Member New Building Management Board – Chaired by Deputy Secretary-General
- f) Coordinator of Inter-Sectoral Activities
- g) Manages Secretariat support to a number Council Working Groups
- h) Adviser to ITU Secretary-General on Strategy and Policy matters
- i) ITU Representative to ICANN/GAC.