



CODESRIA CHARTER

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the social science community in Africa:

Realizing the importance of consolidating this community and harnessing its efforts in developing social science research on the continent;

Being conscious of the various problems facing the people of Africa in their quest for liberty and sustainable development;

Being aware of the need to provide proper information and knowledge about these problems so as to engage the African people in active processes of development;

Recognising the necessity to establish a pan-African organization to provide the framework for co-operation and the promotion of relevant methodological and theoretical perspectives for research on the development processes in Africa;

HEREBY agree to establish an independent, pan-African, non-governmental, and not-for-profit research organization that shall operate in accordance with the provisions of this charter.

TITLE I: Name, Legal Status and Location

Article 1

Name

The organization shall be called the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (to be referred to as "CODESRIA").

Article 1a

While the Council was previously known as "the Conference of Directors of Economic and Social Science Research Institutions in Africa" and "the Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa" the acronym CODESRIA and the objectives of the Council have remained the same. All official documents carrying the previous names of the Council remain valid.

Article 2

Legal Status

CODESRIA is an independent, pan-African non-governmental not-for-profit organisation for the development of the social sciences in Africa.

Article 3

Headquarters

CODESRIA's headquarters shall be in Dakar in the Republic of Senegal.

TITLE II: Objectives

Article 4

CODESRIA's objectives shall be to:

- (a) Develop the social sciences in Africa by mobilizing the African social science community to undertake fundamental as well as policy-oriented research from a perspective which is relevant to the demands of the African people;
- (b) Encourage and support comparative research with a continental perspective expressing the specificity of development processes in Africa;
- (c) Promote the publication and distribution of the research output of African scholars;
- (d) Promote an African network for the dissemination of information in the social sciences;
- (e) Promote and defend the principle of independent thought and research and the liberty of researchers;
- (f) Encourage co-operation and collaboration between African universities and social science research, training and publishing organizations;
- (g) Promote contacts and develop interaction between CODESRIA and similar international organizations;
- (h) Promote balanced gender, generational, sub-regional, linguistic, and disciplinary representation and participation in its activities.

TITLE III: Functions

Article 5

CODESRIA shall seek to achieve its objectives through the following means:

- a) Exchanging and disseminating information relating to research, training and publishing activities;
- b) Promoting translation into African languages, as the case may be, of important social science publications and documents;
- c) Reinforcing the research and training capacity of African universities, through the provision of fellowships and grants;
- d) Organizing working groups, seminars and conferences;
- e) Promoting the exchange of academic staff among African universities and research institutes;
- f) Issuing and disseminating publications relevant to the activities of the Council.

TITLE IV: Members

Article 6

CODESRIA is composed of the following categories of membership:

- a) Full individual members;
- b) Full institutional members;
- c) Associate individual members;
- d) Associate institutional members;
- e) Honorary Members

Article 7

A full individual member is an African who is

- (a) a member of a School, Faculty, Department or other unit of a University;
- (b) a member of an independent research centre, unit or network;
- (c) a member of a professional association or not-for-profit organisation;
- (d) an independent researcher, writer or public intellectual with a record of continued engagement in intellectual production or activity; or
- (e) a student undertaking doctoral studies

who is engaged in social science and humanities research, training and/or publishing, and who has applied for and been admitted to membership of CODESRIA.

Article 8

A full institutional member is an African

- (a) university, research centre or unit within or outside a university;
- (b) discipline-based professional association or network;
- (c) national research body; or
- (d) not-for-profit organisation

which is engaged in social science and humanities research, training and/or publishing, and which has applied for and been admitted to membership of CODESRIA.

Article 8A

An institutional member shall be represented by a designated member of the institution in respect of matters relating to CODESRIA, and a member of an institution who is not designated a representative of the institution may not participate in any decision process of CODESRIA as a representative of that institution.

Article 9

An associate individual member is a non-African scholar engaged in social science and humanities research, training or publishing, who has applied for and been admitted to membership of CODESRIA.

Article 10

An associate institutional member is a non-African university or not-for-profit organisation that is engaged in social science and humanities research, training or publishing, which has applied for and been admitted to membership of CODESRIA.

Article 11

CODESRIA may from time to time confer honorary membership on individuals in recognition of their contribution to the African social sciences and humanities, and the objectives of CODESRIA.

Article 11A

An institution or individual that intends to be a member of CODESRIA may submit an application for that purpose in the form and the manner set out in the Bye-Laws.

Article 12

Full and associate members shall

- (a) accept the Charter of CODESRIA
- (b) uphold the highest standards in their scientific work and conduct;
- (c) support the vision, principles and programmes of CODESRIA;
- (d) participate actively in the activities of CODESRIA;
- (e) abide by the CODESRIA Code of Ethics; and
- (f) pay the requisite membership fees.

Article 13

Full individual or institutional members may

- (a) participate in the governance of the Council through the right to vote and hold positions at all levels of the Council; and
- (b) participate in the General Assembly and in its committees and other organs.

Article 13A

To maintain the vision and integrity of CODESRIA, a Code of Ethics shall

- a) Be drawn up for CODESRIA; and
- b) Be binding on all members, office-holders and staff of CODESRIA.

Article 14

Membership fees may be used to defray part of the operational costs of CODESRIA, including the participation of members in the General Assembly.

TITLE V: Official and Working Languages

Article 15

The official languages of CODESRIA shall be English, French, Arabic, Portuguese and African languages. The Executive Committee shall determine the working languages of CODESRIA from among the official languages.

TITLE VI: The Governing Organs of CODESRIA

Article 16

The governing organs of the Council shall consist of:

- a) the General Assembly;
- b) the Executive Committee.

TITLE VII: The General Assembly

Article 17

The General Assembly shall be the highest authority of CODESRIA:

- a) It shall be composed of such members as defined in TITLE IV of this Charter;
- b) It shall meet every three years;
- c) The quorum for the General Assembly meeting shall be one-third of full members;
- d) An extra-ordinary session of the General Assembly shall be convened on the request of one-third of full members or two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee;
- e) Proxy voting shall be allowed. Members shall be limited to holding one proxy only.

Article 17A

(1) Participation in the General Assembly shall be open to an individual or institution that

- (a) is a member in good standing; and
- (b) has been such member for at least three months before the General Assembly.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) an individual or institution that is not a fully-paid up member but who is participating in a concurrent scientific conference organized by

CODESRIA may participate in discussions at the General Assembly but shall not have the right to vote on any matter that requires the decision of the General Assembly.

Article 17B

- (1) Only full institutional and individual members shall have the right to vote in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Charter.

TITLE VIII

Article 18

The Executive Committee shall be composed of 10 elected members, including the Executive Secretary as an ex-officio member without the right to vote.

Article 18A

A person qualifies to be a member of the Executive Committee if that person

- (a) is a member in good standing;
- (b) has a record of continued engagement in intellectual production or activity;
- (c) has integrity and standing within the scientific community to which he/she belongs;
- (d) is familiar with and shares the vision of CODESRIA; and
- (e) has attended at least one general assembly.

Article 19

The elections of the Executive Committee shall be conducted by an Electoral Panel according to the procedures specified in the CODESRIA bye-laws.

Article 20

Functions

- a. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the realization of CODESRIA's objectives and shall be accountable to the General Assembly;
- b. The affairs of CODESRIA shall, in between the meetings of the General Assembly, be supervised by the Executive Committee;
- c. The Executive Committee shall create international posts and appoint persons to them;
- d. The Executive Committee shall approve CODESRIA's annual budget and programme of activities;
- e. The Executive Committee shall have unrestricted access to all the records of accounts and activities of CODESRIA;
- f. The Executive Committee shall delegate powers to the Executive Secretary for the day-to-day management of CODESRIA;
- g. The Executive Committee shall establish a Scientific Committee and shall appoint its members;
- h. The Executive Committee shall ensure gender, generational, sub-regional, linguistic, and disciplinary balance in the activities of CODESRIA.

Article 21

Meetings

- a) The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year. In between meetings, the Committee may take decisions by correspondence.

TITLE IX: The Executive Secretariat

Article 22

Composition

The Executive Secretariat shall consist of the following officers:

- a) The Executive Secretary;
- b) The Deputy Executive Secretary / Secretaries;
- c) Any other officer as may be appointed by the Executive Committee in accordance with Article 20c of this Charter.

Article 23

The Executive Secretary shall report to the Executive Committee.

Article 24

The Executive Secretary

- a) The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for an initial period of four years renewable only once;
- b) The Executive Secretary shall, under the authority of the Executive Committee, lead the Secretariat in implementing the scientific programme of the Council, co-ordinate and mobilize members in undertaking the activities of the Council, carry out relations with other organizations in the interest of the Council as stipulated in the Charter, and recruit staff locally for the effective implementation of the Council's work programme;
- c) The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Council;
- d) The Executive Secretary shall sign all contracts in the name of the Council;
- e) The Executive Secretary shall be the Secretary to the General Assembly, the Executive Committee, and the Scientific Committee;
- f) The Executive Secretary shall ensure gender, generational, sub-regional, linguistic, and disciplinary balance in the activities of CODESRIA.

Article 25

Deputy Executive Secretaries

- a) The Executive Committee shall appoint one or more Deputy Executive Secretaries for an initial period of three years renewable only once;
- b) The Deputy/Deputies shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary in carrying out their duties;
- c) In the absence of the Executive Secretary, the latter shall designate a Deputy to act on his or her behalf;
- d) In the event of a prolonged unauthorised absence of the Executive Secretary, the President of CODESRIA shall designate the Deputy to act as the Executive Secretary pending the next meeting of the Committee.

TITLE X : The Scientific Committee

Article 26

- a) There shall be a Scientific Committee of 12 members appointed by the Executive Committee;

- b) Members of the Scientific Committee shall serve for a period of two years renewable only once;
- c) Members of the Scientific Committee shall not be serving members of any other committees of CODESRIA. Where a member of the Scientific Committee is designated and accepts to serve on any other committee of CODESRIA, he or she shall cease to be a member of the Scientific Committee;
- d) Members of the Scientific Committee shall elect one of their own as Chair and another as Vice-Chair;
- e) In appointing members of the Scientific Committee, consideration shall be given by the Executive Committee to the gender, generational, sub-regional linguistic, and disciplinary, diversity of the African social science community;
- f) The Executive Secretary shall serve as the Secretary to the Scientific Committee.

TITLE XI: Finances

Article 27

Resources for financing commitments and activities of CODESRIA shall consist of:

- a) Annual membership fees to be determined by the Executive Committee and ratified by the General Assembly;
- b) Contributions from African governments;
- c) Donations and grants from any other natural or legal persons;
- d) Revenue from CODESRIA publications and other activities.

TITLE XII: Donations

Article 28

In all cases, donations and grants shall be accepted by the Executive Committee provided the conditions are consistent with the maintenance of the integrity and independence of CODESRIA

TITLE XIII: Rules of Procedure

Article 29

Modalities for the implementation of this Charter shall be fixed by rules of procedure as established by the Executive Committee.

TITLE XIV: Amendments to the Charter

Article 30

- a. The Charter of CODESRIA may be amended at a General Assembly by a two-thirds majority vote;
 - a. Notice and text of proposed amendments to the Charter shall be sent to the President of CODESRIA at least six months prior to the date of a General Assembly;
- b. The Executive Committee may similarly propose amendments to the Charter;
- c. All proposed amendments to the Charter shall be communicated to all full members at least three months prior to the General Assembly.

TITLE XV: Dissolution

Article 31

- a. Any request proposing that CODESRIA be dissolved shall be supported by at least one-third (1/3) of full members. The request shall be sent to the Executive Committee which shall immediately communicate it to all full members;

TITLE XVI: Final and Transitional Provisions

Article 32

This Charter shall enter into force as soon as it is approved by the General Assembly.


Article 33

This Charter abrogates all previous texts contrary to its provisions.

Adopted by and during the 14th General Assembly of CODESRIA.

Dakar, 08 June 2015.

Fatima HARRAK
President of CODESRIA



Ebrima SALL
Executive Secretary



In witness: