



STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE SUSPENSION OF SECTIONS OF THE BYE-LAWS

7th SEPTEMBER 2018
DAKAR, SENEGAL

During the 14th CODESRIA General Assembly held in Dakar in 2015, and following extensive discussion of the reform agenda, the CODESRIA Executive Committee (EC) undertook to take up its responsibility under the CODESRIA Charter to develop Bye-Laws that would guide the conduct of the election of the EC at the 15th General Assembly. The EC developed the Bye-Laws and, after several iterations and discussions, adopted them at an extra-ordinary meeting in April 2017. It also appointed a five member Electoral Panel whose chair and members were notified of their appointment by the Executive Secretary.

The CODESRIA Charter, from which the Bye-Laws derive, provides that only CODESRIA members in good standing can participate in the election of the EC. In December 2017, the Executive Secretary notified the EC that there was a challenge with respect to the operationalization of some provisions of the Bye-Laws during the forthcoming 15th General Assembly (GA) because the Council had only 18 individual and institutional members in good standing. The EC therefore waived the provisions of the Bye-Laws regarding the deadlines for payment of dues and requested the Executive Secretariat to allow members to update their membership by paying up their dues for 2017 and 2018. The waiver that expired in March 2018 was meant to enable CODESRIA members to be in good standing. By March 2018, in spite of a spirited membership mobilisation process, only 50 people had paid up for 2017 and 2018.

The EC reviewed this situation and concluded that, in view of the limited number of members in good standing, the requirement to conduct an online electoral process in advance of the December 2018 GA could not be met. Other than former Presidents and Executive Secretaries of the Council, only 50 members of the community would have been eligible to participate in the electoral process.

The EC, after consulting with the Chair of the Electoral Panel and by Resolution 1/2018 adopted by the EC on 31st July 2018 suspended application of CODESRIA Bye-Laws 6, 7, 8 and 9 on Electoral Matters and has resolved that the next EC of CODESRIA shall be elected during the 15th GA that will be held in December 2018 according to the rules and procedures that were used at previous GAs. Further, only CODESRIA members in good standing with regard to a) payment of their annual membership dues and b) attendance of at least one previous General Assembly will be entitled to vote and stand for election.

The EC has mandated the Executive Secretary to communicate this resolution to CODESRIA members and share with them the Bye-Laws to solicit their written comments. We hereby wish to inform the CODESRIA community of this development. The EC Resolution and the Bye-Laws are attached to this communiqué. The same documents have been posted on CODESRIA Website www.codesria.org. Comments can be sent to the EC at executive.secretary@codesria.org or executive.secretary@codesria.sn before the forthcoming 15th General Assembly.

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