

Information Bulletin on the 10th General Assembly

No. 4, 2002

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Editorial Note:

This Information Bulletin is an innovation which has been adopted by CODESRIA to keep all members of the African social research community informed of every aspect, and the different stages of the Council's preparation for the upcoming General Assembly scheduled for 10 – 12 December, 2002 in Kampala. In doing so, the Bulletin is also designed to serve as a mobilisation tool as the countdown begins in earnest to an event which promises to be the biggest gathering of scholars on the African continent this year and a true festival of ideas and debate. As frequently as the need arises, the CODESRIA Secretariat will issue this Information Bulletin right up to the first week of December 2002. It is hoped that you will find the Bulletin informative and useful.

Proposals Received for Paper Presentation at the 10th General Assembly:

Date: 04 October, 2002

Ref.: BSE/183/2002

In the *Information Bulletin* No. 3, 2002 which was issued by the Secretariat to update members of the research community on the preparations for the 10th General Assembly coming up in Kampala, I had indicated that as of the close of the deadline for the receipt of abstracts and panel proposals, some 400 responses had been received. Since the 31st of August, 2002, the Secretariat has been able to undertake an initial analysis of the abstracts received with a view to sharing general information on them with the members of the research community; this broad analysis is presented in the paragraphs below.

In announcing the Assembly and inviting abstracts and panel proposals from members of the social research community, the Secretariat had produced and distributed about 500 flyers to individuals and institutions on the Council's data base. These flyers were also sent out electronically to all those who were on the electronic mailing list of the Council. Participants in all research meetings and training activities undertaken by the Council also received

individual flyers announcing the Assembly. The aim behind all this was to ensure that the Assembly gets the widest possible publicity.

We are very pleased to report that as of 31 August, 2002, a total of 482 abstracts, panel proposals and full papers had been received. 50 other proposals were received after the deadline. Of the 482 proposals that were received within the deadline, 21 were made up of proposals for the constitution of independent panels. The remaining 461 were abstracts produced around the various themes listed in the announcement prepared by the Secretariat on the Assembly. 342 out of the 461 abstracts were written in English, 106 were written in French, while three were written in Portuguese. 10 fully written up papers were also received.

By all yardsticks, the response to the call for abstracts and panel proposals was clearly very enthusiastic and we at the CODESRIA Secretariat are very delighted and feel strongly encouraged at the fact that many members of the social research community are once again re-engaging themselves

with the Council. *I wish to assure all members of the research community who took the time to prepare and send in abstracts that the Council will make full use of the indications which the abstracts provide not only on the directions of research and research interest in the African social research community but also the persons interested in particular issues and subjects.*

As indicated in *Information Bulletin* No. 2, 2002, the task of assessing the abstracts and panel proposals for the Assembly was entrusted exclusively to the members of the CODESRIA Scientific Committee. Each abstract was read by two members of the Committee while the panel proposals were examined by the Chair of the Committee himself. Furthermore, each abstract and panel proposal was sent out without the names of their authors so as to further enhance the integrity of the peer review process. The results of the evaluation are beginning to flow in to the Secretariat and as they are being processed, those whose proposals were recommended are being notified by the Secretariat. A full report on the selection process is being prepared by the Chair of the Scientific Committee and will be presented to the President of the Executive Committee for onward transmission. At this point, the Secretariat is able to confirm that out of the 482 abstracts, panel proposals, and full papers received, the Council will be able to accommodate up to 120 paper givers. This comes to about 25 per cent of all abstracts received, suggesting that that the selection process will be a highly competitive one.

I would like to take this opportunity to call, in advance, on all those whose proposals are recommended by the Scientific Committee to please take the necessary steps, as soon as they are notified, to proceed to produce their full papers and to send these to the Secretariat not later than **15 November 2002**. This is the absolute deadline by which all papers must be received. We will be counting strongly on the cooperation of all paper writers in this regard.

Adebayo Olukoshi,
Executive Secretary.

The CODESRIA Web Site:

For those members of the research community who may not yet be aware, CODESRIA has a new web site which we would like to encourage you visit as up-to-date information on the different activities of the Council, including the upcoming General Assembly, are posted on the site. The web site address is: www.codesria.org