

# CODESRIA CHARTER 2005

## **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 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**

*Full individual membership shall be open to African scholars involved in the social sciences*

**Article 8**

*Full institutional membership shall be open to such African universities and not-for-profit organisations as are engaged in social science research, training and/or publishing*

**Article 9**

*Associate individual membership shall be open to non-African scholars involved in the social sciences*

**Article 10**

*Associate institutional membership shall be open to such non-African **university and not-for-profit** organizations as are engaged in social science research, training and/or publishing*

**Article 11**

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

**Article 12**

*Full and Associate members shall be expected to accept the Charter, participate actively in the activities of **CODESRIA**, and pay the requisite membership fees*

**Article 13**

*Only full individual and institutional members shall have the right to vote in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Charter. Each shall have one vote.*

**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.

## **TITLE VIII: The Executive Committee**

### **Article 18**

#### *Composition*

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 19**

#### *Election*

- a) Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly, representing equally the following regions:
  - *Central Africa;*
  - *Eastern Africa;*
  - *North Africa;*
  - *Southern Africa;*
  - *West Africa.*
- b) Each region *shall propose* three candidates to the General Assembly which retains two as full members of the Executive Committee. The third candidate will have the status of a substitute member;
- c) Not more than one elected member of the Executive Committee shall come from the same country;
- d) *In electing members of the Executive Committee, adequate attention shall be paid to **balanced gender, generational, sub-regional, linguistic, and disciplinary representation;***
- e) Only full members shall be eligible for election to the **Executive** Committee;

- f) *The General Assembly shall elect from among members of the Executive Committee a President and a Vice-President for **CODESRIA** and its governing organs;*
- g) *Members of the Executive Committee shall have a tenure of three years and shall be eligible for re-election only once.*

## **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.*
- b) *In the event that a member is absent from two consecutive meetings without good reason, that member shall cease to belong to the Executive Committee;*
- c) *Upon the creation of a vacancy in the foregoing manner, the Executive Committee shall bring in as full member, the substitute member coming from the same region.*

## **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-third's majority vote;*
- b) 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;*
- c) The Executive Committee may similarly propose amendments to the Charter;*
- d) 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;*
- b) *An extra-ordinary session of the General Assembly shall be convened to this effect within six months at least, upon receipt of the request ;*
- c) *The dissolution of CODESRIA shall be decided at a General Assembly on a two-third's majority subject to any legal implications regarding properties and funds;*
- d) *The General Assembly dissolving CODESRIA shall also decide on the modalities for the distribution of CODESRIA's documents, archives and other assets;*
- e) *The General Assembly dissolving CODESRIA shall also identify African institutions that could inherit **CODESRIA's** assets.*

## **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 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of CODESRIA.

Maputo, 10 December, 2005

Zenebaworke Tadesse,  
Olukoshi,  
President  
Secretary.

Adebayo  
  
Executive



In witness: