

Imagining and Creating the CODESRIA of Tomorrow is a Preoccupation for each one of us

Mr. Chairman,

Dear colleagues,

As we come to the end of the 14th GA of CODESRIA, let me thank you for what, together, we have been able to accomplish this week.

What we have accomplished goes beyond the charter amendments and the election of a new Executive Committee; a New President and Vice President. Anyone who has followed the rich discussions of the scientific conference, around the keynote speeches and the round tables, has now seen the convening power of CODESRIA on issues affecting Africa's future and also the importance of the contribution of the human and social science research in the imagination of this future.

Imagining and creating the CODESRIA of tomorrow is also a preoccupation for each one of us.

As I mentioned in my report to this venerable assembly, we are all aware of the current financial challenges. This means that we must strive for diversification, sustainability and independence of our funding and be more pro-active in developing an Endowment Fund.

We must also work for the completion of the review process and implementation of the proposed reforms of our organization

We are called upon to configure a decentralization scheme for our programmes and activities as a way of reaching out to young African scholars and emerging intellectuals and activating relations with our institutional members.

Fatima Harrak
Former President
CODESRIA

Driven by CODESRIA's goals and needs, serious thinking must be given to integrating ICTs for the efficient management of both the administrative and scientific pursuits of the Council.

The Intellectual Agenda of CODESRIA

While this agenda is globally engaged we must be attentive that it remains locally relevant and focused around themes of priority, not only to our constituency but, to our continent.

While cultivating collaboration between scholars of Africa and those of the global south and between African researchers and their peers in the rest of the world, we must see to it that the knowledge produced by this Council continues to be context specific and geared towards African needs as formulated by the continent's intellectuals.

It is the enthusiastic engagement of these intellectuals, and the commitment of the African human and social science community of scholars at large, manifested in the presence of so many of you here today (and the so many others who could not come), that give meaning and value to the work of CODESRIA. Thank you, dear members of CODESRIA, for your loyalty and unfailing engagement.

May I in the name of all of you and in the name of the outgoing EC express our gratitude to our funders and partners, some of whom have been backing us and valuing our work from the very beginning; we are grateful for their trust and their sponsorship.

Together we can fashion a dynamic and resourceful CODESRIA for the twenty-first century!

Lastly, let me express my gratitude to the outgoing Executive Committee for the friendship we have built and the excellent work we have been able to realize during the past three years and half.

Let me, in the same spirit, congratulate and welcome the incoming President, Vice President and Executive Committee. In the name of the outgoing Executive Committee, I extend to you our best wishes for a very successful mandate.

May I also take up this opportunity to reiterate, in your name, our gratitude to the Government and People of Senegal for their solicitude, hospitality and multifarious contribution to the success of this General Assembly.

My appreciation goes to all those, near and far, who in one way or another have made this meeting a success.

But my – and our – very special thanks go to the Executive Secretary, our colleague Ebrima Sall, the Senior Management and all the Staff of CODESRIA who have worked like one hand and were a major cause of the success of the Assembly.

God bless you all, wa - salamu 'alaykum.