

## CODESRIA Ranks High Again among Global Think Tanks

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Early in 2011, the Global Think Tank Index, an annual rating of the leading public policy research organisations in the world conducted by the Think Tank and Civil Societies Program (International Relations Program) of the University of Pennsylvania (USA) released its ranking for the Year 2010, with CODESRIA coming 9th in sub-Saharan Africa. A total of 548 organisations from Africa – and 6,480 across the globe – were listed in the ranking (pp. 24 & 25).

According to the report, a panel of over 250 experts from around the world, across the political spectrum and from every discipline and sector, were assembled to help nominate and select public policy research centres of excellence that they felt should be recognized for producing ‘rigorous and relevant research, publications and programs in one or more substantive areas of research’.

More interestingly, barely a month after its 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Rabat, Morocco, the news came again on January 19, 2012 that CODESRIA has ranked higher in 2011 to the 4th position (p.44) out of a total of 550 from Africa and 6,545 worldwide (pp. 31-32). CODESRIA also ranked among the top 30 ‘international development’ think tanks in the world (p.50); and finally, featuring among the think tanks with the best use of the Internet or social media to engage the public (p.61).

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The objectivity and value of this kind of ranking is, as we know, debatable; but it still gives an idea of how CODESRIA is perceived, particularly with regard to the policy relevance of our work. As we can all see, the visibility of the Council has continued to increase in recent times and of course, this

implies additional challenges.

We should always remember that CODESRIA was not built in one day, nor was it built by a small number of people working in a small secretariat in Dakar. It took the African social science community, and the many friends of Africa located in various parts of the world, many years of work to bring CODESRIA to where it is today. We would therefore like to express our sincere thanks to all of you, and congratulate you and ourselves. We know how much work there still is, and how much improvement is needed. We also know that the best is yet to come, if we can reaffirm our commitment to Africa and CODESRIA, and redouble our efforts to take the social sciences in Africa to higher levels of quality, relevance and engagement with the local, regional and global issues that our continent and people are confronted with.

We should therefore take this new ranking as an encouragement to keep excellence in all spheres as the only objective to pursue.