

Solidarity Messages

It is with immense joy and gratitude for having been a part of the CODESRIA fraternity that I congratulate and salute everyone that has in one way or the other contributed to the making of the only truly Pan-African and credible social science research and research capacity-building institution in the world.

My first direct contact with CODESRIA was in July 1994 when I was selected to participate in its first Gender Institute. This was for me a life and career-transforming experience: a high quality and well-organized intellectual feast for budding social science and humanities scholars from across Africa, with all aspects of it conceived and delivered by Africans.

The experience of sharing ideas and social experiences with peers from more than 10 different countries across the continent was a uniquely fulfilling one. It made me to resolve to, whenever in a position to do so, work pro-actively for people-to-people interactions by African professionals, scholars, and youth as a way of countering the continuing unhealthy Euro-American orientation of most privileged Africans' external contacts.

The institute itself hugely stimulated by interest in gender issues in Africa's quest for sustainable development, triggered my subsequent engagements with a number of new research and action projects on gender, reproductive health, and sustainable development. Included amongst these pre-occupa-

tions was my membership of CODESRIA's Gender Task-Force in 1996 which resulted in policies and programmes that have helped to make the structures and activities of CODESRIA exceptionally gender-balanced. I can say without a shadow of doubt that my overall CODESRIA experience provided a great boost to my academic, and later, development action career.

It also significantly expanded my social networks and I can today proudly count among my friends, citizens of Kenya, the Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Uganda, Cameroon, South Africa, Ghana, and Democratic Republic of Congo whom I met via CODESRIA. In congratulating CODESRIA's leadership, management, and staff for attaining the milestone of 30 years of active service to Africa's social science community, I must also commend it for the generally high quality of its publications, many of which enjoy prominence within my library.

Given the dynamism of the current leadership of CODESRIA, one can only say the best is yet to come.

Congratulations!!

Babatunde A. Ahonsi, Ph.D
Senior Program Officer
The Ford Foundation
Office for West Africa
Nigeria.

The ultimate goal of Norwegian development co-operation is to reduce poverty. We are fully aware that our mission will be impossible if we do not rely on partnership. Our main partners are national authorities, civil society and the research community. It should be clear, however, that our partner in the South has the responsibility to identify the challenges of development, and find the remedies to meet them. Our experience after more than 50 years of development co-operation has taught us that local, national or regional ownership is a prerequisite for sustainability

Development requires knowledge, knowledge on what creates and hinders development. Development assistance, therefore, is not just a matter of money. It is equally a question of dialogue and co-operation, of exchange of ideas and knowledge. As a partner NORAD may contribute ideas, knowledge, experience and money, but above all we seek to assist in building an indigenous knowledge base. Academic capacity building is an important objective in Norwegian development co-operation, and one of our primary goals is to promote the development of national knowledge in the South, and to boost the developing countries' own ability to carry out research, and thus meet national teaching needs. For this purpose it is vital that researchers in developing countries gain access to international research based knowledge. And just as important that they engage in co-operation with researchers in the region to create South-South networks. We believe that problems most often are not confined to specific countries, few problems can be seen in

isolation. Regional co-operation is an effective means of solving common challenges. By joint efforts and sharing of results, researchers may contribute to regional development, as well as to development in their countries of origin.

In 30 years CODESRIA has gained important experiences in co-ordinating joint efforts in social science research in Africa. At this decisive moment in the organisation's history, we believe that CODESRIA has a great potential for promoting joint research on topics that are important for the development of the region. We are confident that you as scholars are just as concerned as us about the challenges that poverty represents, not only for African countries, but for the individual lives of Africans. As a pan-African organisation, CODESRIA has a special responsibility. This makes you an important partner for African researchers in the creation of a genuine African tradition in social science.

Happy anniversary!

Tove Strand,
Director of NORAD,
Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation
Norway

It is with profound gratitude that we convey to CODESRIA our warmest congratulations on the occasion of your 30th Anniversary celebrations. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to follow CODESRIA over the years. Since its inception in 1973, the organization has played a pivotal role in aiding researchers and creating an environment conducive to reflection on the social sciences in Africa. Today, CODESRIA has evolved into an esteemed institution of reference, research and training.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) noted with interest how CODESRIA in the midst of the upheavals experienced by the African economies in the eighties took over some research activities which hitherto were the responsibility of state funded research institutions. More than any other NGO in Africa, CODESRIA managed to maintain, motivate and develop a productive array of social science researchers. In this regard, you have contributed to strengthen the production of knowledge about Africa by Africans. The skills, expertise and organizational competences which has been acquired over time is evident in the quality of CODESRIA's works such as the referee journals, monographs, working papers and periodicals.

CODESRIA's efforts to address the eurocentric nature of postmodernism and power structure in Africa is highly commended, likewise the works on what factors in a society increase civic feelings, awareness, interest, participation and ability to sanction. CODESRIA has touched on the vital issue of environmental degradation and unsustainable use of natural resources from a social science perspective.

The efforts of the new CODESRIA leadership to promote and deepen internal transparency at all levels and improve on institutional resource management were noted with interest. Also

worth commenting are the various new initiatives taken in 2003 such as the Lusophone Africa Initiative, the African Encyclopaedia project, the Africa Review of Books, the CODESRIA Distinguished Annual Lecture Series, the revival of studies on pre-colonial and colonial African history, the textbook programme and the launching of the Journal of Higher Education in Africa.

With regards to the latter, Sida believes that a society that wishes to build or maintain a pluralistic, accountable democracy will benefit from a strong system for higher education where the research university has a central role. For example, an understanding of what form of political democracy, devolution of power and decentralization which best suits a nation can be advanced on the basis of debates and research that starts in the universities. This is primarily the responsibility of the social sciences but the humanities also have a role to play. Research in the humanities is the home to the most careful reasoning about the ethical and moral values important to a society.

Sida is proud that CODESRIA is once again back on track and gradually becoming the flagship for social science research in Africa. In our wishes for the future, we would like to see CODESRIA having an important role for strengthening independent and critical social sciences in universities on the continent. A new generation of scholars needs to engage into the societal analysis and debate. The support and platform provided by CODESRIA is crucial in this context. We wish you all the best in your efforts to lift the organization to even greater heights.

**President
Sida
Sweden**

On behalf of the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, I will like to salute the Founding Fathers of CODESRIA for their vision in establishing CODESRIA, which is arguably Africa's leading scientific research institution. Thirty years of the existence of CODESRIA have seen dramatic and qualitative improvement in interrogating political, social, economic, cultural and environmental issues and problems facing the African continent. This is because CODESRIA has been able to provide a haven for African scholars both young and old to critically and dispassionately address problems and issues confronting the continent. The findings of CODESRIA's researchers have informed policies and programmes adopted by many African governments thus impacting, even if minimally, on standards of living of the people of the continent.

We are also proud that CODESRIA has provided research grants to younger academic colleagues, which have made them not only to complete their theses on schedule but also seasoned them to become good researchers and scholars. This is the surest

way to mentor younger colleagues to face challenges of scientific research.

On this momentous occasion, we also salute all, especially the donor community, for their continued support and commitment to the cause of CODESRIA. It is our fervent hope and prayer that CODESRIA will grow from strength to strength to achieve more laurels. We believe that the next decade will be a more productive one for CODESRIA and its members.

Long Live CODESRIA !!!

Long Live Scientific Research!!!

Long Live Africa !!!

**Joseph R.A. Ayee, PhD
Professor / Dean
Faculty of Social Studies
University of Ghana**

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of CODESRIA, we need to recall the moment this crucial event in the intellectual life of Africa actually started. It was a time of great change in African peoples' march, where the national states leaders disappeared and the new colonial states were coming to be big reality supported by the imperial and new imperial forces (the financial capitalism of oil and the apartheid regimes in Southern Africa in the back drop of the a cold war at its peak. It was not by chance that the armed liberation struggles in Guinea Bissau, Angola and Mozambique were at their zenith.

African intellectuals were transcending a crucial moment of choice and commitment. The committed scholars chose to align with their peoples. A number of studies had been published on class struggle in Africa, Forum Tier Monde had been launched, and Samir Amin was moving between Dakar and Cairo and debates on the new international order were becoming more strident.

In 1973, CODESRIA became a reality in Dakar. It was poor but vigilant. It was a cultural and academic vision for the continent. A look at its publications over the years would reveal how the institution was developing itself autonomously and vigorously representing different walks of knowledge as part of a new intellection phenomenon.

Reading the list of publications and reports on symposia organised by CODESRIA will say a lot of things that I don't like to repeat but I may mention only some few remarks. I may start with the weight of funding impact on the independent agenda of CODESRIA but More than any other NGO, the Council actually insisted to express itself, especially in the first

two decades. Examples are its concern on the influence of multinational corporations and policies of structural adjustment which CODESRIA challenged vigorously. This stance can't be separated from the conceptual framework of the "political economy" as discipline and facts on the continent and in the Council at the same time.

CODESRIA might have passed through some moments of losing vision when it lost its method and internal agenda but that was not for long time. We can also speak about an imbalance in publications or topics relevant to the regions, countries languages! Some could see the dominance of economic subjects, others could see lower presence of art and literature themes at least from sociological perspective. How much of the Arab African North have been present as well as the Arabic language? I have pondered why we don't produce and disseminate some material of authentic value in Hausa, Swahili etc to keep alive the originality of our masses and their intellectuality? I have also thought that CODESRIA should think of playing the role of UNESCO for the OAU, by negotiation with the Secretariat of now AU? I mean -again- to look at the integrated role and multiplicity in character more than the bureaucratic nature of such organizations in Paris or ALECSO in Tunis or even the European Union?

In the end I hope to continue reviewing the role of the executive committee members who are responsible to see through the agenda planned and executed and being responsible in the regions they represent.

Helmi Sharawy
Arab Research Center

CODESRIA is not an ordinary institute of traditional pure research but a centre of applied research examining the problems of Africa and seeking solutions to those problems. Such an institute was needed then and is needed even more now because of the enormity and diversity of Africa's challenges that include overcoming democratic deficit, promoting constitutionalism and coping with economic crises.

Initially, CODESRIA faced many difficulties. Africans created universities in their newly independent countries but distrusted scholars. It also did not endear itself to many because of its progressive ideas. Therefore it was quite an achievement for CODESRIA to have survived those difficult early years. Of course, credit for its survival goes to the dynamism of its leadership and resolve of its scholars. Credit also goes to the political leaders in Senegal who provided CODESRIA a safe harbour.

However, in recent years, distrust of research and scholars has given way to African leaders' appreciation of research for meeting their information needs. In this new climate, CODESRIA stands at the threshold of a very exciting period. Its new challenge in the years ahead is for it to be one of Africa's own think tanks on social and economic policy.

I recall that when Namibians were struggling for their independence, one of the challenges they needed to address concurrently with the struggle for independence was to prepare Namibians to assume positions of responsibility within the

government of independent Namibia. Therefore, an accelerated process of training was started at the United Nations Institute for Namibia. I, as the Director of that Institute, soon realized that our students would benefit greatly if they spent some time at CODESRIA in Dakar. We therefore began a process of cooperation that was to yield enormous benefits for independent Namibia. I therefore thank CODESRIA for taking Namibian freedom fighters on board. Today, many of these students are scholars in their own right and are occupying important positions in the government.

During the last thirty years, CODESRIA has evolved into a research institute with impeccable credentials. Africa, too, is busy redefining itself. In this new climate, Africans must make use of CODESRIA's research for the benefit of Africa. I have certainly benefited from its research during my tenure as the Prime Minister of Namibia, as the Executive Secretary of the Global Coalition for Africa, and during the process of completing my PhD thesis. I encourage others to draw on its competencies.

We are proud that CODESRIA has grown to become a leading light in social science research. Scholars on Africa greatly value it. I salute it for the excellent work its scholars continue to do and congratulate it on its thirtieth anniversary.

Hage G. Geingob
Executive Secretary, Global Coalition for Africa

The celebration of CODESRIA's 30th Anniversary in December of this year is a celebration of 30 years of achievement, and we would like to thank the CODESRIA Executive Committee, the CODESRIA Secretariat and the entire African social science community for building and preserving this institution that is of great value to the whole world.

Setting up such a council to promote African scholarship, to enhance the capacity of Africans to make their own reading of African realities and of the world, provide a regional forum for African scholarly voices and articulating them on the global forums, was not only a visionary move on the part of the founders, but also certainly one of the great African developments of the last century. Your institution has nurtured and accompanied the further development of generations of scholars, some of whom are now holding senior positions in the best universities and intuitions in the world. It has enormously contributed to the expansion of the frontiers of social knowledge worldwide. As the Nordic Africa Institute we can testify to this. After all, in our long-standing collaboration with the community of African scholars and institutions we benefited on numerous occasions from those who were products of or affiliated to CODESRIA's activities. The award-winning books that CODESRIA has published are a testimony to the quality of the work done by CODESRIA. You have also provided African policy makers and civil society, and all the bi- and multilateral cooperation agencies seeking to collaborate with Africa with an extremely rich and diversified body of knowledge and pool of expertise to draw from.

We note with pleasure that "success" has not in anyway made the leadership of CODESRIA less keen to move on and reach higher heights. Successive executive committees and executive secretaries of the Council have demonstrated extremely high levels of commitment and creativity in fulfilling the CODESRIA

mandate, as the range and breath of your programmes and publications show. This, again, is a demonstration of the quality of the leadership, and path-breaking roles that CODESRIA is playing not only in the study of Africa and the promotion of African scholarship, but also in knowledge production and dissemination, which has gained worldwide recognition.

We are therefore personally very pleased to have been meeting and collaborating with CODESRIA researchers and its leadership in various capacities, all through these first three decades of the Council's existence. We at the Nordic Africa Institute are proud to have been able to work with CODESRIA in a number of very important areas, such as the recent seminar on Ivory Coast and the dynamics of conflict in West Africa, and for having been able to complement, if in a modest way, some of the work that you are doing through our own programmes and projects.

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of CODESRIA, we would therefore like to congratulate the African social science community, and congratulate the CODESRIA leadership and its staff for 30 years of hard work and great achievements. We look forward to many more decades of path-breaking CODESRIA work. We have great confidence in the capacity of your institution to face the challenges that lie ahead and to continue to make salient readings of the increasingly complex realities of Africa and the world. We also in our own interest look forward to building further upon the collaborative fundament established and to intensifying even more the cooperation between our two institutions and their research staff.

Best wishes,

Dr Lennart Wohlgenuth
Director

Dr Henning Melber
Research Director

The Nordic Africa Institute
Uppsala, Sweden

At the occasion of your 30th anniversary celebrations, the Pan African Association of Anthropology (PAAA) has the singular honour of congratulating CODESRIA for all its efforts in promoting research and knowledge production in the Social Sciences on the African continent.

During the last 30 years, CODESRIA has played a leading role in the training of young Africans in the Social Sciences. Through its grants, training and fellowship programmes targeting African researchers, and through the production of knowledge and the publication of books, journals and working papers, CODESRIA has offered African researchers in the social sciences possibilities of exchange and diffusion of knowledge. At this joyous occasion, the membership of the Pan African Association of Anthropology, wishes CODESRIA a long life in its mission of promoting the Social Sciences in general and Anthropology in particular.

Kindly accept, Mr Executive Secretary, our most sincere congratulations.

Best Anniversary Wishes

Happy Anniversary!

For the Pan African Association of Anthropology
Dr. Socpa Antoine
Executive Secretary

Established in 1973 during the crisis of the African universities that threatened the flourishing of non-conformist intellectual discourse, CODESRIA has over the years become an important regional research organization. Through its various grant schemes, it has succeeded in attracting some of the most promising minds in universities spread across the African continent and has enabled them to realise their full potential.

OSSREA would like to take this occasion of the 30th Anniversary to express its firmest solidarity with CODESRIA and to affirm its determination to work hand in hand with CODESRIA in our common aspirations to better serve the African research community.

With warmest regards,

Alfred G. Nhema
Executive Secretary
OSSREA
Organization for Social
Science Research
in Eastern and Southern Africa

Africa is commemorating. But what exactly is it commemorating? Not a sad event or a painful period of its history, but a major anniversary: the foundation of an institution, thirty years ago, that is contributing to the renaissance of our continent by enabling a better knowledge of it – CODESRIA. This great event, to which CRASC is proud to be invited, fills us with joy, for more than one reason. It provides us with the opportunity to represent not only Algeria, but also the whole Maghreb, and thereby helps us get out of a certain isolation from which most of our countries are suffering, and even the whole of Africa. Condemned to coping with cataclysms of all kinds, imposed by a cruel global order and a nature that is not less cruel, Africa seemed to be stuck in pain and tragedy. However, it decided to raise its head and take up all challenges. Thanks to CODESRIA, the great master of this commemorative ceremony, among others, there is Africa facing a new challenge: putting an end to this cliché of an Africa that is torn apart, carved up, and has got off to a “bad start” (to quote the famous expression of a non less famous writer), in order to impose itself as a continent of millennial diverse cultures, arts, histories and civilizations.

We must commend CODESRIA's efforts to unite all these africas that are unknown to each other, that strive to put down the cultural and religious barriers that are locking up our societies; we should also commend the Council for having turned these barriers into bridges that are making countries closer to one another. By inviting CRASC and involving it in this pleasant experience, CODESRIA is taking up not a mere challenge, but an almost impossible project: contributing to building a bridge between Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa.

CRASC is commending this initiative and would like to seize this unique opportunity to express its entire adherence to this

project of an Africa, which, from Dakar, would reach Johannesburg through Algiers, Addis Ababa and all the other capitals on the continent. This Africa would be eager to discover itself, would go in search of its other parts and stop turning its back to itself. Just like North Africans who contemplate these countries obstinately and with fascination, as if they were the Garden of Eden. Making Africa marks a U-turn, and helping the North of Africa get interested in the Southern part, which it knows nothing about. Doing the best, so that others no longer secretly keep the knowledge for themselves. Doing the best, so that talents can express themselves, so that we can help release energies, and help Africa be heard here and elsewhere. We will never thank enough CODESRIA, which has taken up this task for long. CRASC is hoping to enhance this celebration by bringing in its voice as well as a North African presence, that will contribute to making the *Africa Review of Books* a genuine forum of intellectual exchanges. This commemoration is not a trivial formality. It will certainly be a landmark in this new Millennium that is already announced by the NEPAD initiative and the shift from OAU to the African Union. Is this the sign of a new era that is opening up for our continent? It is a certainty for CODESRIA, Forum for Social Studies and CRASC. Challenges, such as the launching of the ARB, helps to build up links that they must strengthen, by making this new African review a space for intellectual and cultural communication, which will give Africa a new chance. From then on, we will certainly be able to say that “Africa has got off to a good start”.

Nouria Remaoun

**Centre Nationale de Recherche en Anthropologie Sociale
et Culturelle, CRASC Oran
Algeria**