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Fourth Meeting of the Committee
on Development Information (CODI IV)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
23 – 28 April 2005

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OF THE FOURTH MEETING
OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION
(CODI IV)

The Fourth Session of the committee on development information took place in Addis Ababa during the period 25-28 April 2005 and was preceded by workshops on the 23rd and the 24th April 2005 during which the main questions of the CODI IV agenda have been explained and reviewed. An exhibition was also mounted for CODI IV.

Opening ceremony

The outgoing Chair of CODI III, Uganda, opened the meeting. Ms Josephine Ouedraogo, deputy Executive Secretary (a.i) delivered the Speech on behalf the Executive secretary of UNECA, Dr K. Y. Amoako. Following that, Ms Aida Opoku-Mensah, Officer-In-Charge of DSID, presented the goals and objectives of CODI IV.

Election of the Bureau

The Bureau for CODI IV was elected as follows:

Chair:	Tunisia
First Vice-Chair:	South Africa
Second Vice-Chair:	Rwanda
First Rapporteur:	Ghana
Second Rapporteur :	Cameroun.

The following countries were also elected Bureau members for the Sub-Committees :

Sub-Committee on Geo-Information
Chair:	Sudan
Vice-Chair:	Swaziland
Rapporteur:	Ethiopia

Sub-Committee on Statsitics
Chair:	Tanzania
Vice-Chair:	Tunisia
Rapporteur:	Ghana

Sub-Committee on ICT/Libraries and Information Systems
Chair:	Nigeria
Vice-Chair:	Egypt
Rapporteur:	Tanzania.

After the installation of the new CODI Bureau, Mr Guellouz Ridha, on behalf Tunisia, Chairman of CODI IV, delivered, some remarks and invited the plenary Session to examine and adopt the draft Agenda and work program (See Annex 1).

Theme for CODI IV

CODI IV was held on the Theme: İnformation as an Economic Resource". The various Sessions were then devoted to examining Information as a strategic factor of production of goods and services and a tool for development and poverty reduction.

The Keynote address was presented at the First Plenary session by Mr Moubarack LO, with responses on the perspectives of ICT, Library, GeoInformation and Statistics from respectively Dr Dayo Ogunyemi; Prof Mchombu Kingo; Prof. Peter Adeniyi and Dr Buleti Nsamukula.

Many other Plenary sessions and Sub-Committes meetings were held, covering the different points of the CODI IV Agenda.

At the end of its meetings, CODI IV adopted the following resolutions and recommendations :

RESOLUTIONS

Taking into consideration the need to focus on the different aspects of the CODI mandate and deepen the examination of the specific problems related to these aspects;

Noting the absence of a specific body in the current structure of CODI dealing solely with reviewing of the work of ECA, and advising it on this area;

CODI decides to create a new Sub-Committee on "Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services for development" (CODI-KLIS), with the membership of Member States. CODI-KLIS would be in charge of:
- Proposing regional and sub-regional policy directions, in the field of Libraries and Information Services;
- Assist Member States in identifying national objectives and evaluating the progress at the national level, in the field of Libraries and Information Services.

The activities of the new Sub-Committee will become effective immediately after this CODI IV meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The CODI ;

Considering that:

- information and knowledge have emerged as new economic resources and factors of global competitiveness;
- lack of access to information flows and knowledge systems and processes is in this context, itself a source of poverty;
- the only way out of Africa's predicament is thus to, urgently, achieve the goal of becoming a key player in the Information Society;

Fully aware that the global economy's transition to an information- and knowledge-based economy offers many opportunities to African countries which could enter this "new economy" by developing competitive advantages based on their history and on the substantive conditions with which they are familiar;

Noting that:

- the adoption of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) in 1996 offers Africa the necessary Framework to organise its path towards the information society;
- National Policy developments of various sectors of Information for Development, such as SDI, which have been going independently from a national overall information policy;
- the African Union and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) incorporate the development of information and ICTs as a key component in their Strategic Plan;

Considering further that:

- the Africa's development partners are becoming increasingly aware of the need to pay more attention to the development of information and ICTs in cooperation programmes, as witnessed by the inclusion of ICT's promotion as one of the 18 target areas for the eight objectives established in the Millennium Development Goals;
- the establishment of an enabling environment for the emergence of information-powered African economies presupposes the adoption of this imperative at the highest governmental levels and its specific reflection in economic policy frameworks;

Recommends:

To Members States:

- to develop, if not yet done, a National Information and Communication Infrastructures (NICI) strategy that would include all sectors of Information for Development namely SDI, Statistics and Library, and incorporate them as a full component of the national development plans and poverty reduction strategy papers;

- for countries that have already started or finalized their NICI and SDI process, to take necessary actions for their full integration;

- to transform the NICI Plan into a national Orientation Law focused on preparation of building the Information Society;

- to earmark adequate budgetary resources for the goals established in the NICI, through a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF); and to fix in this MTEF Framework a percentage of the national budget that can be targeted to the promotion of the Information society and prepare in this regard a special report, annexed to the budget, detailing clearly the national effort;

- to incorporate the *information dimension* into every new public policy document or reform;

- to give to the private sector and businesses (including the SME and SMI and the rural sector) the necessary incentives and facilities to encourage them to use information tools and make the related adjustments in their strategy and structure, in order to increase their competitiveness, domestic and global market access and opportunities of wealth creation;

- to remodel the national regulatory policies in the economic sphere in order to minimize information asymmetries in the economy and make market functioning more effective;

- to include transparency of public information as a basic rule in their Fundamental Laws;

- to continue to actively participate, in coordination with the other African Nations, in the discussions regarding the GATS and the TRIPS, with the aim to improve the African positions in this regard;

- to present each year a report-assessment on the preparation towards the Information Society that will be discussed at the Parliament and in all segments of the society;

- to set up CODI national Committees in order to monitor the CODI meetings recommendations.

To ECA:

- to continue to actively support the Members States in the design and the implementation of their NICI plans and strategies, taking into account the integrated approach for the various information components;
- to set up a CODI integrated Document including all CODI previous sessions recommendations and resolutions, and elaborate a CODI action Plan to be continuously updated;
- to set up a mechanism in order to monitor and evaluate the impact of CODI related activities;

To International Partners:

- to support the implementation by the Members States of the recommendations identified above;
- to make information and ICT promotion a key component of their development assistance to African Countries as means for poverty reduction and growth acceleration.

II. WORLD SUMMIT ON INFORMATION SOCIETY

The CODI,

Taking into consideration the recommendations of CODI III regarding the presentation, by the Bamako Bureau of a common Platform in the WSIS preparatory process;

Considering the decisions of the WSIS and the need for Africa's participation in the implementation of the Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005 recommendations;

Noting the current status of the international preparatory process of WSIS Second Phase, in which the international Community supported the African initiative of establishing the Digital Solidarity Fund and encouraged the use of existing financing mechanisms;

Further considering the interest expressed by the participants to the different CODI Sub Committees for the coming Second Phase of the WSIS Tunis 2005;

Noting the necessary involvement of the African Stakeholders (Governments, International Organisations, Civil Society and Private Sector) in the preparatory process of the Second phase of WSIS;

Invites the Member States to participate at the highest level to the Second Phase of the WSIS Tunis 2005;

Recommends:
- o that all African Stakeholders continue their active participation to the international preparatory process of the Second Phase of WSIS;
- o that the Bamako Bureau continues its coordination action in the Preparation of the Second Phase of WSIS, in conformity with its mandate;

Recommends to ECA:
- o to continue providing appropriate support to the Bamako Bureau in fulfilling its mandate;
- o to pursue its coordination efforts with other Regional UN Economic Commissions, in the Framework of WSIS;
- o to support Tunisia in its efforts to organise the Second Phase of WSIS in November 2005 and to actively contribute to its success;

Recommends that CODI undertakes appropriate measures in order to implement WSIS Second Phase decisions as well as the different aspects of the African Action Plan, in order to contribute to building the information and knowledge society.

Concluding the Fourth Session of CODI, the Chairman pointed that the present Session represents a new start for CODI showing the importance of the information issues in the various economic and social activities, becoming consequently a strategic resource for African development and emergence from poverty.

The Chairman insisted also on the vital necessity to organise an appropriate follow-up mechanism in order to measure the progress realised in the implementation of the CODI programs.

Finally the Chairman noted the important role to be played by CODI and ECA in the Second Phase of the WSIS Tunis 2005 preparatory process and invited the African community to actively participate to the Summit and its success.

Addis Ababa, April 28 , 2005