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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

African Institute for Higher Technical
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Council

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ROLE ON PROMOTIONAL POLICY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL,
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC BOARD MEMBERS

Note on Promotional Role and Responsibilities of Council,
Executive Committee and Academic Board Members

Recent missions to several African countries in all the sub-regions in connection with country membership issue have revealed a rather lamentable situation regarding familiarity with the existence of the Institute, details of participation and levels of commitment to this regional project by African Governments. Correspondence and documentation on progress towards getting the Institute off the ground as well as the several requests for Government action have not been met with the desired reactions from member States. A part of the reason for this situation and complaint of lack of information could be purely administrative bottlenecks, and a part is due to human shortcomings. Because, if there existed a way of maintaining personal contact with officials responsible for initiating action, a good deal of the difficulties would have been avoided and response by member States would have been more encouraging.

Although the Institute has not as yet established individual contacts in all member States there are some countries in which personal contact with certain senior officials has already been established. These individuals are those representing their countries/subregions in the several management bodies of the Institute. In addition to their roles and responsibilities as serving members in the Governing Council, the Executive Committee of the Council and in the Academic Board, they could, out of interest for the success of the project, take on the added responsibility of establishing liaison and contact between the Institute and their National Governments, and through the latter, with existing subregional intergovernmental organizations. In fact they are expected to assume this promotional role.

In specific terms they are being asked to:

(i) serve as point of contact and communication in all matters pertaining to relations between the Institute and participating Governments and potential members in respect of the Institute's programmes, student selection, nominations, payment of contributions, participation in meetings and all other matters requiring country action as and when these arise;

(ii) provide feedback and information periodically on the situation regarding Government action or questions relating to signature of the Constitution, payment of annual contributions and any other matters requiring Government action;

(iii) use their good offices to publicise the activities of the Institute nationally through official channels and other media as well as maintain good public relations nationally on behalf of the Institute;

(iv) exploit any situation that might arise to publicise the activities of the Institute among International bodies with which they may come in contact either in their official or in their individual capacities and seek their cooperation;

(v) encourage their Governments to intercede on behalf of the Institute with subregional groupings such as SADIC, the East and Southern Africa PTA, CILIS, ECOWAS, etc. with a view to facilitating and establishing cooperation and areas of mutual assistance;

(vi) serve in such National Committees on Affairs of the Institute as Council may decide to establish in member countries and ensure that such committees maintain an active role and a high level of interest in executing their duties.