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United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)



African Centre for Applied Research and
Training in Social Development

ESPD/ACARTSOD/2000/1

Report of

The 14th Meeting of the

Governing Board of ACARTSOD

9 - 10 February 2000
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**REPORT OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE
ACARTSOD GOVERNING BOARD HELD AT
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
9 - 10 FEBRUARY 2000**

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The 14th Meeting of the Governing Board of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD) was held in Addis Ababa during the period 9-10 February 2000. The meeting is yet another layer in revitalization process of the Centre, which started in 1998 with the appointment of the new Deputy Executive Director. This session of the Board meeting was held after a lapse of about six years.

B. ATTENDANCE

2. As per the composition of the last serving Board, the meeting was attended by the representatives of the following member States: (See Annex I)

North Africa	-	Egypt; Morocco
Central Africa	-	Congo; Cameroon
West Africa	-	Senegal; Ghana
East Africa	-	Ethiopia; Sudan
Southern Africa	-	Lesotho; Zimbabwe
Libya attended as an Observer		

C. AGENDA

3. The draft Agenda presented by ACARTSOD Secretariat for the meeting was adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work
3. Review of the Minutes of the 13th Governing Board Meeting
4. Review of the Report of the Consultative Meeting on ACARTSOD
5. Activity Report of the Deputy Executive Director
6. Work Programme and Budget for the Biennium 2000-2001
7. Rationalization and Revitalization of ACARTSOD and the merger issue with IDEP
8. Administrative Issues - Recruitment of Staff
9. Review of the existing ACARTSOD Governing Board Membership
10. Any Other Business
11. Date and Venue of the 15th Meeting of the Governing Board
12. Adoption of the Report of the 14th Governing Board Meeting
13. Closing of the Meeting

D. ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Opening of the Meeting (*Agenda Item 1*)

4. The meeting was formally opened by Prof. A.A.G. Ali, Chief of the Economic and Social Policy Division (ESPD) of ECA, on behalf of Mr K.Y. Amoako, UN Under Secretary General, ECA Executive Secretary and Chairman of ACARTSOD Governing Board.

5. In a message read on his behalf, the Executive Secretary thanked the Members of the Board for attending the long overdue meeting and apologized for his inability to chair the meeting himself because of his travel to Bangkok to attend UNCTAD X.

6. After giving a brief background on the history, objectives and operations of the Centre since its inception, he noted that the operations of the institution had to cease as a result of financial constraints. Within the context of ECA's reform process, however, the business of activating ACARTSOD started in 1997 and by October 1998 a substantive Deputy Executive Director was appointed. Despite the legislative vacuum created as a result of the Centre's inactivity over the years, ECA opted to call this Board meeting as a second step in the reactivation process.

7. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress so far made by the new Deputy Executive Director and to assess the Centre's present status in the light of Resolution 827(XXXII) of the twenty-third meeting of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning on "Rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions. Within the context of the ongoing revitalization process it was the opinion of the Executive Secretary that the present "revived" Board has the responsibility to assist the Centre's management with expert and pragmatic guidance needed for its reorientation.

8. The OAU Representative, Mr Atef W. Ghabrial, Chief of Science and Technology, also addressed the Board. He welcomed the Board Members on behalf of the Secretary General of OAU and stressed that the meeting was quite timely at this stage of the Centre's revitalization process, in view of the current social problems in Africa in the new millennium when the world is moving so fast in the area of social development and information technology. He appealed for the support and cooperation of member countries in helping the Centre to achieve its objective. He assured the session of the full support of the OAU for ACARTSOD.

Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work (*Agenda Item 2*)

9. The Agenda and Programme of Work were adopted as presented, with a slight modification that the session's deliberations should end in the afternoon of February 9, and the session for the adoption of the report of the meeting be advanced to the morning of the following day (10 a.m. on February 10, 2000).

Review of the Report of the 13th Governing Board
(Agenda Item 3)

10. The Chairman explained that Document (ACA/GB/XIV/WP.1) was provided as a reference document to be noted by the Board. The document was to establish a link with the historical work undertaken by the Board six years ago. The Board took note of the document for appropriate perusal.

Review of the Report of the Consultative Meeting on ACARTSOD
(Agenda Item 4)

11. The Chairman explained that Document (ACA/GB/XIV/WP.2) was also made available as reference document to be noted by the Board for the same purpose as document (ACA/GB/XIV/WP.1). The Board took note of the document for appropriate perusal.

Activity Report of the Deputy Executive Director
(Agenda Item 5)

12. Before presenting the Activity Report of the Centre, the Deputy Executive Director took the opportunity to welcome Members to the 14th Meeting of the Board and expressed his appreciation and thanks for the positive response of Board Members to attend the meeting.

13. The Deputy Executive Director of ACARTSOD presented a summary of his Activity Report on the Centre as contained in Document (ACA/GB/XIV/WP.3) which had earlier been distributed to Members of the Board. The main activities undertaken during the period under review were as follows:

- (a) Sensitizing Member States about the reactivation of the Centre through their respective diplomatic representations in Libya, and making contacts with countries not represented in Libya through communication and personal contacts;
- (b) Renewing contacts with various institutions, scholars and research associates of the Centre;
- © Forging partnership with the UN system and its Specialized Agencies based in Libya;
- (d) Carrying out major renovation on the ACARTSOD headquarters premises;
- (e) Soliciting financial support from Member States and the host government for the Centre; and
- (f) Drawing up the Work Programme and Programme Budget for the consideration of the Governing Board.

14. In discussing the report on the activities of the Centre, Members of the Board enquired about a number of issues inclusive of the state of contributions, status of arrears, and plans for mobilization of resources from different sources. A proposal on making contributions on a flexible voluntary basis was endorsed and a recommendation was made to articulate this in the probable amendment to the Agreement establishing the Centre. It was also emphasized that the legal instruments of the Centre needed to be revisited in the light of changing circumstances.

Work Programme/Budget for the Biennium 2000-2001
(*Agenda Item 6*)

15. The Deputy Executive Director was invited to present the proposed Work Programme and Budget (ACA/GB/XIV/WP.4), item by item, for consideration and approval by the Governing Board. Members of the Board deliberated on the proposal at length and judged it to be largely optimistic given the early stages of the reactivation process. The Board felt that there was the need to further prioritize the Centre's activities and rationalize the costing. In view of the merger concerns expressed by the Members, a revision of the major cost items was called for, and this was subsequently presented by ACARTSOD Secretariat to the afternoon session. After discussing the items of the revised budget and amending them, the Board approved the attached Budget Table (Annex ii). The Deputy Executive Director was encouraged to optimize the activities of the Centre given the overall budget constraint.

Rationalization and Revitalization of ACARTSOD and the Merger with IDEP
(*Agenda Item 7*)

16. The meeting was briefed on Resolution 827 (XXXII) on "Rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions". ECA's background recommendations included the possibility of ACARTSOD merging with IDEP. The focal division of ECA responsible for the rationalization process reported that no major decision had, however, been taken yet on the issue. The Board, therefore, decided to take note of the fact that a decision on the merger issue will have to await the holding of a joint Governing Board meeting of the two institutions.

Administrative Issues - Recruitment of Staff
(*Agenda Item 8*)

17. The Deputy Executive Director informed the Board of his plans to fill some of the existing vacant positions as a further step in activating the Centre. This will be in addition to the staff complement of three currently working at the Centre. He mentioned the positions as - one Finance and Administrative Assistant (GS.7), Assistant Information Officer (PRO) at level GS.7, Library Assistant/Secretary at GS.5, and a Bilingual Secretary (Arabic/English) at level GS.5. The Board took note of the planned step on the understanding that provision had already been made in the approved budget and expected flow of resources.

Review of the existing Membership of the ACARTSOD Governing Board
(Agenda Item 9)

18. The Board deliberated at length on this issue against the background of the legislative vacuum created by the inactivity of the Centre. The Chairman pointed out that the proposed new composition of the membership of the Board was prepared in accordance with the latest ECA classification of the five sub-regions of Africa. The logic behind this proposal was that according to Article VIII.1.(c) of the rules and regulations governing the Centre, the Board Members should serve for a period of only two years. Both the old and new compositions, as contained in the two documents (ACA/GB/XIV/WP.5 and 6), were carefully examined. The meeting finally agreed that, given the legal loopholes which ECA was actively trying to rectify, and the arguments advanced by some Board Members against creating new members who might be completely new to ACARTSOD management procedures, the Meeting decided that the composition should remain as it is for another two years because of the revitalization process of the Centre. The Board was to be deemed as having just had its first meeting since the revitalization process started. Thus, the Board's composition would be as follows:

North Africa	-	Egypt; Morocco
Central Africa	-	Congo; Cameroon
West Africa	-	Senegal; Ghana
East Africa	-	Ethiopia; Sudan
Southern Africa	-	Lesotho; Zimbabwe

Any Other Business
(Agenda Item 10)

19. The Chairman noted that some members of the Board suggested revisiting the legal instruments of ACARTSOD in view of the fact that they were very old and needed to be revised in light with existing conditions of the continent. He noted that ECA was already doing this. In this respect the proposal that contributions of Member States could be on a voluntary basis could also be incorporated.

20. He also stressed that special effort should be made to contact African countries, members of the United Nations, which were not yet members of the Centre to accede to the Agreement, and recounted that as of now, only 27 out of the 53 Africa States were members of ACARTSOD.

21. The Deputy Executive Director informed the meeting that Nigeria, South Africa and Namibia have expressed their desire to join the membership of the Centre and contacts have also been made with Tunisia, which is the latest country to accede to the Agreement, to fulfil her financial obligations to the Centre.

Date and Venue of the 15th Meeting of the Board
(Agenda Item 11)

22. It was decided that the Board should meet a year from now and the venue would be at the premises of ACARTSOD in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The exact date of the meeting would be communicated to Board Members at a later date.

Adoption of the Report of the 14th Governing Board Meeting
(Agenda Item 12)

23. The Board adopted the Report as amended and enriched.

Closing of the Meeting
(Agenda Item 13)

24. In the closing session the Members of the Board expressed their gratitude and deep appreciation to the Host country, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, for its exceptional support for the Centre all through its existence.

25. Finally, the Chairman thanked the Board Members on behalf of the ECA Executive Secretary, Mr Kingsley Y. Amoako, and the Secretary General of OAU, Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, for their active participation and contributions to the Meeting. The OAU and ECA fully support the activities of ACARTSOD.

Addis Ababa
February 10, 2000

Annex i

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**THE 14TH MEETING OF THE ACARTSOD GOVERNING BOARD
HELD AT THE UN CONFERENCE CENTRE
IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
9 - 10 FEBRUARY 2000**

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Ministry of Labour
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Mr Ahmed Laaziz
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SENEGAL

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**AFRICAN CENTRE FOR APPLIED RESEARCH AND TRAINING
IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (ACARTSOD)**

**BUDGET TABLE APPROVED BY THE
14TH GOVERNING BOARD OF ACARTSOD**

APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME/BUDGET FOR 2000-2001

**Analysis of Overall Costs
(In United States Dollars)**

Main Object of Expenditure	Estimated Requirements		
	Budget 2000	Budget 2001	Total Budget 2000-2001
010 Established Posts	217,223.00	265,227.00	482,450.00
011 Research/Fellowship	5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
020 Interpreters/Temp. Assistance	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00
040 Consultants	11,000.00	14,000.00	25,000.00
100 Common Staff Costs	63,000.00	63,000.00	126,000.00
212 Official Travel - Gov. Board	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00
240 Travel on Official Missions	11,000.00	13,000.00	24,000.00
310 Travel of Participants	5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
340 External Printing	6,000.00	6,000.00	12,000.00
430 Maintenance of Equipment	5,000.00	7,000.00	12,000.00
440 Communications	11,500.00	11,500.00	23,000.00
450 Hospitality	5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
500 Supplies and Material	15,000.00	15,000.00	30,000.00
Sub-Total	374,723.00	429,727.00	804,450.00
10% Contingency	37,472.30	42,972.70	80,445.00
Grand Total	412,195.30	472,699.70	884,895.00