

Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour  
la Recherche et le Développement  
Agricoles



West and Central African Council for  
Agricultural Research and Development

# **Resolutions, Declarations and Motions of the 8th ordinary General Assembly of CORAF/WECARD**

*Yaoundé – Cameroon  
June 12 – 13, 2008*

June 2008

The 8<sup>th</sup> ordinary General Assembly (G.A) of CORAF/WECARD took place from June 9 to 13, 2008 at Mont Fébé Hotel in Yaoundé, Cameroon with Dr Joël BEASSEM, Coordinator of the regional program for food security of *Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale* (CEEAC), presiding.

The attendance list of members and representatives of country members to the Assembly is in Annex 1.

The following proposed agenda presented by the Chairman of the Session was adopted without amendment.

- Adoption of the Governing Board Report
- Adoption of the 2006-2008 activity Report
- Adoption of the revised Statutes
- Renewal of Governing Board members
- Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- Choice of the venue of the 9<sup>th</sup> G.A.

At the end of deliberations, participants at the 8th General Assembly of CORAF/WECARD took seven (7) resolutions, registered two declarations from the Scientific Partners and Development Partners, and adopted five (5) motions.

Thirteen National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) out of the 21 members were represented in this Ordinary General Assembly. Following the attainment of quorum as specified in the statutes the Assembly held its normal deliberations. .

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### ***Resolution 1: Adoption of the report of the Governing Board***

Following the presentation of the report of the Governing Board by its Chairman and the responses to the questions raised by the participants, the General Assembly commended itself for the progress achieved in the governance of CORAF. It thereafter adopted the report.

### ***Resolution 2: Adoption of the activity report for the period May 2006 to May 2008***

Following the presentation of the activity report by the Executive Director and the responses to the questions raised by participants, the General Assembly was satisfied with the dynamic progress CORAF was making. The Assembly was particularly pleased with revised vision; the increased involvement of the national agricultural research systems; the diversification of financial partnerships; the productive engagement with the Regional Economic Communities; and the transparency in the financial management. The General Assembly unanimously adopted the report.

### ***Resolution 3: Request for membership of Liberia***

The chairman of the Governing Board informed the General Assembly of the letter introduced by the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) of Liberia requesting the membership of Liberia. The General Assembly was satisfied with the request from Liberia, noting the country's positive evolution after a long armed conflict. The GA took note of this issue and thereafter mandated the Governing Board and Executive Secretariat to immediately undertake the necessary steps for formalizing membership of Liberia.

#### ***Resolution 4: Adoption of the revised Statutes***

- Considering the necessity to adapt the Statutes of CORAF/WECARD to the revised 2006-2016 Strategic Plan adopted by the extra-ordinary General Assembly of CORAF/WECARD held May 2007 in Abidjan; and
- Considering the necessity to adapt the Statutes of CORAF/WECARD to the 2008-2013 Operational Plan, especially with respect to the new organizational chart adopted by the extra-ordinary General Assembly held May 2007 in Abidjan;

After considering the draft revised Statutes which were submitted by the Governing Board, the General Assembly unanimously adopted them during its session held on June 12, 2008. However, it recommended that the Executive Director should make all necessary arrangements to incorporate the proposed corrections and amendments and have the final text laid out by a specialized legal expert. The latter should also ensure coherence and harmonization of the French and English versions of the Statutes.

#### ***Resolution 5: Renewal of Governing Board Members***

- Considering resolution N°4, on the adoption of the revised Statutes by the extraordinary session of the G.A.
- Considering Article 12 sub-section (a) of the Statutes adopted on June 12, 2008 in Yaoundé, Cameroon and which focuses on the revised composition of the Governing Board;
- Considering Article 12 sub-section (b) of the Statutes adopted on June 12, 2008 in Yaoundé, Cameroon and which focuses on the mandate of the Governing Board members
  - ❖ The mandates of the following members were renewed:
    - Dr Bino Teme, (Director General IER, Mali)
    - Dr Namkoserena Salomon (Director General ICRA, Central Africa Republic)
    - Mrs. Atangana Elisabeth, Chairperson of PROPAC, Cameroon (Representative of Farmers' organisations)
  - ❖ The cooptation of Dr Yo Tiemoko, DG of CNRA, Côte d'Ivoire as member by the Governing Board, was approved.
  - ❖ The following members were newly elected to the Board:

##### *Representative of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS)*

- Dr Zok Simon (DG IRAD, Cameroon)
- Pr. Abubakar B. Yusuf. (Executive Secretary, ARCN, Nigeria)
- Dr Macoumba Diouf (DG ISRA, Senegal)

##### *Representative of Private Sector*

- Mrs. ZOUNDI Simone, PDG of SODEPAL

*Representative of NGOs*

- Mrs NEHOUDAMADJI NAILAR Clarisse, Secretary General of *Station Tchadienne des Opérateurs du Secteur Agroalimentaire*

*Representative of Central Africa Regional Economic Communities (RECS)*

- Mr. Isaias Angué OBAMA, Director of Agriculture, *Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC)*.

After consultation between CEMAC and CEEAC, the representation of Central Africa RECs in the Governing Board alternative between the two RECs (CEMAC and CEEAC). For this first 2 years mandate, the RECs have designated CEMAC to represent them within this body.

*Representative of Scientific Partners*

- The Scientific Partners (the CGIAR and ARIs), after due deliberation agreed to formally designate their representative to the Board by the end of June 2008. .

*Representative of Development Partners*

- Dr Christer Hermansson, European Commission, Brussels- Belgium.

*Representative of West Africa Regional Economic Communities*

- This representative is expected to be designated in the nearest future.

**Resolution 6: Election of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

In accordance with the Statutes and as stated in article 14, sub-section (a), bearing on the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Board, the General Assembly approved the following proposition made by the Governing Board:

- Dr ZOK Simon, Chairman of the Governing Board
- Prof. ABUBAKA Yusuf, Vice-Chairman.

**Resolution 7: Choice of host country for the 9th G.A. in 2010**

The 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly unanimously approved the proposal of the Republic of Benin to host the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CORAF/WECARD G.A.

**DECLARATIONS**

At the end of the 8th G.A. Meeting, the Development Partners and the Scientific and Technical Partners made the following statements:

***Statement by Development Partners***

Development Partners:

- Express their great satisfaction on the improvement and the progress made by CORAF/WECARD during the last two years especially in its management and in the transparency of its financial management.
- Recognized the governance organs of CORAF/WECARD and commit themselves to lean on these organs for the monitoring of the implementation of programs.
- Drew the attention of CORAF/WECARD on the necessity to undertake appropriate organizational changes in order to increase its management capacity which is essential for the implementation of the operational Plan.

- Encouraged CORAF/WECARD to be involved in the organization of national round tables for a better ownership of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CADPP) and much more coherence in its implementation.
- Reiterated their commitment to maintain partnership with CORAF/WECARD

### **Declaration of Scientific and Technical Partners**

Scientific and Technical Partners:

- Expressed their satisfaction for the dynamic progress CORAF/WECARD initiated during the last two years through a participative approach; they commended the high level involvement of regional economic communities; good governance and diversity of technical and development Partners.
- Congratulated CORAF/WECARD for opening up its Governing Board to all stakeholders and thanked it for the place reserved to them within this body.
- Recommend CORAF/WECARD to make all necessary arrangements for a better management of its growth by strategically analysing risks, strengthening and increasing partnership with existing initiatives in the sub-region, especially with universities and or faculties of agricultures.
- Encouraged CORAF/WECARD to redouble its efforts with respect to strengthening NARS, considering especially ways and means that could assist them mobilize additional resources.
- Renewed their commitment to continue their cooperation with CORAF/WECARD and its stakeholders for the implementation of its Operational Plan.

### **MOTIONS**

#### **1. Motion of congratulations to the immediate past Governing Board members**

- Considering the progress achieved by the Institution during the last two years, especially the increase of its visibility at the sub-regional and international level;
- Considering the strengthening and diversification of partnerships, especially the Development Partners,

Participants at the first West and Central Africa Agricultural Science Week and CORAF/WECARD 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly expressed sincere gratitude to the following:

- Prof. OWUSU-BENNOAH Emmanuel – out-going Board Chairman,
- Dr BANI Grégoire - out-going Board Vice Chairman,
- Mrs D'ALMEIDA Gisèle - out-going Board member.

The Assembly congratulated them for their meritorious service, and thanked them for their sacrifices and efforts made during their mandate tenure.

### ***Motion of thanks to scientific and technical Partners and Development Partners***

- Considering the results achieved by CORAF/WECARD during the last two years, especially the development of its Strategic and Operational Plans,
- Considering the level of resources mobilization for the funding of the 2008-2013 Operational Plan 2008-2013,

Participants at the first agricultural science week and 8<sup>th</sup> G.A. of CORAF/WECARD expressed gratitude to all Scientific and Development Partners for their financial and technical commitment to the implementation of the new programmes.

### ***2. Motion of thanks to Regional Economic Communities***

- Considering the formalization of the partnership with West and Central Africa Regional Economic Communities through the signing of cooperation agreements,
- Considering the political recognition that these Cooperation agreements are providing to CORAF/WECARD with regards to agricultural research and development in West and Central Africa.

Participants at the first agricultural science week and CORAF/WECARD 8th G.A. expressed their gratitude to the RECs for their contributions to the organization of the Yaoundé Meeting. The Assembly equally recognized the support of these RECs to CORAF/WECARD with respect to advocacy for resource mobilization and their commitment to support the implementation of the new programmes.

### ***3. Motion of thanks to the National Agricultural System of Cameroon***

The Chairman of CORAF/WECARD Governing Board,  
The Executive Director,  
Participants at the first science week and 8<sup>th</sup> G.A. of CORAF/WECARD,  
expressed sincere gratitude to the Director General of IRAD, Cameroon, his collaborators and the whole National Agricultural Research System of Cameroon for the perfect organization of the activities of this first science week and 8<sup>th</sup> G.A. of CORAF/WECARD in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

### ***4. Special motion to the Government and Population of Cameroon***

- Considering the commitment of the political Authorities of Cameroon and the Institute for Agricultural Research and Development (IRAD) to promote scientific cooperation in the field of agricultural research through multiform actions, especially the hosting and organization of the first science week and 8<sup>th</sup> G.A. of CORAF/WECARD,

Participants at the first science week and 8th General Assembly of CORAF/WECARD expressed sincere gratitude to:

His Excellency, **Mr Paul BIYA**, President of the Republic of Cameroon, **Mrs. Madeleine TCHUINTE**, Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation and the whole Government and the good people of Cameroon for the welcome, hospitality and assistance they rendered the Assembly during the Agricultural Science Week organized in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Done in Yaoundé on June 13, 2008

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**