

VI.1 Genesis

The hope for economic and social development was born for millions in formerly colonised countries a little more than 50 years ago. This hope is still as big for the African people as was socialism for the proletariat in Western countries. Political decision makers, technicians, elites and the civil society interiorised development and presented it to the people as the ultimate solution to their problems. The average results obtained, although contrasted, of the development of sub-Saharan Africa, calls for the re-examination of the concept of development and all its implications in the reference framework of the ECOWAS region. Is it a crisis of development or a crisis of development theories? Economists have for a long time argued, prepared strategies and policies, constructed robust abstract models and in spite of all, the results of development remain modest.

Professor Bamba N'galadjo Lambert, Commissioner in charge of macroeconomic policies in ECOWAS, has instituted a working group presided by Professor Moustapha Kasse, honorary Elder and member of the Academies for the scientific and technical preparation of this great event. It is made up of academics and researchers, development professionals and research officers of the Macroeconomic policy department, with a view to assess the Development Concept and all its implications within ECOWAS by organising a symposium for three days in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) between February and March 2010.

This working group transformed into a Scientific Committee has the responsibility to:

- Approve the ToR of the Symposium;
- Validate the scientific content of the symposium;
- Request for presentations and select articles;
- Prepare the agenda and organise the symposium;
- Manage the discussions of the symposium so that the discussions can lead to useful recommendations for decision makers and researchers;
- Process contributions and recommendations.

V1.2 Composition of the Scientific and administration committee of the Symposium

This scientific committee is composed of eminent researchers from the region and the Diaspora. It is chaired by Professor Moustapha Kasse, honorary Elder of the Faculty of Sciences and Management at UCAD, Dakar (Senegal) and is made up of the following notable personalities:

1. Professor Cadnan Atta-Mills, Advisor at the Presidency, Ghana
2. Professor John Igue, Geographer, Former Minister of Education of Benin, Expert in space, State and territorial policy issues;
3. Professor Adebayo Olukoshi, Former Director of CODESRIA and IDEP Director;
4. Professor Ebram Sall, CODESRIA Director
5. Professor Gervasio Semeo, Vice President of the Study and Research Group on International and European Cooperation (GERCIE) at the University Francois Rabelais Tours (France).

In addition, this group will comprise Professor N'galadjo Lambert Bamba, ECOWAS Commissioner for Macroeconomic policy, Dr Kalilou Sylla, his Director of Cabinet and Dr Koffi Simeon, Head of Research

and Development Division. This committee can be expanded based on need. The two colleagues of the Commissioner will coordinate the Secretariat. A web site is in the process of being created to facilitate communication.

V1.3 Thrust of the Symposium

This symposium will bring together researchers from the sub-region and the Diaspora as well as decision makers. Plenary sessions, parallel workshops as well as roundtable meetings with the specialised press will be organised in order to better engage all components of the West African Community in discussions on integration and development.

The six contributions presented in the plenary will launch the discussions which will be further developed in the workshops. Each presentation shall be followed by comments from an expert, and then open discussions with participants. The comments will come from the following sectors: academic, political, journalistic and the civil society.