

# Africa Rice Center

## RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE AFRICA RICE CENTER

27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of Council of Ministers  
Lomé, Togo  
2–3 September 2009

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The Council of Ministers of the Africa Rice Center,

During its meeting of 3 September 2009 held in Lomé, Togo, on the occasion of its 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session,

After having listened to the presentations made by the Director General of the Africa Rice Center and his main collaborators,

After having noted with satisfaction the different corporate assets of the Africa Rice Center and the huge challenges member states are faced with in the development of their rice sectors,

After having examined the recommendations of the National Experts Committee and deliberated upon the progress made in rice research and development in Africa,

Is very pleased with the quality of the annual activity reports submitted by the Africa Rice Center and the entire research activities carried out by the Center, and

Adopts the following resolutions:

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## **Resolution 1: Effective change of the institution's designation**

The Council of Ministers

- Considering the expansion of the geographic mandate of the Africa Rice Center towards East, Central and North Africa;

Agrees to remove the acronym WARDA from the Center's name and to adopt with immediate effect in all communications and official documents of the new designation **Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice)** to replace the designation **Africa Rice Center (WARDA)**;

Agrees also to the use of the acronym "AfricaRice" in the French appellation of the Center as follows "Centre du riz pour l'Afrique (AfricaRice)".

## **Resolution 2: Resource Mobilization Efforts**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the considerable efforts in advocacy in favor of African rice by the Director General, Board of Trustees and entire staff of the Africa Rice Center;
- Considering the increased confidence in the Center by donors and African States;
- Observing the remarkable results achieved in resource mobilization from bilateral and multilateral donors
- Noting the doubling of the Center's annual budget

Congratulates the Director General of the Africa Rice Center and encourages the Center to continue its efforts in this direction.

## **Resolution 3: Geographical Expansion of the Africa Rice Center**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the recent applications for membership submitted to the Africa Rice Center by several countries on our continent;

- Considering the wide dissemination and adoption on our continent of international public goods generated by the Africa Rice Center
- Considering the continental vocation of the Africa Rice Center
- Recognizing that for the African Union, rice is a strategic crop at the continental level

Acknowledges and encourages the application for membership to the Africa Rice Center by an increasing number of African countries and encourages Management to continue its advocacy to get more countries to join.

#### **Resolution 4: Payment of Member State Contributions**

The Council of Ministers,

- Noting the efforts made by the Director General of the Africa Rice Center to get member states to pay their contributions;
- Noting the significant increase in the amount of contributions recovered;

Congratulates Member States that have paid their contributions and urges those that have not yet honored their statutory obligations to do so as soon as possible.

Requests the Director General to continue his efforts to recover all arrears and to re-launch his program of visits to member countries to draw their attention to the necessity of ensuring their ownership of the Center by paying their contributions.

#### **Resolution 5: Revision of the Amounts for Member State Contributions**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering that the contributions from member states constitute a basic tool to demonstrate ownership of the Center by African states;
- Considering that the amounts contributed by member states of the Africa Rice Center have not been revised since the revision of the Constitution of the Association at the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in December 1986 in Dakar, Senegal;

- Recognizing the increasing significance of rice in the food basket of African households since 1986 as well as the significant changes in the rice sector and the entire agricultural sector of African economies,

Requests the Africa Rice Center to carry out a study on the modalities and conditions to bring the amounts contributed by member states up to date.

Requests that the Africa Rice Center takes the necessary steps so that the results of this study are presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in 2011, with a three- year delay for its effective implementation.

### **Resolution 6: Maintaining African Ownership & Establishment of a “Rice Megaprogram” as part of the CGIAR Reforms**

The Council of Ministers,

- Taking note of the ongoing reform process in the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Concurs with the establishment of a global platform for rice research and development as part of a megaprogram on rice.

Firmly commits to maintaining the African ownership of the Center as a continental inter-governmental organization, and a CGIAR Center;

Requests that the ongoing CG change initiative contributes to consolidation of the Africa Rice Center as a center of excellence for African rice sector research and development.

### **Resolution 7: Strategic partnership with research institutions**

The Council of Ministers,

- Noting with satisfaction the strengthening of the strategic partnership between the Africa Rice Center and the national agricultural research systems;
- Noting with satisfaction the excellent programmatic collaboration between the Africa Rice Center and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and

the strengthening of the partnership established between advanced research institutions of donor countries

Exhorts the Africa Rice Center to pursue its strategic partnership with the national agricultural systems and the advanced research institutions in order to bring innovative solutions to African rice challenges.

### **Resolution 8: Implementation of the Post-Master initiative**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the necessity to build African capacity in rice research and development;

Congratulates the Director General of the Africa Rice Center for the implementation of this innovative initiative and requests the continuation of the Initiative in order to contribute to the strengthening of the capacity of African States in agricultural research.

### **Resolution 9: Promotion of quality seed sector**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the persistent insufficiency of improved rice seed in Africa and the high demand for quality seed including NERICA varieties;

Encourages Africa Rice Center to continue its involvement in breeder and foundation seed production, particularly NERICA varieties, in partnership with the national agricultural research systems.

Requests the Africa Rice Center to continue to support member states in the process of harmonizing seed legislation at the regional level

## **Resolution 10: Sub-regional Rotation of the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the increasing number of the Member States of the Center and the necessity to adopt an efficient and equitable mechanism for the rotation of the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers

Considering the geographical distribution of the member States,

Decides that starting from 2011, the rotation of the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers of Africa Rice Center will be on a sub-regional basis in lieu of a rotation per country and recommends:

- The distinction of four sub-regions namely: West Africa, Central Africa, North Africa and East Africa.
- That the modalities for assuming the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers be determined during the next meeting of the National Experts Committee.
- That the Center works out the specific terms and conditions to be fulfilled to assume the Chairmanship of the Africa Rice Center Council of Ministers.

## **Resolution 11: Africa Rice Congress 2010**

The Council of Ministers,

- Recognizing the strategic importance of rice for food security in Africa and the low satisfaction of rice requirements in Africa from domestic production;
- Recognizing the ongoing programs to revamp rice production in each of the member States in order to increase domestic production;

Congratulates the Malian government and the Africa Rice Center for the practical measures taken to ensure the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Rice Congress to be held 22-26 March 2010 in Bamako.

Urges all the member states of the Africa Rice Center to take ownership of this major event.

## **Resolution 12: Maintaining AfricaRice Headquarters in M'bé**

The Council of Ministers,

Reaffirms that AfricaRice headquarters still remain in M'bé (Côte d'Ivoire), and reiterates that the return to M'bé will be considered at the appropriate time by the competent organs.

Appreciates the efforts of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to ensure the protection of the Africa Rice Center's station in M'bé

Encourages the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to continue to ensure the security of the staff and properties of the Africa Rice center in Côte d'Ivoire.

## **Resolution 13: Partnership with regional and sub-regional institutions**

The Council of Ministers,

Expresses its delight with the collaboration between the Africa Rice Center and the sub-regional institutions responsible for integration such as ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS and encourages the Africa Rice Center to further develop its collaboration with other regional economic communities in Africa.

## **Resolution 14: Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers**

The Council of Ministers,

Congratulates The Republic of The Gambia for having accepted to assume the responsibility of Chair of WARDA Council of Ministers until the next meeting of Council to be held in The Gambia in 2011.

Also congratulates Mali and Cameroon for having accepted the role of Rapporteurs.

## **Resolution 15: Ownership of National Experts Committee recommendations by political decision-makers**

The Council of Minister

- Considering that some of the Council resolutions are not always implemented at the country level;
- Considering the major challenges that the African rice value chain is confronted with;

Urges the decision-makers in the member-states to strive towards the translation of Council resolutions into policy decisions and concrete actions.

### **Motion of Congratulations to the Director General of Africa Rice Center**

Considering the remarkable work done by the Director General of the Africa Rice Center since he took office and the significant results achieved by the Center;

Considering the participation of the Director General in the High level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals at the invitation of the Secretary General of the United Nations;

Noting with satisfaction the good reputation of Africa Rice Center internationally, marked by frequent quotations of the performance of the Center's technologies in the international press and media;

The Council of Ministers,

Congratulates the Director General, Dr Papa Abdoulaye Seck, and the entire staff of the Africa Rice Center for their efforts to increase the international visibility of the Center.

## Vote of thanks to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Togo

The Council of Ministers,

Considering the significance of the means placed at the disposal of the organizers of the Council of Ministers by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Togo and his Government;

Considering the perfect organization of the 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers;

Expresses its sincere thanks to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Togo, to the Government and people of Togo for the warm and brotherly welcome extended to all participants.

Done in Lomé, 3 September 2009

The Council of Ministers