

## **Africa Rice Center (WARDA)**

**26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of Council of Ministers of the Africa Rice Center  
27 - 28 September 2007  
Abuja, Nigeria**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

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#### **Resolution 1: Congratulations to Director General of WARDA**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the efforts made by the Director General since his appointment to revamp the Center's activities
- Considering the enthusiasm and impetus generated within the Center by the New Vision of the Director General, fostering specifically Center competitiveness and capacity to address Member States' concerns and expectations,

*Warmly congratulates the Director General for his accountability and leadership.*

#### **Resolution 2: WARDA/IRRI/CIAT Programmatic Alignment in Africa**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering that WARDA, IRRI and CIAT mandates involve rice sector research and development activities
- Considering that all three Centers are supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
- Considering the meaningful results achieved by IRRI in Asia, CIAT in Latin America and WARDA in Africa,

*Welcomes the materialization of the WARDA, IRRI and CIAT programmatic alignment for a greater synergy and complementary to meet Africa's rice needs;*

*Seeks the furtherance and widening of the activities of these three centers to improve the performance of the African rice sector*

### **Resolution 3: Payment of contributions by Member States**

The Council of Ministers,

- Having noted efforts made by WARDA management to recover contributions from Member States
- Having noted the significant increase in the amounts recovered

*Congratulates the Member States that have paid up their contributions,*

*Urges those that have not yet paid to do so, and*

*Encourages the Director General to continue his program of visits to member states.*

### **Resolution 4: Resource mobilization from donors**

The Council of Ministers,

- Having noted the meaningful results in resource mobilization from bilateral and multilateral donors by WARDA

*Encourages the WARDA Board and management to continue its efforts at increasing and diversifying the Center's external funding sources*

### **Resolution 5: Expansion of WARDA's geographic mandate**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the application for membership by some African States;
- Given the large dissemination and adoption in our Continent of international public goods generated by WARDA;
- Considering the continental role of WARDA as the "Africa Rice Center"

*Accepts the countries of i) Central African Republic, ii) Congo Brazzaville, iii) Democratic Republic of Congo and iv) Uganda as Member States of the Africa Rice Center, extends its congratulations and welcomes them to the WARDA family.*

## **Resolution 6: Post-Masters Program**

The Council of Ministers,

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

*Commends the Director General of WARDA for his pioneering initiative and seeks the implementation of the program to develop African skills in scientific research.*

## **Resolution 7: Production of Quality Rice Seed**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the insufficiency of improved rice seeds in Africa and the high demand for quality seeds including those of NERICA varieties

*Urges WARDA to continue its involvement in the production of breeder and foundation rice seed in collaboration with NARS;*

*Recommends that WARDA be involved at the regional level in the establishment and harmonization of seed legislation*

## **Resolution 8: Marketing and Communications Unit**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the significance of an effective communication strategy in the funding of research
- Considering the need to increase advocacy for local rice production and consumption

*Endorses the establishment of a Marketing and Communications Unit at WARDA to support WARDA management and scientists in the search for funding and in the advocacy for African rice.*

## **Resolution 9: Reform and Alliance Processes within the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)**

The Council of Ministers,

- Takes note of the reform process underway in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

*Supports all proposals aiming to strengthen WARDA as a Center of Excellence for rice sector research and development in Africa*

### **Resolution 10: Cooperation with CTA**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the critical role of information access in all decision making processes,

*Highly appreciates the support provided by CTA to WARDA*

*Urges both institutions to further develop their cooperation and to implement a multi-annual work plan*

### **Resolution 11: Consultations with Producer Organisations**

The Council of Ministers,

- Recognizing the need to strongly associate the users of research in the activities of the Center,

*Recommends that rice producers be involved through their organisations as observers in proceedings of the WARDA National Experts Committee (NEC)*

### **Resolution 12: Proposal for a high level International Conference on African Rice Sector**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the strategic significance of rice for food security in Africa,
- Considering the low level of rice needs met from domestic production in Africa,
- Considering the relevance of current initiatives being undertaken in our individual Member States to increase domestic rice production,

*Wishes that WARDA takes all necessary steps to support the Initiative of President Boni Yayi of Benin for consultations at the level of Head of States on ways and means to promote rice farming in member countries;*

*Urges all member countries to be involved in large scale exchanges on national strategies to promote rice farming.*

**Resolution 13: Maintaining WARDA Headquarters in Côte d'Ivoire**

The Council of Ministers,

*Reaffirms that WARDA Headquarters is still at Mbe (Côte d'Ivoire), and that WARDA's return will be examined by the competent authorities at the appropriate time,*

*Appreciates efforts by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to protect the WARDA headquarters at Mbe,*

*Urges the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to continue to ensure the security of WARDA staff and its campus*

**Resolution 14: Strengthening collaboration with sub-regional and regional institutions responsible for integration**

The Council of Ministers,

*Urges WARDA to work for a greater collaboration with sub-regional and regional economic communities and institutions responsible for African integration (ECOWAS, CEMAC, UEMOA, and CEAC) and to benefit from their support.*

**Resolution 15: WARDA, A Center of Excellence of the African Union**

The Council of Ministers,

*Reiterates its commitment to take the necessary steps for WARDA, as an International Center supported by the CGIAR, to be also recognized as a Center of Excellence of the African Union*

**Resolution 16: Request by Liberia**

The Council of Ministers,

*Takes note of the request by Liberia for the cancellation of its outstanding contribution;*

*Decides that WARDA should examine the matter and offer recommendations consistent with its Articles of Incorporation to facilitate Council taking a decision on the request at the next Council of Ministers meeting in Togo.*

### **Resolution 17: Rotation of Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers**

The Council of Ministers,

Considering Article VI of the WARDA constitution on the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers;

Considering the proposal for the rotation of the Chairman and Rapporteurs adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in Niamey, Niger, on September 8, 1995;

Considering the correction made to the rotation program of Chairmanship of the Council adopted in Dakar on August 24, 2001, according to which Togo should assume the Chairmanship of the Council and host the 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session,

*Commends Togo for agreeing to assume the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers and host the 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of Council in 2009*

*Commends Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau for agreeing to serve as rapporteurs at the next meeting of Council.*

### **Vote of Thanks to His Excellency the President of Nigeria**

The Council of Ministers,

- Considering the significant means made available to organizers by His Excellency the President of Nigeria and his Government
- Considering the successful organization of the Council of Ministers meeting,

*Expresses its sincere gratitude to His Excellency the President, the Government and People of Nigeria for the warm and brotherly welcome extended to all participants.*

*Made in Abuja on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007*

*The Council of Ministers*