AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

REPORT

FORUM FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
AT THE 2011 BANK GROUP’S ANNUAL MEETINGS
JUNE 9 -10, 2011 LISBON, PORTUGAL

Questions regarding this document can be sent to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Marc Cohen</td>
<td>Officer-in-Charge</td>
<td>ORQR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Yeshiareg Dejene</td>
<td>Officer-in-Charge</td>
<td>ORQR.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mbarack Diop</td>
<td>Officer-in-Charge</td>
<td>ORQR.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Zéneb Touré</td>
<td>Principal CSOs Engagement Officer</td>
<td>ORQR.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. INTRODUCTION

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION FORUM AT THE ANNUAL MEETINGS IN LISBON ON 9 AND 10 JUNE 2011

September 2011
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1. Introduction

The African Development Bank on 9 and 10 June 2011 held a Civil Society Organization (CSO) meeting during its Annual Meetings (AM) in Lisbon. The meeting was attended by about one hundred participants, including 50 civil society organizations, selected according to sub-regional and thematic representativeness. International CSOs working in Africa also participated in the meeting.

The ADB Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2012 recommends greater collaboration between the Bank and CSOs. This decision is based on the recognition that civil society organizations in the region have considerable experience in their respective areas of intervention and can make valuable contribution to the Bank’s strategic objectives. In line with its medium-term strategy and in light of its policy of cooperation with CSOs, the Bank wants to encourage the participation of key stakeholders so as to achieve the overall goals of poverty reduction and growth, as well as improve effectiveness in the field, optimize project outcomes and obtain sustainable impact.

CSO participation in the 2011 Annual Meetings is also due to the momentum created during the Civil Society Forum organized by the Bank in 2010. The forum provided guidelines on the types and potential areas of collaboration between the ADB and CSOs. It also proposed that the partnership between the Bank and civil society organizations be strengthened for better understanding of development challenges, and that priorities be defined to guide the Bank’s work in the future.

The overall goals of the meetings were to: (i) inform and interact with CSOs on the Bank's activities and provide an opportunity for CSOs to discuss with staff members on how to strengthen cooperation between sector departments of the Bank and CSOs; (ii) consult CSOs on the Bank’s new CSO Engagement Framework that is being updated; (iii) gather CSO views and perspectives on the new policies, such as the Bank’s social and environmental safeguard policy and the new policy on disclosure and compliance, and Independent Review Mechanisms.

The meeting took place in two one-day sessions. The session of June 9 was devoted to discussions and interaction between CSOs and sector departments of the Bank grouped by Complex, namely ORVP, OIVP and OSVP. The session of June 10 centered on consultations with CSOs on the Bank’s policy documents. The two-day sessions were chaired alternately by Bank officials and civil society representatives. The programs of both meetings are attached hereto as Annex A.

2. Information and interaction day between the Bank and CSOs

2.1. Session 1 on the Program-Based Operations (PBO) Policy

The objective of this session was to introduce the new Program Based Operations (PBO) policy and gather CSO views and comments on improving it. The session was chaired by Mr. Aloysius Ordu, Vice-President, ORVP. In his statement, Mr. Aloysius Ordu spoke of recent events and ADB activities, particularly in Tunisia, Cote d’Ivoire and Guinea, to underscore the importance of the program-based operations policy for Regional Member Countries (RMC). He also stressed the
crucial role played by the banking sector and the need to implement new policies and get feedback from African CSOs.

The presentation focused on how budget support responds to crisis in Fragile States, as well as on aid effectiveness, the Bank’s leadership role in budget support, etc. Discussions centered on how to reconcile initiatives taken by the Bank and other international organizations within a given country, the role of non-governmental stakeholders in ensuring broad consultation at country level, the responsibility of governments in involving stakeholders in fiscal transparency and initiatives, the role of the Bank’s field offices in the implementation of budget support programs, etc.

2.2. Discussion, information and interaction sessions between CSOs and the various sector departments of the Bank grouped by Complex

The discussion session between the OIVP Complex, represented by the Water and Sanitation Department (OWAS) and the Energy and Climate Change Department (ONEC), and CSOs was chaired by Mrs. Milka Isinta of KUDHEIHA Association, Kenya. Discussions focused on the perceived challenges, opportunities and benefits in the water sector, and the financing of projects in ONEC, and the energy sector. Questions concerned civil society involvement in the formulation of the new Bank strategy, the Bank strategy to assist RMCs to accelerate access to water, Bank initiatives to promote water quality, coordination between the divisions responsible for energy in the Bank, the potential for cooperation between these departments and civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations (CSOs / NGOs), and areas of collaboration with CSOs.

The discussion session between OSVP Complex and CSOs was chaired by Mr. Thomas Hurley, Director of ORQR. The OSVP Complex was represented by the Governance Department (OSGE), the Social Development Department (OSHD), the Agriculture Department (OASN), and the Fragile States Unit (OSFU). The discussion points were: Evaluation mechanisms for identifying fragile States, the link between agriculture, water and the private sector, the financing of public sector projects, the issue of legal framework to guarantee women's right to land ownership in rural areas, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) of which the Bank is a stakeholder, and the processes of adopting and implementing the EITI in Liberia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Tanzania (2010) supported by the Bank, the issue of corruption and youth employment, etc.

3. CSO consultation day on new Bank policies in preparation

The day of 10 June was devoted to discussions on Bank policies in preparation.

The session on the Bank’s new CSO Engagement Framework was chaired by Mr. Gabriel Negatu, Director of East Regional (OREA) and Chairman of the ADB/CSO Committee. In his opening remarks, Mr. Negatu presented the objectives of the session, namely: to gather comments on the first draft of the Bank’s new CSO Engagement Framework, and identify avenues for greater collaboration with CSOs. He also underscored the importance of enhancing the Bank’s knowledge on CSOs and improving partnerships with CSOs. The issues raised by CSOs concerned the value
added of CSOs, the need to develop accreditation criteria for CSOs, and the lack of a structure to institutionalize relations with CSOs so as to implement the Bank’s CSO Engagement Framework.

The session on strengthening partnership with CSOs was chaired by Mr. Mamadou Goita, Executive Director of the Institute for Research and Promotion of Development Alternatives (IRPAD) and Chairman of the CSO Coalition on the ADB. The main issue raised by the CSOs was how the Bank could better involve CSOs/NGOs in the Bank operations.

The session on the Disclosure of Information Policy was chaired by Mr. Aloysius Ordu, Vice-President of ORVP. The CSOs commended the Bank for this new policy that allows for greater transparency on the Bank’s activities in RMCs. The discussion points focused on the need for the Bank to ensure that information is accessible and understandable for all citizens on the continent.

Sessions 4 and 5 were chaired by Mr. Frank Black, Director of PECOD. Session 4 focused on the Integrated Safeguards Systems and Session 5 on the Independent Review Mechanism. The CSOs showed particular interest in this session; they noted the relevance of the policy and the crucial role of consultation with CSOs and beneficiaries in the design and development of Bank projects.

4. Results obtained and lessons learned

The CSO meetings in Lisbon provided an appropriate framework for discussions and interactive dialogue between the Bank and CSOs. The results of the meetings include:

- The meetings provided an appropriate platform for consultation with CSOs/NGOs on major Bank policy documents. They allowed for interactive dialogue between the Bank and non-governmental stakeholders on policies being prepared. The civil society forum took place at a time when civil society organizations on the continent were mobilized to demand more participation and involvement in the definition of development policies in countries and institutions of the continent. Accordingly, in holding consultations with CSOs on these major policies, the Bank adopted a proactive approach, which is consistent with its new efforts towards collaboration with the civil society.

- The Bank has embarked on the process of updating its Civil Society Engagement Framework. The Concept Note was presented in Lisbon. CSOs appreciated the diagnosis made by the Bank on collaboration with civil society. CSOs expressed an interest in strengthening the partnership with the Bank. The Lisbon meeting provided agreed upon guidelines on the new CSO Engagement Framework.

- The CSO meetings were held outside the Annual Meetings (AM) site, namely the Conference Centre of Lisbon. This geographical separation made it impossible for the CSOs to participate in other activities organized during the AM and interact
with other participants. Attention was drawn to this situation by the CSOs, who requested that future CSO meetings be held at the AM site.

• Despite the innovative approach to the content and format of the CSO meetings, they were more focused on Bank activities and did not give much space for CSOs to share their experiences. Future meetings should learn lessons from this experience, and offer more opportunities for CSOs to present their experiences.

• The meeting between the President of the Bank and CSOs was a strong signal of the new partnership that the Bank wants to build with CSOs as strategic partners. The meeting, which was welcomed by all the CSOs present in Lisbon, should be institutionalized in the AMs.

5. Conclusion and recommendations

The CSO meetings on the sidelines of AM in Lisbon took place at a time when the Bank had embarked on strengthening its engagement with the civil society. They provided an excellent opportunity for redefining participatory and consensual guidelines for the Bank’s new CSO Engagement Framework.

Future CSO meetings during the AM should draw lessons from the 2011 meeting. The following recommendations are made to strengthen the Bank’s CSO engagement:

5.1. Recommendations for future CSO meetings at the AM:

- **Programming the CSO meeting during the AM**: Organize the CSO meeting on the AM site and schedule it before the official opening of the AM to allow CSOs to participate in the other activities and interact with the other participants.

- **Methodology and Format**: Review the format of the CSO meetings during the AM, and focus them on themes. The methodology should be reviewed to alternate plenary sessions with working groups.

- **Representation**: Define criteria for selecting CSOs to be invited to ensure geographical, thematic, and linguistic diversities.

5.2. Recommendations for improving partnership between the Bank and SCOs:

- Finalize the Bank’s new CSO engagement framework, and organize regional consultation meetings to disseminate it to CSOs and RMCs;

- Update the CSO/NGO database, and conduct a mapping of civil society organizations, which can guide the Bank for partnership with the civil society;
• Institutionalize consultation with CSOs in the preparation of Bank policies and programs;

• Strengthen dialogue with the civil society; institutionalize the organization of the civil society forum every two years, as was the case in 2010. As part of decentralization of the Bank, organize these forums in the resource centers;

• Develop a communications strategy between the Bank and CSOs, and establish new communication channels (newsletter for CSOs, Web page).
Annex A | Program

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
2011 ANNUAL MEETINGS, LISBON, PORTUGAL

HOTEL ALTIS, JUNE 9, 2011

AGENDA

10:30   Arrival of Participants

Session 1

11:00   Draft Policy on Program-based Operations
Chair     Mr. Aloysius Ordu, Vice President ORVP
Presenter Mr. Leonce Ndikumana, Director ORPC
11:15   Discussion

Session 2

11:45   Sector Focused Information Sharing
Chair:   CSO Representative
Presenters: OIVP Complex
ONEC: Mr. Kurt Lonsway, Division Manager, ONEC 3
OWAS: Ms Bahri Akissa, Coordinator AWF
12:15   Discussion
13:00   Lunch

Session 3

14:30   Sector-Focused Information Sharing Panel
Chair     Mr. Tom Hurley, Director ORQR
Presenters: OSVP Complex
OSHD: Ms. Agnès Soucat, Director
OSFU: Ms. Sunita Pitamber, Head of Unit
OSGE: Ms. Kate Tench, Special Economic Advisor
OSAN: Mr. Ken Johm, Division Manager
15:00   Discussion
15:30   Coffee break

Session 4

15:45   CSOs Consultation (for CSO Only)
Chair:   CSO Representative
18:15   Close
AGENDA

Session 1  Review of AfDB CSOs Engagement Framework
Chair     Mr. Gabriel Negatu, Director OREA
08:30:     Registration
09:00:     Opening Remarks, Mr. G. Negatu, Director OREA and Chair of AfDB/CSOs Committee
09:05:     Welcoming Remarks, Mr. Maurice Odiambo, Chair of AfDB/CSO Ad-hoc Committee
09:10:     Presentation on the Updated AfDB CSOs Engagement Framework
Presenter Dr. Getachew Demake, Consultant, ORQR.4
09:25:     Discussion
10:30:     Coffee /Tea Break

Session 2  Strengthening Partnerships
Chair     Mr. Mamadou Goita, Executive Director, IRPAD and Chairman of AfDB CSO Working group
10:45:     Strengthening Partnerships,
Presenter Ms. Yacine Fal, Manager, ORPF.1
11:00:     Discussion

Session 3  Integrated Safeguards Systems and Operational Safeguards
Chair     Per Eldar Sovik, Director, CRMU
11:30:     Integrated Safeguards Systems and Operational Safeguards
Presenter Mr. Mbarack Diop, Chief Safeguards and Policy Officer and OIC, ORQR.3
11:45:     ICM Results: I1 Sea and Biodiversity and Eco System Services
Presenter Mr. Mbarack Diop, Chief Safeguards and Policy Officer and OIC, ORQR.3
12:00:     Discussion
13:00:     Lunch

Session 4  Policy on Information Disclosure
Chair     Mr. Aloysius Ordu, Vice President, ORVP
Presenter Mr. Leonce Ndikumana, Director, ORPC
14:30:     Discussion
16:00:     Coffee break
Session 5  Independent Review Mechanism
Chair     Mr. Franck Black, Director PECOD
16:15:     Presentation on Independent Review Mechanism
Presenter Mr. Per Eldar Sovik, Director CRMU
16:30:     Discussion
17:45:     Closing Remarks by CSOs Representative
17:55:     Closing Remarks by AfDB Representative
18:15:     Closing
Annex B | List of Participants

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
ANNUAL MEETINGS, LISBON, PORTUGAL

LIST OF CSOS PARTICIPANTS

Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour Recherche et le Développement (AFTURD)
Cité Sprols, rue 7301 Bloc 09
2092 El Menzah 9B
1004 Tunis, Tunisia
Email: Zekri.radhia@yahoo.fr

1. Ms Espérance BINYUKI NYOTA
   Indigenous Peoples issues and gender (UEFA)
   N°3 Avenue de l'Athénée Bukavu
   Sub-Kivu RDC
   Email: espebin@gmail.com

2. Dr Fanwell BOKOSI
   African Forum on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)
   33 Arkinson Drive Hillside
   Harare, Zimbabwe
   Tel: +263 47785331/6
   Email: collins@afrodad.co.zw

3. Dr Maria Hermínia Cabral
   Fundação Gulbenkian
   Calouste Gulbenkian
   Avenida de Berna, 45A
   1067-001 Lisbon, Portugal
   Tel: +351 217823000
   Email: mhcabral@gulbenkian.pt

4. Dr Hassania CHALBI DRISSI
   African Development and Communications (FEMNET)
   No.6 Rue Ali Ibn Abi Taleb, Menzah VI,
   2037 Tunis, Tunisia
   Tel: +216 71238785 or +261 97445360
5. Ms Karin CHRISTIANSEN
Publish What You Fund
Suite 1A, 2nd Flooor, Royal London House,
22-25 Finsbury Square
London, EC2A IDX, UK
Tel: +44 2079206401
Email: karin.christiansen@publishwhatyoufund.org

6. Cristina Cruz
CIDAC - Centro de Informação e Documentação Amílcar Cabral
Rua Pinheiro Chagas, 77 - 1º Dto
1069-069 Lisbon, Portugal
Tel: +351 213172860 or +351 218288076
Email: cidac@cidac.pt

7. Dr Susana Damasceno
AidGlobal - Acção e Integração para o Desenvolvimento Global
AIDGLOBAL – ONGD
Rua Gago Coutinho nº3, 2º Esquerdo
2680-523 Camarate
Tel: +351 218946028 or + 351 212471741
Email: geral@aidglobal.org

8. Mr Mamadou Taran DIALLO
Association Guinéenne pour la Transparence (AGT)
4ème avenue, Rue KA-020,
Quartier Sandervalia, Commune de Kaloum,
BP 4477 Conakry, Guinea
Email: mtaran2@yahoo.fr

9. Mr Chad DOBSON
Bank Information Center
1100 H St.NW. #650
Washington DC, USA
Email: cdobson@bicusa.org

10. Mrs Ndéye Coumba FALL
Fondation Rurale de l’Afrique de l'Ouest (FRAO-WARF)
Sicap Liberté 1,
Villa 1284 CP 13
Dakar-Fann, Senegal
Tel: +221 338692740/+221 338650060
E-mail: warf@fraw.org; ncfall@fraw.info
11. Mr Yarba FALL
   Mer Bleue
   n° 16 Rez-de-chaussée
   BP 3117 Nouakchott, Mauritania
   Email: yarbaf@yahoo.fr

12. Ms Odile Ndoumbe FAYE
   Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD)
   Sicap Sacré-Coeur I,
   N° 8798, Dakar-Sénégal,
   BP 15367 Dakar Fann
   Email: odile.faye@afard.org; aaword@afard.org

13. João José Fernandes
   OIKOS - Cooperação e Desenvolvimento
   Rua Visconde Moreira de Rey, nº 37
   Linda-a-Pastora 2790-447 Queijas
   Lisbon, Portugal
   Tel: +351 218823630
   Email: oikos.sec@oikos.pt

14. Maria do Carmo Matos Fernandes
   Leigos Para o Desenvolvimento
   Estrada da Torre, N° 26
   1769-014 Lisboa
   Portugal
   Tel: +351 217574278
   Email: ongd.leigos@gmail.com

15. Mr Eugénio José da Cruz Fonseca
   CARITAS PORTUGUESA
   Praça Pasteur, nº 11 - 2.º, Esq.
   1000-238 Lisbon, Portugal
   Tel: +351 218 454 220
   Email: caritas@caritas.pt

16. Ms. Anouk FRANCK
   Both ENDS
   Niewe Keizersgracht 45
   1018 VC Amsterdam, The Netherlands
   Email: af@bothends.org
17. Helena Gata  
TESE - Associação para o Desenvolvimento  
Rua das Amoreiras, 101  
1250-022 Lisbon, Portugal  
Tel: +351 213868404  
Email: info@tese.org.pt

18. Mr Mamadou GOITA  
Institut de Recherche et de Promotion des Alternatives en Developpment (IRPAD)  
BP: 2729  
Bamako, Mali  
Tel: +223 76023945  
Email: mamadou_goita@yahoo.fr

19. Dr Cheikh GUEYE  
ENDA Tiers Monde  
Complexe Sicap Point E Bâtiment B,  
Avenue Cheikh Anta Diop,  
BP 3370 Dakar, Sénégal  
Tel: +221 338699948  
Email: se@enda.sn

20. Mr Tetteh HORMEKU  
Third World Network-Africa (TWN-Africa)  
9 Ollenu Street, East Legon,  
Accra, Ghana  
Email: thormeku@twafrica.org

21. Ms Korinna HORTA  
Urgewald  
Von Galen Str.4  
48336 Sassenburg, Germany  
Email: korinna.horta@gmail.com

22. Ms Milka ISINTA  
Kenya Union of Domestic, Hotels, Educational Institutions, Hospitals and Allied Workers- (KUDHEIHA)  
Kirinyaga Rd, Kiburi House  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel:  +254 20246884  
Email: misinta@yahoo.com

23. Ms Joséphine KAMEL  
African Women’s Economic Policy Network (AWEPO)  
Plot 73 Kiira Road, Kamworkya,  
Kampala, Uganda  
Tel:  +256 4144344181
24. Mr Tidiane KASSE  
Pampazuka News  
Sacré Coeur 3, villa n°9613,  
Dakar - Sénégal  
Tel: +221 776141314/ +221776370645  
Email: tidiane@fahamu.org

25. Mr Joshua KLEMM  
Bank Information Center (BIC)  
1100 H St.NW #650  
Washington, DC 20005, United States  
Email: jklemm@bicusa.org

26. Mr Robert KUGONZA  
African Rivers Network (ARN)  
Plot No. 7138, Entebbe Road  
Zana, Uganda  
Email: robertk@nape.or.org

27. Ms Touriya LAHRECH  
Confédération Démocratique du Travail (CDT)  
51, rue Abdallah Mediouri, BP 13351  
Casablanca, Morocco  
Email: touriya.lahrech@yahoo.fr

28. Dr Luís Mah  
(Coordenador da Campanha)  
Objectivo 2015  
Avenida da República, 15-5.º andar  
1050-185 Lisbon, Portugal  
Tel: +351 210 501 503  
Email: luis.mah@gmail.com

29. Mr Gilbert MAKORE  
Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA)  
No.6 London Derry Road, Eastlea  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
Email: gilbert@zela.org

30. Mr Deprose MUCHENA  
OSI Southern Africa  
1º Floor, President Place, IHood Avenue/148 Jan Smuts  
Avenue (corner Bolton Road)  
Rosebank, South Africa  
Email: DeproseM@osisa.org
31. Mr Essam NADA  
Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)  
3A Masaken Masr Lel-Taameer,  
Zahraa El-Maadi Str, Zahraa El Maadi  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel: +201 01188998  
Email: e_nada@aoye.org  

32. Mr Samuel Nnah NDOBE  
Centre for Environment and Development (CED)  
Etoa-Meki  
BP 3430, Yaoundé, Cameroon  
Email: samnnah@cedcameroun.org  

33. Mr Maurice Ouma ODHIAMBO  
Research Conflict Institute (RECONCILE)  
P.O. Box 7150  
Nakura 2110, Kenya  
Tel: +254 723466975  
Email: oumaodhiambo@gmail.com  

34. Mr Andrè Eugène OSSETE  
Coalition des ONG d’Afrique Centrale et des Grands Lacs (CLONG)  
Boîte Postale 5541  
Brazzaville, Congo  
Tel: +242 5510031  
Email: clong_ossete@yahoo.fr  

35. Mr Diakalia OUATTARA  
Forum National sur la Dette et la Pauvreté (FNDP)  
BP 585 Abidjan cidex 03 Riviera  
Abidjan, Nigeria  
Tel: +225 05718222  
Email: diakamad@yahoo.fr  

36. João Rabaça Pedro Cruz  
Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD  
Avenida Infante Santo, n º 21,  
piso coach left  
1350-177 Lisbon, Portugal  
Tel: +351 218872241 or +351 218872239  
Email: j.rabaca@tese.org.pt; or  
pedro.cruz@plataformaongd.pt
37. Guilherme Collares Pereira
   Fundação EDP
   Av. de Brasília, Central Tejo
   1300-598 Lisboa
   Tel: +351 210028130
   Email: collares.pereira@edp.pt

38. Mr Gary PIENAAR
   Global Transparency Initiative (GTI) and Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDASA)
   6 Spin Street,
   Cape Town, South Africa
   Email: gpienaar@idasa.org.za

39. Dr. Fátima Proença
   ACEP - Associação para a Cooperação Entre os Povos
   Rua Santos Dumont, 57 4º esq.
   1050-202 Lisbon, Portugal
   Tel: +351 217950175
   Email: acep@acep.pt

40. Dr Nazir Sacoor
   Fundação Aga Kan
   Centro Ismailí, Avenida Lusíada, 1600-001 Lisbon, Portugal
   Tel: +351 217229001
   Email: akfportugal@akdn.org

41. António José Malheiro Sarmento
   ISU - Instituto de Solidariedade e Cooperação Universitária
   ISU - SEDE
   Travessa do Possolo, nº 11 –3º
   1350-252 Lisbon, Portugal
   Tel: +351 213957831
   Email: geral@isu.pt

42. Mr Moussa Elimane SALL
   Association Mauritanienne de Protection de l’Environnement et de la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles
   N° 11, Cité Urbanisme des Mamelles, Ouakam,
   Dakar, Senegal
   Email: ampesf@yahoo.fr; sall_moussa2@yahoo.fr
43. Ms Ane SCHJOLDEN  
The Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development Storgata 11 (ForUM)  
Storgata 11,  
0155 Oslo, Norway  
Tel: +47 47834540/ +47 23010300  
Email: ane@forumfor.no

44. Dr Issiaka SOMBIE  
Centre d'Etudes, de Documentation et de Recherche Economiques et Sociales (CEDRES)  
Coordination de la Recherche, Chargée de la Mobilisation des Fonds et du Partenariat (CRCM)  
03 BP 7210  
Ouagadougou 03, Burkina Faso  
Tel: +226 50331636/ +226 70744869  
Email: 69 issiaka_sombie@cedres.bf

45. Mr Amadou TAAL  
Worldview (WIF)  
Mile 7 Road, (opp. Mary's Boutique),  
Bakau, The Gambia  
Email: Taalaso46@yahoo.com

46. Karim TRABELSI  
Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail (UGTT)  
UGTT, Fédération Générale de l'Enseignement Supérieur,  
16 Avenue de Carthage,  
1001 Tunis, Tunisia  
Email: krimtrabelsi@yahoo.fr

47. Ms Marguerite YOLI-BI KONE  
West Africa Network for Peace Building – Ivory Coast (WANEP-CI)  
Ivory Coast  
Tel: +232 22423339/ +232 05677677  
Email: wanepci@yahoo.fr; wanepcoteivoire@wanep.org

48. Dr Ahmed Zaky  
IMVF - Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr  
Rua de São Nicolau, 105  
1100-548 Lisbon, Portugal  
Tel: +351 213256300  
Email: info@imvf.org
49. Dr Dawit ZAWDE
Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)
AHA - Head Office
Guinea-Conakry Road
PO Box 110, Code 1250
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251 115511224/3541
Email: info@africahumanitarian.org

50. Mr Souleymane ZEBA
OXFAM GB
BP 7200 Dakar, Senegal
Tel: +221 338690299/+221 773321555
Email: SZeba@OxfamA