



GENERAL ASSEMBLY PAPER No. 1

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIRST AND SECOND CCARDESA GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

5TH JUNE, 2023

For the 3rd CCARDESA General Assembly

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This paper presents a brief update on the list of matters that arose from past CCARDESA General Assemblies for the attention by the General Assembly as some of them may still need to be addressed by the 3rd GA.

The General Assembly (GA), composed of all stakeholders, is responsible for providing broad guidance to the Board and ultimately to the CCARDESA Secretariat. The key responsibilities of the General Assembly are to:

- (i) consider proposals to the amendments of the Charter and submit its recommendations to the Ministers;
- (ii) recommend to Ministers, for approval, regional agricultural R&D priorities for CCARDESA;
- (iii) approve, monitor and evaluate the CCARDESA strategic direction;
- (iv) appoint, renew or terminate the services of External Auditors for CCARDESA ; and
- (v) recommend, to Ministers, new members on CCARDESA Board identified by the sitting Board (self-generating Board).

The first GA of CCARDESA was held in May 2014 in Gaborone at which the inaugural Mid-term Operational Plan (MTO) (2013 – 2018) for CCARDESA was approved, the composition of the Board was endorsed, and the Auditors were approved.

A second GA was held virtually on 12th June 2021 and achieved the following outputs:

- (i) Report by CCARDESA Board Chairperson was endorsed;
- (ii) CCARDESA Strategic Plan was endorsed;
- (iii) CCARDESA Medium Term Operational Plan endorsed;
- (iv) CCARDESA External auditors formally appointed; and
- (v) Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the General Assembly elected.

The 3rd GA will be held on 5th June, 2023 in Durban, South Africa. In preparation for this event, there is need to reflect on the past decisions of the two GAs to see if they were fully implemented and learn from any implementation challenges encountered. There were no action items that were recorded from the 2nd General Assembly. Hence, only the status of Action Items from the 1st GA is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Status of the 1st CCARDESA General Assembly (GA) Resolutions

No	Resolution	Action/ Recommendation	Status
1	Approval of External Auditors for CCARDESA	G.A. approved Grant Thornton, as the Auditors of the organization until the next General Assembly and authorize the ED to set their remuneration	Grant Thornton were appointed as External Auditors for 3 audit cycles and served until their term ended and were replaced.
2	Approval of Medium-Term Operational Plan	The GA approved the MTOP as a strategic document for the next five years	The Secretariat embarked on the implementation of the approved 1 st MTOP and have now come up with a second generation MTOP to accommodate new developments.
3	Approval of Stakeholder Database and Membership for CCARDESA	GA approved the database subject to including/making amendments to be proposed in writing to the Secretariat	No proposals for inputs/ amendments to the stakeholder list were received from the stakeholders on membership and the database
4	Membership fees	1 st G.A deliberated on membership fees and approved the process to be followed to determine and approve the fees as set out in Governance manual. 1 st G.A empowered a special committee to approve the fees on behalf of GA	A special committee has not managed to meet to deliberate on the fees: Some development partners had strong reservations against membership fees which they felt would deter participation of some resources poor stakeholders.
5	Nomination of New Board members	GA were notified of expiration of the term for all Board of Directors. GA recommended that half of the Board members be retained to serve the Board for an additional one-year term to ensure continuity and facilitate staggered introductions of new members	Half the members of the inaugural Board retired when time of office expired. Finally, all the remaining Board members were ultimately replaced after a period of six months. The current Board is the third cohort of members.

6	Amendment of Governance manual and Charter	<p>i) GA recommended that the CCARDESA secretariat be empowered to propose and submit amendments to the Charter as opposed to the current Article 5.2.1.(i) (a) which stipulates that amendments to the Charter can only be proposed by a Member State.</p> <p>ii) A correction was also suggested on Article 5.2.1.(i) c, which refers to the Governance manual as a Charter.</p>	<p>The amendment has not been implemented, only member states can propose amendments as the parties to the Charter.</p> <p>The typo on the Charter will be implemented in the new version of the document.</p>
		<p>iii) The General Assembly be empowered to endorse any majority decision of the Board of Directors in amending the Governance manual as opposed to a situation where Board amendments are final without any further endorsements. (Article 7)</p>	<p>The proposed amendment was not implemented and could be included in the new edition of the Governance manual if the amendments are approved.</p>
		<p>iv) The General Assembly meeting be convened after every three years as opposed to two years. This recommendation implies adjustments on article 5.2.2.2 (i) of the governance manual and article 14.1 of the Charter which state that the meeting shall be convened after every two years</p>	<p>The amendment was rejected by the SADC Ministers responsible for agriculture and food security who felt the organization needed more frequent meetings given its infancy. Therefore, meeting every two years was retained.</p>
		<p>v) The term of office of Board of Directors be extended from two years to three years, implying a change on Article 15.2 of the Charter which stipulates that the term of the Board of Directors is two years</p>	<p>This amendment was approved by the Ministers responsible for agriculture and food security and has been implemented in the second Board members' appointments.</p>

Legend: Green= completed; Orange= delayed; red not done

2.0 CONCLUSION

No matters-arising came out of the 2nd GA meeting. However, there was a list of actions from the 1st GA some of which were implemented while others are still pending and need to be resolved such as: (i) determining the membership fees; (ii) amendment of the Charter and; (iii) ways to appoint stakeholders whose membership status will be maintained by the CCARDESA Secretariat in the GA's membership database.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Assembly is requested to:

- (i) Note that there were no matters arising from CCARDESA's 2nd General Assembly
- (ii) Review the list of follow-up actions from CCARDESA's 1st General Assembly as follows:
 - a. Propose a review and amendment of both the CCARDESA Charter and Governance Manual to enable appointment of the GA nominees by Member States Ministries of Agriculture (MS-MoA);
 - b. Direct Secretariat to propose membership fees based on experiences of other SROs and similar organisations;
 - c. Allow for the nomination of GA members by MS-MoA each year and
 - d. Endorse the database of GA members nominated by MS MoA