

56th Meeting of the Governing Council

19 March 2018

Dakar, Senegal

Item 7 of the draft agenda

Report on TAC meeting

IDEP/GC56/2018/7.2

*This report has been
presented during the
3rd meeting of IDEP TAC*

I. INTRODUCTION

The 3rd meeting of IDEP's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held in Dakar on 7 February 2018. It was preceded by a day of reflection on the theme: **New planning approaches to achieve the objectives of the 2030 and 2063 agendas.**

The meeting was organized in 3 major parts:

- Briefing on IDEP, the TAC and its role
- Presentation of IDEP's activities during the 2016-2017 period
- Presentation of IDEP's Draft Strategic Plan (SP) for the 2018-2021 period

It was a successful meeting, both in terms of its organization and the participation of all stakeholders. The meeting concluded with an overall assessment of the achievements of the biennium that has just ended and the strategic guidelines proposed by the management of the Institute. Members of the Committee, observers, as well as the special guest, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, enriched the discussions with their ideas, thoughts and comments, which are understood as recommendations to be taken into account by IDEP in the fulfilment of its mandate during the coming four years

II. MAIN MESSAGES

During the meeting, the members of the TAC agreed on the following main messages:

- A. recognized IDEP's contribution, over time, in the training of African civil servants, in its various areas of responsibility
- B. welcomed the central role of the implementation of Agendas 2063 and 2030 that IDEP has integrated in its support to the strengthening of the capacity of African countries
- C. congratulated IDEP for the successful organization of the one day high level dialogue on 'New planning approaches for the achievement of the objectives of Agendas 2030 and 2063' and for its determination to innovate in its training and research activities in this area.
- D. took due note of the activities undertaken by IDEP during the biennium 2016-2017 and congratulated the Institute for the choices of themes addressed, the quality of the work accomplished and the quantity of activities implemented.
- E. discussed the strategic orientations defined in the draft SP, approved them as a whole and requested that a document amended following their deliberations be presented at the next meeting of IDEP Governing Council, for approval
- F. approved the proposal to organize a retreat to review the catalogue of IDEP courses

- G. encouraged IDEP to make its distance learning programme a flagship activity for the four years to come
- H. noted and appreciated the efforts made to establish a knowledge management platform, whose first phase is the project for the digitization of the institute's document collection, which should, in the long run, become accessible to the largest number of users
- I. urged members of IDEP Governing Council to approve the strategic orientations, and support a request to increase the resources of the Institute, in particular its financial resources
- J. supported IDEP's resolve to strengthen its partnerships, and urged IDEP to do so first and foremost internally with the ECA, and with regional organizations like the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank.
- K. called for a deeper research to explain the fact that the planning process did not meet the expected results, and to propose new perspectives
- L. requested IDEP to prepare a note to present the various roles that TAC members can play, in addition to the role assigned to them by the IDEP statutes
- M. made specific recommendations on each of the activities and the strategic orientations presented by IDEP.

III. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

In more detail, the main recommendations made by the members of the TAS are as follows:

1. Training and research

Innovate to be up to a growing demand

- Adopt a proactive approach in the identification of the training needs of countries, by increasing the direct interactions with countries. Also use the results of the survey conducted by IDEP in 2017 to this end
- Make special efforts to further involve the least represented regions. Consider the tailor-made courses as a means of better engaging the countries concerned. Decentralize selected activities
- Involve, in a variety of ways, the former trainees in some training activities and develop contacts with them at the national level, building on what IDEP has just started in certain countries
- Continue to aim at increasing the number of women trained. In addition to what was presented as objectives to this end, ensure that information on the IDEP programs is sent to women staff in targeted ministries
- Further involve the African academic expertise (centres of excellence, universities, think tanks, diaspora) in the development of course contents and their delivery

- Update the training catalogue, focusing on the issues in which IDEP has a real added value, and organise them in clusters. Special interest should be put on questions relating to youth, employment, poverty, etc.
- Provide further training to facilitate the evaluation of public policies by laying particular emphasis on the indicators
- Strengthen the Think Tank role of IDEP, where researchers, decision-makers and other development actors meet to reflect, exchange ideas and find solutions so as to address the development challenges of the continent. This could be done through an increase in the number of high-level dialogues and a strategic targeting of the themes covered
- Systematize, increase the production of knowledge resulting from research activities and ensure wider dissemination
- Pursue and strengthen the research fellowship program. Include if possible, doctorate students working on the development of Africa.
- Ensure a more systematic match between the research themes and the key training activities
- Make IDEP's scientific publications more accessible to all universities and African researchers, within the framework of the program for knowledge management and the digitization of the documentary inheritance

2. Distance learning

Distance learning to become a flagship activity of IDEP

- Make distance learning a vector for the transformation of IDEP
- Ensure that distance learning help women to benefit more from IDEP trainings
- Diversify the targets in terms of participation

3. Monitoring and evaluation

Make monitoring and evaluation activities more systematic

- Develop a more formal monitoring-evaluation program and provide it with the necessary resources
- Build on the results of the evaluations so that they constitute a basis for the orientation of the themes covered by IDEP
- Undertake the evaluation of the collaborative courses
- Rely on national relays (in particular former trainees) at country level to better promote IDEP, and consider calling upon the valedictorians of the various courses to serve as resource persons
- Consider an external evaluation system to complement the internal one

4. Knowledge management

Disseminate and popularize the knowledge generated by IDEP

- Develop an interactive knowledge management platform and facilitate its access by Member States, who could use it to communicate on their needs

- Finalize the library digitalization project, which is an initiative to be commended
- Communicate on the richness of IDEP's documentary library and facilitate its access to researchers and development experts
- Build bridges between the libraries of African universities and that of IDEP to facilitate access to the latter's resources to lecturers-researchers and students of the continent.
- Involve the communities of practices and networks of planners in Africa, in the learning processes
- Support IDEP knowledge management with a communication strategy that aims at increasing its visibility

5. Resources

Provide IDEP with the resources necessary to the implementation of its strategic orientations

- Pursue the efforts to recover the arrears, based on what has recently been done and started yielding tangible results
- Develop partnerships with institutions that can contribute to the financing of IDEP activities
- Request ECA to more systematically provide IDEP with the financial resources necessary for the fulfilment of its role as ECA training arm, as approved by CoM 2013
- Increase the United Nations' annual contribution to the IDEP budget
- Mobilize the resources required to implement IDEP's organizational chart