



African Institute for  
Economic Development  
and Planning



---

## Session of the IDEP Governing Council

**Report of the 59th Session of the IDEP  
Governing Council**

IDEP/GC60/2025/4

**Report of the Fifty-Ninth (59<sup>th</sup>) Meeting of the Governing Council of the Institute  
for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)**

**Date – 28 July 2023  
Hybrid (hosted from Addis Ababa)**

## I. Opening of the session

### A. Introduction :

1. The fifty-ninth (59<sup>th</sup>) session of the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) was held in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, on the 28th of July 2023. The meeting was attended by the representative of the African Union Commission and the Delegates of the following Member States: Botswana, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guinea, and Senegal. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Antonio Pedro, acting Executive Secretary of the ECA. Ms. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Director of IDEP, acted as Secretary of the Council. This report outlines the proceedings of the session in line with the twelve agenda items set. The lists of participants and excused members are detailed below.

### B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by the following Governing Council members:

Mr. Antonio Pedro	Executive Secretary ai <b>Economic Commission for Africa</b> Chairperson of IDEP Governing Council Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Mr. Djamel Grib	Director for Economic Development, Integration and Trade <b>African Union Commission</b>
Ms. Boitumelo Sendy Gofhamodimo	<b>Ministry of State President</b> National Planning Commission Gaborone, <b>Botswana</b>
Ms. Marie-Josée Ngamou,	Mission Manager, in charge of Grassroots Development, Ministry of Economy, Planning, and International Cooperation, Bangui, <b>Central African. Republic</b>
Ms. Bindak Ndong Okiri,	Special Advisor for the Presidency - Planning Ministry of Planning and Economic Diversification Malabo, <b>Equatorial Guinea</b>
H.E Nemera Gebeyehu Mama	State Minister, Ministry of Planning and Development Addis Ababa, <b>Ethiopia</b>
Mr. Hassane Diallo	Director of National Planning Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Conakry, <b>Guinea</b>
Mr Mouhamadou Bamba DIOP	Director General of Planning and Economic Policies Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation Dakar, <b>Senegal</b>
Ms. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane	Secretary to the Governing Council (Director of <b>IDEP</b> ; ex officio member)

### **C. Opening remarks (agenda item 1)**

3. Ms. Karima Ben Soltane, the Director of IDEP, welcomed the chair and the members of IDEP Governing Council to the to the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council.
4. In his opening remarks, the Chair of the Governing Council, Mr. Antonio Pedro, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, welcomed the members of the council in Addis Ababa at the Headquarters of the ECA. He highlighted their role as part of the prime oversight and decision-making organ of the Institute. He specifically welcomed the new members and call-upon the council to support IDEP in its work to equip African Governments' officials and other stakeholders in shaping the continent's future.

### **II. Adoption of the agenda of the 59th meeting of the Governing Council (agenda item 2)**

5. Under this item Agenda the Delegate of Equatorial Guinea noted that according to the rule, budget review should be an item of the agenda. The Secretariat explained that the Governing Council meeting was supposed to be held early this year and its report and proposed budget submitted to the endorsement of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Planning and Economic Development. Unfortunately, the meeting did not happen. Therefore, to secure the functioning of IDEP and in absence of the meeting of the Governing Council. The ECA took an administrative decision to ensure that IDEP continue to operate.
6. The Council then adopted the following agenda for its fifty-ninth session:
  1. Opening of the session
  2. Adoption of the agenda
  3. Presentation of the statutes and Governing Council rules of procedure
  4. Adoption of the report of the 58th session
  5. Matters arising from the report of the 58th session.
  6. Presentation and discussion of the 2021-2022 report of the Director
    - a. Activity Report
    - b. Financial Performance
    - c. Administrative Matters
  7. Information on the evaluation of the current strategic framework 2019-2023 and the framing of the 2024- 2029 Strategic Plan
  8. Renewal of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Membership
  9. IDEP 60th Anniversary celebration calendar
  10. Any other Business
  11. Date and venue of the next Session
  12. Closing

### **III. Presentation of the statutes and Governing Council rules of procedure (agenda item 3)**

7. Ms. Karima Ben Soltane recalled that IDEP is a pan-African institution created in 1962 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, with the mandate to accompany and support the newly independent African countries in their quest to build their human resources capacities. It began its operations in November 1963

- and has a portfolio of activities organised around capacity development and research (training activities, master's degree program, policy research and dialogues), advisory services and knowledge management.
8. She gave an overview of the role of the Governing Council as per its current statutes for the benefit of new members to the Governing Council. In terms of governance, she stated that IDEP was a UN institution that reports to the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (COM) and it is guided by a Governing Council.
  9. She outlined the composition of the Governing Council, which comprised 13 members of which 10 are appointed by the COM based on equal representation of the five subregions of the African Continent, Representative of the hosting Country, Senegal, African Union Commission representative, and the Executive Secretary of ECA. The appointed members serve on a voluntary basis for a period of three years and are eligible for reappointment for one additional term only. The Executive Secretary of ECA is the Chair of the Council and the Director of IDEP is the secretary of the Council.
  10. The Governing Council is the prime oversight and decision-making organ of IDEP. It gives effect to the broad direction of the work of the institute and reports to the Conference of Ministers.
  11. ***During the discussion on this agenda item***, the Governing Council Member of Botswana observed that there was no mention of Member States contributions to IDEP. She requested further information on the status of observers and on the training courses. The AUC representative noted that two appointed Member States did not nominate representatives and suggested the consideration of alternate country within the same region. He observed that provision must be made to in the Governing Council regarding countries suspended as members of the African Union. He further recommended that standard documents should be sent to Member States, regarding the ordinary sessions of the Governing Council, including the financial statement and the strategic plan.
  12. Furthermore, the Delegate of Botswana and the AUC Representative, noted the need for more clarity and focus and requested the revision of rules 12 and 40 of the rule of procedures. The following amendment were endorsed by the Members of the Council:
    - Rule 12 - Alinea 1: The provisional agenda of an ordinary session may include the following items:
      - Rule 40 :Draft resolutions, and substantive amendments or motions, shall, as far as possible, be introduced in writing and handed by any member of the Council, to the Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the members twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Council decides otherwise.
  - 13.
  14. Regarding the nomination of the Member States, the Chairperson clarified that the members of the Governing Council are selected by the Conference of Ministers and that they can serve two consecutive terms, six years in total, as Ghana, Sudan and Equatorial Guinea in the present GC. He indicated that IDEP can request the nomination of alternate member to the bureau of the COM.
  15. Ms. Ben Soltane stated that observer members can be nominated by the Secretariat. For the training courses, fees are not yet being applied as fees payment for IDEP courses are not mentioned in the Status of the Institute. This could be

examined by the Governing Council. The article IX on financial resources and rules governing the financial management indicated the Institute derives its finances from contributions made by Member States and the United Nations. Yearly contributions are annually communicated to the Member States. IDEP will share the resolution adopted during the COM, where the rationale for the Member States contribution is stated (based on the GDP ratio).

**IV. Adoption of the report of the 58th meeting of the Governing Council**  
(agenda item 4)

16. The Chairperson invited the Secretary of the Council to present the report. Ms. Ben Soltane informed the members that the report of the 58th session of the Council was shared with them prior to the meeting. The follow-up items that emerged from the discussions from the 58th session will be presented under agenda item 5 of the present session. The Chairperson invited Members of the Council to review and adopt the report.

17. The Council adopted the report.

**V. Matters arising from the report of the 58th meeting of the Governing Council** (agenda item 5)

18. Two matters were raised during the 58th session of the GC: 1) Submit the proposal of renewal of IDEP GC membership to the next ECA Conference of Ministers for consideration and validation, and 2) Continue awareness-raising and advocacy campaigning in Member States with arrears of contribution.

19. Regarding the matter 1), the renewal of the membership of the Council was submitted and adopted by fifty-fifth session of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. However, nominations by two Member States (Rwanda and Mozambique), are still pending. The Secretariat through official channels of communication continues to engage the Member States with official letters shared with the Embassies in Addis Ababa, Permanent Representatives in New York, and Embassies in Dakar.

20. Regarding the matter 2), the Secretariat continues to engage Member States on their contributions and is in discussion with the authorities of the following countries with significant payment arrears: Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Liberia, Libya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger and Nigeria. Regular letters are sent to capitals (twice a year), with copy to ambassadors in Ethiopia, Senegal, and New York.

21. *In response to the presentation by the Secretariat*, the Chairperson appreciated the successful follow-up of the matters arising, and exhorted Member States to settle the outstanding arrears and congratulated the countries that already cleared their arrears, despite political challenges.

22. The African Union Commission representative commented that South Africa which has outstanding arrears is not part of the GC. He recommended that MS with outstanding arrears be part or alternate in the GC so that these countries can follow-up with their capitals, as a strategy to mobilize resources. The Member

from Botswana agreed with the strategy proposed by AUC representative regarding the outstanding arrears. The GC Member from Ethiopia informed that his Country is already pursuing with the different ministerial departments for the payment of its contribution. He pledged for official letters to be addressed by ECA to the Member States with outstanding arrears, as it is the case of Ethiopia.

**VI. Presentation and discussion of the 2021-2023 report of the Director**  
(agenda item 6)

23. Ms. Karima Ben Soltane presented the 2021-2023 report of the Director. Her presentation was followed by the presentation on administrative and financial matters by the Head of Administration, Finance and Partnerships, Mrs. Salimata Cisse.

***Activities Report***

24. The reporting period was characterized by the lingering effects of COVID-19, post-COVID recovery dynamics in countries, the socio-economic impacts of Russia-Ukraine crisis, dwindling ODA, continuing regional conflicts and insecurity, and climate impacts. The Institution adapted its training and research activities during the period to consider the impact of the various crisis, the need to adopt skill-based approach to adequate workforce development focusing on upskilling and reskilling. Taking into account the impacts of the crises, the Institute focussed its training and research programmes in the areas of risk management, risk mainstreaming in development planning processes, and debt management.
25. The Director highlighted the key achievements of the Institute. A total of hundred and six (106) courses were organized during the period, including nine (9) in-person courses and ninety-seven (97) on-line courses to public officials and other non-state actors in socio-economic policy analyses, formulation, management, and development planning. Overall, 3033 public officials (951 women) from 49 African countries participated in these trainings in 2021 while, 3053 public officials (811 women) from 51 African countries successfully completed the trainings during 2022.
26. In 2021, the Institute facilitated the launch of the Young Economic Network (YEN). As of today, the network is made of 1013 Young economists from 88 universities of 29 African countries.
27. In terms of knowledge delivery, the number of downloads from the Institute's website had risen to 1,070,911 in 2019 and 1,680,754 in 2020; 1,112 titles had been added in 2019 and 1,616 in 2020 to the institutional digital repository; and 21 bibliographies, including of online texts, had been provided to trainees and participants of online webinars in 2020.
28. An impact assessment survey of the training activities during the period revealed that 75 per cent of the surveyed public officials attested with concrete evidence, to have utilized the knowledge, skills, and tools they attained to positively influence socioeconomic policy in their respective countries

### ***Financial Performance***

29. The average amount collected from member States over the past five years is USD1.1 million, while the yearly assessed contribution currently stands at USD1.358 million. IDEP is appreciative to Member States that are striving to settle their outstanding arrears in particular Zimbabwe which contributed USD 785,075 in 2021 settling its annual contribution and outstanding arrears. IDEP still has a significant balance of arrears to recover. Unpaid contributions amounted to \$18.5 million as of December 31, 2022, and weigh heavily on the Institute's ability to implement its mandate. The Secretariat continues to engage with member States on contributions and is in discussions with authorities from the following countries with significant outstanding arrears: Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Liberia, Libya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger and Nigeria.

### ***Administrative Matters***

30. The move of IDEP Headquarters to a new UN House located in Diamniadio Senegal, was initially scheduled for end of December 2022. It has been postponed to February 2024. IDEP continues to participate in the various committees to ensure its interests are maintained throughout the development of the project.
31. On staff matters, the Secretariat informed the Council of the recruitment of Salimata Cisse as of January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, as Administrative Officer/Head of Administration, Finance and Partnerships; and Mr. Bakary Dosso as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, as Senior Trainer Officer/Head of Training and Research.
32. ***In response to the presentation of the report of the Director***, the Governing Council Member of the Africa Union Commission suggested that a summary table should integrate the report, organized by cluster, strategic area, purpose, outcome, type (face-to-face or online), date, partners, constraints and observations, type of attendance, with a highlight over the RECS. He asked if UNITAR is part of IDEP partners. On the Finance and sustainability matter: he recommended the adoption of a resource mobilisation strategy: 50% mobilisation from member-states; 50% from external partners through the development of joint programmes. The Governing Council Member of Guinea reiterated the request by the Minister of planning addressed to ECA and IDEP for a tailor-made training on development planning to high level officials of the country. He further reiterated his request during the ECA COM regarding the creation of a francophone version of the master's Programme. He suggested a partnership with the Universities of Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal in the area of development planning. On the Member States contributions: he agreed that it is good to reach to external partners, but it would be advisable to continue exhorting Member States to settle their contributions, as there are the main beneficiaries. The Governing Council Member of Central African Republic recommended to integrate in the report, information regarding the number and origin of beneficiaries, the numbers on training, research, seminars, and administrative issues. Regarding YEN, she requested, if possible, to integrate other universities. The Governing Council Member of Botswana commented on the capacity building that need to be more focused, considering IDEP's mandate to respond to member-states specific requests. She further added that IDEP should address specific requests on

economic planning and management, adding new areas that are in high demand: strategic foresight, national capital account, national resources. She also inquired on the UN Interagency work regarding capacity building and fellowship programs.

33. The Chairperson acknowledged the comments addressed and the Director replied that IDEP already worked with UNITAR in the past. Nevertheless, both institutions have different mandates - UNITAR trainings are not for free, whereas IDEP serves member-states *pro bono*. She further added that IDEP works with University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) namely through resource persons. On the YEN, all rectors were contacted, namely the ones from the countries that are not represented/or underrepresented; on the focus needed, regarding capacity building activities, IDEP concluded that planning is the foundation and guide of its training activities, as per its mandate,
34. The Chairperson highlighted that the upcoming strategic framework could include some of the comments raised by the Governing Council Members. Training needs assessment should be carried.

## **VII. Presentation of the roadmap for the evaluation of the current strategic framework 2019-2023 and the framing of the 2024 – 2029 Strategic Plan** (agenda item 7)

35. Mr. Thierry Amoussougbo, Head of the Knowledge Management Division presented the roadmap for the evaluation of the current strategic framework 2019-2023 and the framing of the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.
36. Ms. Ben Soltane highlighted that this agenda item intended to inform Member States on the upcoming plan for comments and observations so that it can be reported to the upcoming ECA Conference of Ministers.
37. *During the discussion on this agenda item*, the Governing Council Member of Ethiopia commented on the identification of strategic areas for capacity building activities at the macro level, for instance – at the specific level on how much are Member-States advanced on the capacity building; methodology of evaluation, from an institutional point of view. He further added that different modes of delivery vis-à-vis the traditional approach are needed, through peer learning, for instance, and the need to create financial resilience should be identified as a thematic area. The AUC representative recommended the evaluation of implementation of country policies with benchmarks to monitor certain indicators such as Strategic Foresight, Management and Technology transfer, certified negotiators. He suggested IDEP to be part of the AUC advisory Council for its participation in the G20 to provide some guidance.

## **VIII. Renewal of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Membership** (agenda item 8)

38. Mr. Bakary Dosso, Chief of the Training and Research Division presented the proposed Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Membership profiles.
39. The GC member of Central African Republic requested details of CVs of the proposed members. The Chairperson advised that the Secretariat shared the details CVs of the proposed members and recommended that GC endorsed the proposal

of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Membership, upon reception the CVs.

**IX. IDEP 60th Anniversary celebration calendar** (agenda item 9)

40. Ms. Karima Ben Soltane informed the GC IDEP will celebrate its sixty-year anniversary as an opportunity to assess its work during the last 60 years. IDEP will organise an exhibition with the main achievements of the Institute, coupled with a High-level Conference in November. The theme of the celebration will be “IDEP 2.0 – Investing in resilience and sustainability by learning from 6 decades of training and research” and a ceremony with the Government of Senegal will also be held, as a way of acknowledging the support of the host country of IDEP.
41. On the theme of the IDEP **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration**, the Executive Secretary suggested the title “IDEP 2.0: 60 years of Training and Research”; to find a punchy theme; to get the advice of a media expert.

**Item 10: Any Other Business**

**Item11: Date and Venue of the Next Session**

42. The meeting recommended to hold the next session of the GC before December 15, Dakar, Senegal

**Item12: Closing**

43. The Director thanked the Governing Council members for their participation. She appreciated the suggestions, and recommendations which will be compiled in the report of the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the GC. The Chairperson appreciated the comments and critical assessments made by GC Members that will improve IDEP’s future performances.