

MINUTES
OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD
ON 25 NOVEMBER 2008
(Lyon Town Hall, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm)

PARTICIPANTS

Executive Committee:

Mr Alain Madelin, President of the Board	present
Ms Nnenna Nwakanma, Vice President of the Board	present
Mr John Gagain, Vice President of the Board	excused

Governments:

Algeria	Mr Idriss Jazairy, Ambassador	excused
Saudi Arabia	Mr Abdulwahab Abdulsalam Attar, Ambassador	Represented by: Mr Emad Adhan, Adviser
Burkina Faso	Mr Prosper Vokouma, Ambassador	excused
Cameroon	Mr Anatole Fabien Marie Nkou, Ambassador	Represented by: Mr Eboi Ebot Enaw, Director General of the National ICT Agency
China	Mr Li Baodong, Ambassador	excused
Cuba	Mr Juan Antonio Fernandez Palacios, Ambassador	Represented by: Mr Abel la Rosa, Second Secretary
France	Mr Jean-Baptiste Mattéi, Ambassador	Represented by: Ms Marie-Christine Bourguignon, Adviser Mr Yves Barelli, Ambassador MFA Mr Bertrand de la Chapelle, Special Information Society Representative, MFA

Ghana	Mr Kwabena Baah-Duodu, Ambassador	excused
Equatorial Guinea	Mr Sisinio Eyebe, Chargé d'Affaires	excused
Guinea-Conakry	Mr Tibou Kamara, Minister of Communication and ICT	Members of the Delegation: Mr Mohamed Camara, Ambassador Ms Saïematu Conde, Director of ICT Mr Fode Souman, Technical Adviser on ICT
Kenya	Ms Maria Nozmo, Ambassador	excused
Mali	Ms Diarra Mariam Flantié Diallo, Minister of Communication and New Technologies	Members of the Delegation: Mr K. Chaguel Maïga, Director of the Telecoms Regulatory Committee Mr A. Sidary Moulay, Director General, AGETIC Mr Lamine Mahamadou Diallo, Head of the National ICT Resource Centre
Morocco	Mr Mohammed Loulichki, Ambassador	Represented by: Mr Omar Hilale, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mr Mohamed Rentaja, Consul General, Lyon Mr Myriem Naji, Vice Consul, Lyon
Mauritania	Ms Mounia Mint Abdellah, Ambassador	excused
Nigeria	Mr Martin Ihoeghian Uhomobhi, Ambassador	Represented by: Mr Ezenwa C. Nwaobiala, First Secretary
Dominican Republic	Mr Homero Luis Hernandez Sanchez, Ambassador	excused
Senegal	Mr Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal	Members of the Delegation: Mr Abdou Aziz, Minister of Information and Telecommunications of NEPAD and Institutional Relations Mr Ababacar Diop, Adviser to the President
Tanzania	Mr Baraka Luvanda, First Secretary	Represented by: Ms Elizabeth Nzagi, Legal Adviser, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

International Organisations:

International Organisation of Francophonie (OIF)	Mr Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of the OIF	Represented by: Mr Christian Ambaud, Head of Projects
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Cities and Regions:

Dakar	Mr Pape Diop, Mayor Dakar	excused
Geneva	Mr Pierre Maudet, Mayor of Geneva	Represented by: Mr Christian Ferrazino, Policy Officer for Geneva City Council and DSF spokesman Mr Nicolas Erdos, Adviser
Lyon	Mr Gérard Collomb, Senator and Mayor of Lyon	Represented by: Mr Hubert Julien-Laferrière, Deputy Mayor Mr Jean Pouly, Director of the World Digital Solidarity Agency
Malaga	Mr Francisco de la Torre Prados, Mayor of Malaga	Represented by: Mr Francisco Salas, Adviser Mr Arturo Rodriguez, International Relations
Rhône-Alpes Region	Mr Jean-Jack Queyranne, President of the Rhône-Alpes Region	Represented by: Ms Isabelle Verzier-Soriano, Head of the ICT Department
Santo Domingo	Mr Roberto Salcedo, Mayor of Santo Domingo	excused

Civil Society:

African Civil Society	Ms Delphine Nana, President ACSIS	present
Latin American Civil Society	Mr Daniel Pimienta, President FUNREDES	present

Private sector:

StratXX Holding AG	Kamal Alavi, CEO	excused
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DSF Executive Secretariat:

Mr Alain Clerc, Executive Secretary
Ayuba Kadafa, Regional Director for Africa
Ms Elena Ursache, Projects Manager
Mr Cissé Kane, Projects Manager
Mr Mehdy Davary, IT Manager
Ms Tania Zinoviev, Assistant
Ms Hélène Herdt, Management Assistant
Mr Alberto Feldkircher, IT Consultant
Ms Marie Arnaud, Graphics and Communication

The President of the Board welcomed Mr Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and the other Board members.

1. AGENDA OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE BOARD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2008

1.1 Agenda

At the request of Mr Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, the President of the Board requested the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda: *the resignation of the Executive Secretary of the DSF*. Geneva City Council and Cuba opposed the inclusion of this additional item, citing Article 9 of the DSF Statutes. The representatives of Nigeria and Tanzania requested permission to speak, but permission was not granted.

The President of the Board put this proposal to the vote and a majority voted in favour of adding this item to the agenda.

1.2 Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Board of 6 November 2007

The President went through the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Foundation Board of 6 November 2007. The minutes were approved without amendment.

1.3 General policy

The President of the Board presented the activities of DSF since his election, highlighting the achievements made, particularly the launch of the health and education programmes, and reiterated the main conclusions of the Lyon Conference (for more information, see the Lyon Declaration).

2. RESIGNATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE DSF

The President of the Board immediately gave the floor to Mr Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, who explained his criticisms of the Executive Secretary of the DSF and requested his immediate resignation. This request was made despite the fact that the Executive Secretary had already announced his intention to retire on an unconfirmed date in the first half of 2009.

All the grievances stated by Mr Abdoulaye Wade were denied by the representative of Geneva City Council, who supported his defence of the Executive Secretary with the official data and documents presented by the DSF Secretariat.

In view of these developments, the President of the Board proposed that the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes. When the meeting resumed, the President of the Board gave the floor to Mr Abdoulaye Wade, who announced the agreement of the Executive Secretary to retire on 31 March 2009.

3. ACTIVITY REPORT 2007-2008

Once again, the President of the Board gave the floor to Mr Abdoulaye Wade, who fiercely criticised the actions of the DSF, including the promotion of its innovative financing mechanism (the 1% digital solidarity contribution).

Among the criticisms that he levelled at the Executive Secretary, he mentioned that Mr Alain Clerc pays a monthly salary of €17,000 to one of his members of staff. The President of the Board implicitly supported the position of Mr Abdoulaye Wade and did not allow the Executive Secretary to refute this erroneous allegation.

At the invitation of the President of the Board, the Executive Secretary did nonetheless take the floor to present the DSF Activity Report for the 2007-2008 period. However, the President interrupted the Executive Secretary and declared the Activity Report adopted, before it had been fully explained to the Board members.

4. OPERATIONS AND PROJECTS 2007-2008

The President of the Board handed over to Mr Abdoulaye Wade, who criticised the operations and projects of the DSF. He accused the DSF Secretariat of having undertaken no projects on the ground. The Vice President of the DSF attested to the implementation of the DSF pilot projects, which she was personally involved in evaluating.

5. 2007 ACCOUNTS AND 2008 BUDGET

The Executive Secretary and accountant of the DSF presented the accounts for the 2007 financial year and the draft budget for 2008.

The President of the Board gave the floor to Mr Abdoulaye Wade, who criticised the financial management of the DSF Secretariat, without allowing the Secretary to explain himself. Nonetheless, the President of the Board proposed that the 2007 accounts and 2008 budget be adopted. The Board approved the 2007 accounts and 2008 budget.

6. DECISION TO HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD

Due to the tensions caused by the comments of Mr Abdoulaye Wade, the other points on the agenda were not covered and it was proposed that an extraordinary session of the Foundation Board be convened.

7. DATE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD

At the invitation of Ms Diarra Mariam Flantié Diallo, Minister of Communication and New Technologies of Mali, the DSF Foundation Board decided to hold its extraordinary meeting on 27 January 2009, in Bamako.

