

**SPEECHES DELIVERED
BY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

ABDALLA BUJRA

Secretary of Codesria

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I would like first of all to say briefly something from a different heart.

As secretary of the Inter-Regional Co-ordinating Committee of Development Associations (Iccda), which is made up of Eadi, Codesria, Aicardes, Adipa, Clacso, on behalf of all regional associations I would like to thank the Italian authorities and people, Professor Bortolani personally and Finafrica as an institution, and of course Eadi as the host regional organisation, for having given us a very good welcome and facilitated a very important meeting which has been taking place in the last two days, both during the day and sometimes at night. So on behalf of Iccda I would like to thank all these people and institutions for their kind hospitality. I would now address the meeting in my second capacity, as secretary of Codesria, and again would like to bring greetings from Africa, from all the research institutes in Africa and the many social scientists who are involved not only in Africa but in what is going on in Europe.

I shall try to be as brief as possible because it is extremely tempting to go on speaking when you talk of the relationships between Africa and Europe. Unlike other continents, the relationships between Africa and Europe have been very historical, often very violent, colonial and unequal, and therefore it is very difficult to

be brief and just pass over these very close relationships between Europe and Africa which recently are becoming even more and more obvious. As some people entitled this conference "Europe's Role in World Development", I think everybody agrees that Europe has always played an important role in world development. Some people in Africa would say that it has played a specifically important role in Africa's development, or as others would put it, in Africa's underdevelopment. Now, this very important relationship between Africa and Europe has had its repercussions at the level of research and at the level of social science; it cannot be isolated and therefore it is important to look very briefly at this kind of situation, because now I am talking to a very sympathetic audience.

It is not really necessary for me to tell you much about Africa, because, owing to this very close relationship, European audiences are to know much about Africa and there is no need for me to give you any significant descriptive evidence of the African situation. But a number of important ideas that have been cropping up in Africa with the help of Codesria might be of interest to you, European organisations, and to the European audience. First of all, the idea that despite the fact that formal colonialism ended in Africa some 15 years ago, what somebody calls academic imperialism has continued and still continues.

This, of course, does not mean that there are no people in Europe who are very sympathetic, very anti-academic imperialism. I think it is very important to make this point clear because we do believe that there is an important force in Europe now hopefully under this umbrella. But the fact remains that this is the situation in terms of the relationship between Africa and Europe, in terms of research, in terms of ideas, in terms of the flow of ideas, in terms of the flow of literature, and so on. So, in order to handle the situation, what we have tried to do is the creation of Codesria, following in the footsteps of Latin America — I wish the Latin-Americans were here to explain why they created their Clacso some ten years ago. Trying to follow in their footsteps and learn from what they had done, we

created Codesria as a reaction to this extremely unequal and dominant situation between Africa and Europe in the field of research, ideas, literature, application and so on.

Now Codesria is not simply a reaction organisation, is not a reactionary organisation, it is an extremely positive organisation.

So what we are trying to do reacting to this factual, historical situation, which I think nobody will disagree with, is the following thing: first of all we are trying to re-orientate the thinking and social science in Africa itself not so much to be anti-European (I do not believe that we are like that at all, I think we are very internationalist), but to be for Africa, i.e. to re-orientate the thinking of African social scientists to look at their own, at our own objective reality from our own perspective, which is much more relevant than the kind of models and analytical thinking that has been flowing to us from Europe over the last 50 or 60 years.

Secondly (we are now in the process of doing this), of course, we tried to have linkages with people in Europe who also think like that, as part of this process to re-orientate thinking about our own reality. Through research, through publications, we also, at the same time, have come to know each other, because as you know — it is a fact — Africa is so vertically linked with Europe, not only ideologically, but literally and physically, that sometimes in order to go from one part of Africa to another you have to go by Europe — and I believe Rome, Mr. Chairman, is playing an important linking role as an airport. We have really got to know each other, the Anglophones have to know the Francophones, and both the Anglophones and Francophones have to know the Arabophones, and now the three have to know the Portuguese-phones — I do not know the word for that.

But there is an important task: we have to bring together our peoples not simply in order to reproduce the ideas they have learnt from Europe, but bring them together in order to re-think how we look at our own reality. So this is the second thing we have been trying to do. The third thing we are trying to do is to create linkages across our world, on a Third World basis, because there has been

some thinking going on in various parts of the Third World, and particularly in Latin America, which is much more appropriate to our situation and therefore it is about time we began to create some of these linkages.

And finally, Mr. Chairman, one of our main objectives is again to create linkages with Europe, but on a new basis. With Eadi now in existence and playing such an important role in the European sphere of research and development, we hope that now these linkages, mainly through Eadi and possibly other independent sources, will be based not just on equality, because this is difficult since European researchers have much better resources than African researchers, but through our mutual understanding of our common problems rather than through what happened in the past, when ideas flowed in one way and provided models and explanations. Now in this respect, about the linkages between Europe and Africa, there are two important issues: one of them is that there is an important debate going on in Iccda, on how to go about creating linkages between researchers in the different continents, and what kind of mechanisms, what kind of methodologies, what kind of assumptions should this co-operation take. Secondly most of us in Africa and in other Third World regions do believe that there have been dramatic changes in Europe taking place recently, because Europe itself is not so stagnant, since it has changed a great deal. The social science community, and researchers in Europe have begun to re-think how they have looked upon their societies in the past and how they have looked at Third World societies. This kind of re-thinking is extremely important to us because we believe that this new course is beginning to change certain assumptions about the ways society operates and where is development taking place. Under the umbrella of Eadi this new force in Europe will be pushed to have linkages with various other continents including Africa.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, Eadi and Finafrica for giving us the opportunity to express a few ideas about our relations with Europe. Thank you.

QAZI KHOLIQUEZZAMAN AHMAD

Vice President of Adipa

Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Mr. Executive Secretary, officers and members of Eadi, representatives of other regional associations, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I wish to thank the organisers for inviting me to participate in this general conference of Eadi. I am happy to be here and I extend to you greetings from 120 member institutes of the Association of Development, Research and Training Institutes of Asia and the Pacific.

The theme of the international conference of Eadi in 1975 was "New International Economic Order"; since then the demand for an equitable world order has become even stronger. I am particularly happy to note that topics directly related to this theme have also been included for discussion in this conference. This is clearly a reflection of the current appreciation in developed countries of the need for restructuring the world economic order. The present international economic and power system is essentially based on dominance-dependence relationships between developed and underdeveloped countries. There is now a deep realisation in underdeveloped countries that the present system is inimical to them and they are therefore calling for a new one based on equality of opportunities in all respects. Indeed this equality of opportunities among nations has played a key role in the development of the now developed countries, and such arrangement should give the now underdeveloped countries

the opportunity for a real breakthrough in their development efforts.

Obviously the internal order in underdeveloped countries must also be based on the principle of equality of opportunities for all citizens and there is in general a growing realisation in the underdeveloped countries that this must be so. But they have yet to make real progress in that direction. There should be no room for disagreement, that an equitable national order must be established in underdeveloped countries so that the masses can meaningfully participate in the development process and also get their fair share of the fruits of development. Naturally, the new international and economic power system in order to be worthwhile and meaningful for underdeveloped countries must fulfil their aspirations and requirements, but to be workable must also meet the necessities of the continuous participation of developing countries in it. Anyhow, it is by now completely clear that marginal adjustments such as selective concessions and a somewhat larger or more flexible foreign aid will not do. Such piecemeal measures and reforms have been tried, and while they produced temporary relief, they have not and cannot bring about fundamental improvements in the prospects of the underdeveloped countries. For that a complete overhaul of the system is called for.

The new structure of the system cannot properly be worked out without a thorough understanding of the inadequacies and failures of the present system, and it is important that all its aspects are examined carefully in the context of their historical evolution: the changed and changing reality also necessitates fundamental changes in the system. Many issues involved in connection with the working out of the new system include the international credit system, market access to developed countries for goods coming from developing nations and fair prices for these exports, international division of labour, that is international distribution of value added and distribution of margins, international mobility of labour, the role of multinationals and transnationals, and the role of developing countries in the international decision-making process.

Many important aspects of the issues just enumerated and others too will surely be deliberated upon in the appropriate sessions of this conference. I do not wish to say more on these issues at this point. I do hope that these deliberations will produce many concrete ideas and proposals in relation to the evolution of an equitable new international economic and power system. I am sure you will agree with me, Mr. Chairman, that regional associations like Adipa, Eadi, Clacso and Codesria can make a substantial contribution towards the design and establishment of the new system through collaborative research in appropriate areas and joint organisation of forums to bring together researchers, policy-makers and development administrators for debating important issues with a view to finding common grounds.

In the Inter-Regional Co-ordinating Committee of Development Associations (Iccda) the basic mechanism for such co-operation exists. It remains to us in the various associations to undertake collaborative efforts for making contributions towards the shaping and the establishment of an equitable new world order. I would like to mention here that Adipa is trying to develop programmes for collaborative efforts in research training and other issues of development in the region of Asia and the Pacific in the context of meaningful collaboration among underdeveloped countries, which is also very important. This thing takes time, but we are hopeful. In the end, may I mention that the 4th biennial conference of Adipa will be held sometimes in September-October 1978 in Seoul, Korea, and I extend to you, on behalf of Adipa, an invitation to participate.

Finally, I wish to conclude by thanking Finafrica and its Director for making excellent arrangements for us in Milan. It has been a great pleasure for me since this conference gave me the opportunity to come to Milan and visit Italy for the first time. Thank you.

M.E. HAMZA

Secretary General of Aicardes

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to thank the organisers of this Conference who gave me the opportunity to participate in the general assembly of Eadi and address its members. The Association of Arab Development Institutes and Centres, through its Secretary General, would like to wish you the best success for both your Conference and your initiative. Our Association, Aicardes, was formally created after a congress held at "Ali Bacham-bas" Quantitative Economics Institute in Tunis on 25-27 April, 1977. The congress gathered the representatives of the various Arab institutes and centres working in the field of social and economic development research and training from almost all Arab countries. The main purpose of our Association, as defined in our statute, is to promote the creation and activity of development research and training institutions through close co-operation, between its members and Arab institutions. Our purpose, which is in itself ambitious but so necessary, if we consider the width of the subject which is presently worrying the Arab world, allowed us to accept three categories of members: full members who can elect the executive committee and participate in the voting; associate members, i.e. Arab organisations and institutes interested in research and training in the field of social and economic development, or regional non-Arab associations such as yours, Codesria, Clacso, Adipa, etc.; and observers, either Arab or

non-Arab researchers, working in the field of development research or training.

The structure of our Association consists of two bodies: the general assembly meeting at least once every two years, the executive committee composed of six full member institutes or centres and the Secretary General of the Association who is always the Director of Ali Bachambas Quantitative Economics Institute.

As far as resources are concerned, the Association draws its funds mainly from member fees, the contributions and grants supplied by individuals or associations, and the income derived from publications. Since its foundation, i.e. one year, the executive committee which already met twice and the Secretary General have been working to consolidate the Association structure and prepare the meeting of the next assembly which will take place next December 16th to 19th in Damascus. The main purpose of this meeting is to discuss the working programme prepared by the executive committee. This programme is based on two research themes which are at present particularly interesting and closely interconnected in the Arab world, viz. basic needs and agricultural development, and technical and technological co-operation between Arab countries. As far as the programme is concerned, the major studies on the two above mentioned themes have already been identified and a working group was already given the task to focus the theme points of reference. This working group is meeting on the second and third week of October in Tunis to work out the programme targets. Besides this working programme the Secretary General has already set himself to prepare the Association bulletin which is meant to make the Association members and their work known.

All along with this activity, the Association is going to foster co-operation with other organisations and, namely, other regional associations. This is one of the reasons why I am going to take advantage of the opportunity of this meeting to discuss with my colleagues the possible forms of co-operation with the European association and strengthen the links already existing between some

member institutes. These are, ladies and gentlemen, the main points concerning our activity at this early stage of its development, since the Association was founded only last year. I would like to thank you once again for your attention and extend my best wishes of success to you all.

