

UAPS enters the 21st Century

Final Report from Assessment

Bertil Egerö

**Department for Research
Cooperation**

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Executive summary

An assessment of UAPS was undertaken in May 2001. Apart from reading of relevant documentation, it entailed personal visits to Dakar and to Rabat – the site of the North Africa regional representative. The Dakar visit coincided with a special meeting of the UAPS Council and the launching of a new TRN on HIV/AIDS. It gave excellent opportunities both for individual interviews and for observing UAPS “at work”. A conference call was made with two of the three regional representatives not met in person, and an effort was made to collect further data through survey by e-mail and fax. The meagre returns on this effort might be an indication of the conditions under which the UAPS’ leadership is working.

UAPS is currently in a process of revitalisation, stimulated by the successful realisation of the Durban conference in December 1999, and by the election of a new Council aiming at a series of reforms of organisation and work methods. The implementation of reforms is underway, however at a slower than expected pace. An important reason is the loss of the UAPS Executive Secretary at the end of last year. The Secretariat is understaffed and struggling to keep abreast with “recurrent” jobs while also undertaking the new tasks which are part of the reform programme. In addition, the Council, which should be seen as a “working council”, does not deliver as it had hoped to do.

A new structure of regional and country representatives (Focal Points or F-P) is more or less in place. This ‘decentralisation approach’ is certain to give good results in the future. However, infrastructure problems, lack of finance for active intra-regional contacts and insufficient Secretariat activity (e.g. in the case of North Africa) make the start somewhat slow.

The Thematic Research Network initiative of the earlier Council was launched with insufficient Secretariat follow-up. Only two TRNs survived and produced. A new TRN – on HIV/AIDS – was launched in May 2001, and immediately outlined a proposed set of guidelines for Secretariat and TRN division of responsibilities, which demonstrates the organisational clout that is required for such activities.

For the Small Grants Programme, a new phase is in preparation. A new SGP scientific committee is in formation, the backlog of printing and publication is being cleared, and steps are being taken to secure finance. Given that the last programme is from 1997/98, the matter is urgent.

The publications division is since early 2001 staffed with competent people. While printing backlogs are being cleared and more efficient methods for manuscript evaluation and preparation introduced, a series of points for policy are opened for discussion. One is to raise the quality of manuscripts, and to improve on speed and status of UAPS’ publication. Another is to achieve a good circulation both within and out of the region. With a favourable budget situation, the UAPS publications work is likely to advance considerably in the next few years.

UAPS depends not only on financial support from outside the region, but equally on voluntary work from its members. Many of the old ‘activists’ have now moved into demanding occupations which constrain their chances for dynamic contributions in the Union structure. This is felt all through the organisation. The initiative to create country representatives is a key step in order to recapture many old members who have turned “passive members” in disappointment over inefficiencies during the 1990s. These representatives would also be key players in the launching of a new activity field of UAPS directed to the economic and social crises facing especially Sub-Saharan Africa today. However, for this step to yield results, much work is required to open functioning links of communication and support to the F-P. Electronic channels are important today and could be used much better in the future.

In summary, the Durban conference and the signals of the new Council have raised the expectations of UAPS members in their organisation as a truly Pan-African organisation able to deliver. There is now a need to show progress, both in the traditional fields of UAPS activity (seminars and workshops, delayed in relation to earlier plans) and in the various steps defined to activate and strengthen contacts with members. As progress will continue to be behind published plans and programmes, to strengthen communication with members is a must. Much remains to be done in using new means of communication, updating members' addresses etc. Equally important is to identify different incentives – symbolic and/or material – for elected or nominated members to devote more efforts in pursuing their commitments of the organisation. This holds right up to the top. At the same time, elected members need to be made much more aware of the commitments they have made by standing for election.

The patience of members is a challenge to donors. With the exception of South Africa, it will be a long time before UAPS can expect contributions from African governments (which also means to prove its worth for such contributions). Donors need to reflect on the impacts on an organisation such as UAPS of economic, political and social problems around the region. The potential for consolidating the gains made, and for growing considerably, has not been so high at any time since the early days of the organisation. Constructive support and co-operation is recommended which enables the UAPS leadership to develop the work according to medium-range plans stretching beyond its own mandate. This should be supplemented by annual assessments which support the leadership in keeping a critical eye on progress and draw-backs.

Finally, it would be a loss of opportunity if this report remains with Sida/SAREC. Many of the observations made are likely to be of value for the Council and the Secretariat. When the UAPS website is in order, the report could well be made accessible for any UAPS member with IT equipment, thus contributing to communication and debate within the organisation.

1 Background

The Union for African Population Studies, UAPS, is the only pan-African organisation that addresses population/development issues from the perspectives of social science. It was created in 1985, and took off under a new leadership in connection with the Second African Population Conference in Dakar 1988. Modelled upon the international Demographers' Union IUSSP, UAPS builds on individual membership and engagement across a wide range of professions and interests. Organisations can be affiliated.

UAPS has defined five fields of activity, to which its resources and organisation should be directed:

- Research (small grants, thematic research networks, bibliographical work);
- Training (esp. in research methodology);
- Information (publications, dissemination workshops, conference monitoring, documentation centre);
- Technical assistance/co-operation (in the elaboration on or implementation of research findings);
- Advocacy (sensitisation of decision-makers and opinion-leaders).

Like any African institution in the field of population and development, UAPS is exposed not only to scientific but also to political influence from actors interested in influencing demographic dynamics in the region. Financial support from agencies such as SAREC have been vital for efforts to strengthen the autonomy of the Union. The current leadership, elected in Durban in 1999, is a very distinct representative of this trend.

UAPS is expanding and consolidating as an organisation, in a very challenging environment. The economic crises since the 1980s, the corresponding stagnation if not decline in academic activities, the exodus of professionals and the impoverishment of the public sector, have all contributed to problems facing the organisation through the 1990s. One single factor works the opposite way: the growing access to internet and e-mail in the region. This means of communication is of key importance in holding together a leadership spread across the region, whose members might have to go abroad for shorter or longer spells, and in reaching members in virtually every country of this vast continent.

UAPS has enjoyed Swedish support since 1988. It is almost entirely dependent on external funding – national governments and regional bodies still have to turn their appreciation of the organisation into material support (Senegal being the only exception). Members fees would not, even if all paid up regularly, account for more than a small fraction of a reasonable work budget.

2 Terms of Reference for the assessment

The assessment is part of Sida's preparation of a three-year support to UAPS. Its aims are, primarily, to assess the conditions under which recent moves to strengthen the organisation can be sustained.

As summarised in the ToR (Annex 5): "UAPS has at times been a rather weak organisation. The routines at the main office in Dakar have for certain periods been imperfect and insufficient to meet the members' demands. The organisation's culture has sometimes been characterised by a top-down approach and delays in publishing have been common. However, clear signs have lately been indicating a revival of the organisation and efforts have been done to re-conquer the trust of the donor community."

Therefore, "The assessment will estimate the possibility for a consolidation of the recent initiatives taken by UAPS."

The issues to be studied in the assessment can be grouped into three categories:

A. Organisational issues

- Have the routines and working situation at the main office been changed?
- If that is the case – how do the new routines function?
- Has a Manual of Administrative, Financial and Accounting Procedures been introduced?
- Is the new leadership structure efficient?
- What is the general view of reforms and UAPS function among staff and network members?
- Is the present structure of UAPS considered more democratic (participative) than earlier?
- How is publishing functioning?

B. Support to scientific work

- How are the research networks for senior researchers (TRN) and the grant programme for young researchers (SGP) functioning? Are their goals reached?
- How do the methodology seminars function?

C. Quality and relevance

- What can be said about the scientific quality of production through the Union?
- What is its relevance for African demography and policies on population and development?

The assessment is intended to lead to an overall judgement of, firstly, the likelihood that the current trends towards reform and higher efficiency can be maintained and consolidated during the period of Sida support, secondly, whether UAPS has consolidated its role as a proponent of African demographic research, thirdly, whether its scientific orientation corresponds to needs in the region.

3 Methods of data collection

Three basic ways of assembling the required information were used: Consultation of available documentation; interviews on site with elected representatives, members and staff, and participation in Council and Secretariat work; and long-distance communication with different categories of members.

3.1 Documentation

Internal UAPS documents, information to members, reports to funders, and other documentation have been used extensively. Some were made available from Sida, some were sent directly – and efficiently – from the UAPS Secretariat, some had been received by me in my capacity as member of UAPS, and – finally – some were retrieved during a visit to the Secretariat. The coverage is satisfactory except in one respect; I failed to get hold of minutes from the final general assembly meeting in Durban.

The documents accessed and used are listed in Annex 2.

3.2 Interviews with key informants, participation in Union work

In preparatory contacts with the Union Council¹ and Secretariat, a visit was planned for the Dakar office and the regional representative (R-R) for North Africa, based in Rabat.²

UAPS had prepared a rich programme for the period of my visit to Dakar. A reduced council meeting was called for the same week, to decide i.a. on a successor to the former Executive Secretary who resigned in December 2000. The West Africa regional representative took part in the meeting. The week also saw the launching of a new thematic research network (TRN) on AIDS, where I took part as interested member. These meetings gave excellent opportunities for both personal and group discussions with key informants not resident in Dakar. In addition, I had full access to the Secretariat staff.

The visit to Rabat gave room for profound discussions with the regional representative for North Africa, a somewhat marginal region in the UAPS' history of activities. In Rabat as well as in Dakar, ordinary members were met and highly valuable information collected through unstructured interviews.

3.3 Information collected via e-mail and fax

An effort was made to reach certain categories of UAPS members by e-mail and fax. They are, a) those not met of the five UAPS regional representatives; b) UAPS country focal points; c) UAPS members who had received a "small grant"; d) UAPS members in thematic research networks, TRN. The forms had both questions common to all, and questions directed to respective category of members. They were prepared and distributed in English and French respectively, according to what appeared to best suit the receiver.

¹ A visit to New York in March gave me the opportunity of meeting the president Bob Kandeh, and the officer-in-charge Martin Bangha, during the annual Population Association of America (PAA) conference in Washington. These meetings were very instrumental in setting up the Dakar visit jointly with a Council meeting there, as well as with the simultaneous launching of a new TRN.

² Originally the plan included visits also to Nairobi and Maseru. Logistic and cost reasons, together with growing uncertainties about the marginal gains of personal visits in comparison with using other means, led to the cancellation of these parts of the itinerary.

Despite several reminders, the proportion replying was below expectations. We have no indications of the reasons for this result, which in itself is an indication of the conditions under which the UAPS leadership work in mobilising its membership.

- a) R-R for all regions except North and West Africa (who were met in person) received an e-mail questionnaire (see Annex 3). In addition, a conference call was made with Southern and Central Africa.³ The questionnaire thus came to serve primarily to get replies from East Africa.
- b) Country focal points (F-P) exist in all regions, but the Secretariat had received lists only for eighteen countries. In all, nine F-P had up-to-date addresses. Up to end-July, replies had been received from two (plus one, who was not an F-P).
- c) All grantees from the Small Grants Programme SGP received e-mail or fax. In accordance with the intent of the assessment, only grantees from 1997 and 1998 were included.⁴ Of thirty-nine on the mailing list, twenty-eight had functioning addresses. Nine replied.
- d) Of the seven TRN launched in 1997, only two reached sufficient stability to produce. The co-ordinating group of each of these two was selected for questioning via e-mail. Replies were received by three out of seven with functioning addresses in the target group.

See Annex 3 for the questionnaires for each of the above categories. As expected – and as symptomatic for the conditions for UAPS’ work – only a small proportion was reached and responded respectively.

A summary of the dispatches is given below.

Group	Total number	Number dispatched (fax or e-mail)	Number who replied (fax + e-mail)	Wrong/missing e-mail addresses
Regional. Repr. (R-R)	5	5	2	0
Thematic Research Network (TRN)	11	7	3	4
Small Grants Pr. (SGP)	39	28	9	24 ^a
Focal Points (F-P)	18	9	2	10 ^a

^a These numbers indicate wrong or missing e-mail addresses on the address list received from UAPS. In some cases we managed to get the right address, that is why the figures do not correspond.

³ East Africa missed out due to misunderstanding about timing.

⁴ These years represent the latest phase of SMG. Older phases were regarded as too far from the current leadership and reform trends to be of interest.

4 UAPS today

“UAPS has taken off, now it is a mature organisation” This comment from the North Africa R-R summarises a sentiment met in many interviews. A key indicator is the way the Third African Population Conference, Durban December 1999, was run. Earlier conferences had been prepared and run under advice from IUSPP⁵, whose Secretariat facilities were instrumental for the implementation of the conference. In Durban, IUSSP was not present either in the international co-ordinating committee or in any other function.

4.1 The significance of the Durban conference

Still, it was by far the largest and the best attended of African scientific conferences on population so far. Contributions were printed in three volumes and mailed to participants advance of the conference; over 700 participants attended; a total of 37 scientific sessions were held; and the host country South Africa was the subject of both formal sessions and special workshops. A well-known French demographer and Africanist later described the event as “a sign of maturity acquired by the African population community as well as of the new capacity of UAPS to animate this community”.⁶

The Durban conference represented a genuine achievement in moving ownership away from external and to African actors. A decisive factor was the financial and human resources offered by the host government to all phases of the conference. At the same time, the efforts made by the UAPS leadership and the Secretariat to mobilise human resources within and out of the region made it possible to hold a high scientific standard in both preparations and realisations of sessions and other programme events.

A “Summary of Proceedings” to the Conference by one Senior African social scientist⁷ has been raised to the level of “conference recommendations”. It is both reflective of and a guide to current thinking in UAPS that the work of the Union must be of relevance for actors striving to solve the development problems of the region today. This way, the conference provided much more than a set of papers and good discussions; it gave the pointer needed for the African population community to also take ownership of the agenda for scientific development and research in the region.

The next conference is planned for 2003. One planning meeting has been held, and a formal organising structure will be put in place in Abidjan in July. South Africa has taken an active role also in this work. Which the new government is that accepts to host the conference might be a crucial factor in relation to UAPS’ efforts to keep ownership of these events solidly within the region.

4.2 New council, new directions

The Durban general assembly marked a breakthrough in terms of a series of reforms essential for UAPS to overcome earlier deficiencies and consolidate itself in the region. Important among these are

- The decision to strengthen links the to members through a hierarchy of regional representatives (R-R) and national focal points (F-P);

⁵ The de facto influence of IUSSP leadership both in organisation and in raising funds might justify calling it “the patronage of IUSSP”.

⁶ As quoted in the fourth volume of the Conference, the proceedings, p.12.

⁷ See D.M. Sala-Diakanda, “Summary of Proceedings”, Conference vol. 4 pp. 27–41.

- The steps agreed to strengthen the Secretariat, among them the nomination of an Executive Secretary
Efforts to redefine the scientific agenda of UAPS in relation to Africa's development problems today
- The decision to add "advocacy" as a fifth area of activity for UAPS

The Durban conference and the composition of the new Council could be interpreted as a generational change in the Union. Understanding of modern management and a democratic perspective are what better characterises the Union today. The constraints to success are still formidable.

5 Organisational issues – central level

The regional conferences are planned to coincide with the general assembly meetings of UAPS, which are supposed to be held every four years to elect new members of council and other bodies. According to statutes, the vice-president is elected for one four-year term, after which she/he automatically moves to the level of president for one period. Other members of council might sit for more than one term. Participation in elections is still possible only for those present at the general assembly, i.e. those who come to the conference. Another insufficiency relates to the fact that the nominating committee is elected at the beginning of the conference, with only a few days to prepare nominations before elections which take place at the end of the conference. Such questions will be possible to address as and when e-mail permits regular contact with a majority of UAPS' members.

5.1 The work of the Council

The new Council has members from all parts of the region. Only the treasurer is based in Dakar. The Council has so far had one full meeting, in June 2000. The second meeting planned for February 2001 had to be postponed due to the political situation in the host country.⁸ Bureau⁹ meetings have been held in both 2000 and 2001, and a reduced ad hoc Council meeting took place in May 2001 – the latter specifically to decide on the employment of a new executive secretary.

The difficulties in calling the Council together is a sign of the persistent strains on UAPS activities by conditions in the region. Travel is cumbersome and time-consuming. People are engaged in demanding employment or have to struggle with additional jobs to top up miserable salaries. Good planning is undermined by external events.

The President informed me that he had entertained a hope that the Council, thanks i.a. to e-mail, should be able to function as a genuine work group. In reality, Council members are not easily available to respond to queries, to study and comment on material, or even to attend meetings of the Council. In this respect, conditions have not improved. Nor are they likely to do so in a short-term perspective. In effect, much of the ad hoc decisions and short-term planning are done by the president and the treasurer in direct liaison with the Secretariat.

The channel for communication from Council to members is the Newsletter. Its efficiency depends on the frequency of publication, the accuracy of members' addresses and the degree to which they read the Newsletter. Two issues were published during 2000. A September issue, probably mailed in October, related the many important decisions of the first Council meeting and appealed to members to apply for different tasks. A December issue summarised activities during the second half of 2000 and noted a conspicuous lack of applications from members for the different tasks.

A well functioning web site would be both faster and more efficient in reaching interested members. Problems with the contracted Dakar consultant meant that as of May 2001, the UAPS website was not yet updated. When the problems are resolved, a big obstacle to swift contact, obsolete addresses, will have been reduced. By then it remains to get members alerted to the new web site and to add news with such frequency that it pays off to open the web site.

⁸ Abidjan, center for political instability since the Fall of 2000. The Council meeting was planned to coincide with an international seminar of one of the TRNs, which is now due to take place in July 2001.

⁹ (or Executive Committee, as it is also called; consists of president, secretary general and treasurer)

5.2 The work of the Secretariat

With the new Council, radical changes occurred in the Secretariat. The former administrative head, a long-standing employee of the Union, was discharged, and the officer responsible for SGP, even he very experienced in the affairs of the Union, promoted to Executive Secretary. He resigned in late 2000,¹⁰ leaving the Secretariat considerably weakened.

Further, the Secretariat was to be reinforced with a professional editor and an editorial assistant, reinforced by a documentalist cum web site officer. The first two are in place since early 2001, while the third was approached as a consultant relation. It did not work well, and a new staff members has been recruited and will soon be in place.

During the first year of the Council, a Manual of Procedures was produced and approved. The employment conditions of the personnel were regularised.

The Secretariat structure of the Manual is reproduced below. In relation to this structure, there are today three vacancies: Executive Secretary; Head of Division for Administration and Finance; Head of Division for Advocacy, Assist. Co-operation. The head of Division Research and Training is today officer-in-charge and responsible for the day-to-day affairs of the Secretariat.

I failed to get a clear reply concerning plans for the vacant posts. No decisions seem to have been taken beyond the recruitment of Executive Secretary and of Documentalist respectively. Financial resources is a factor, where little is as yet known about even the short-term future.

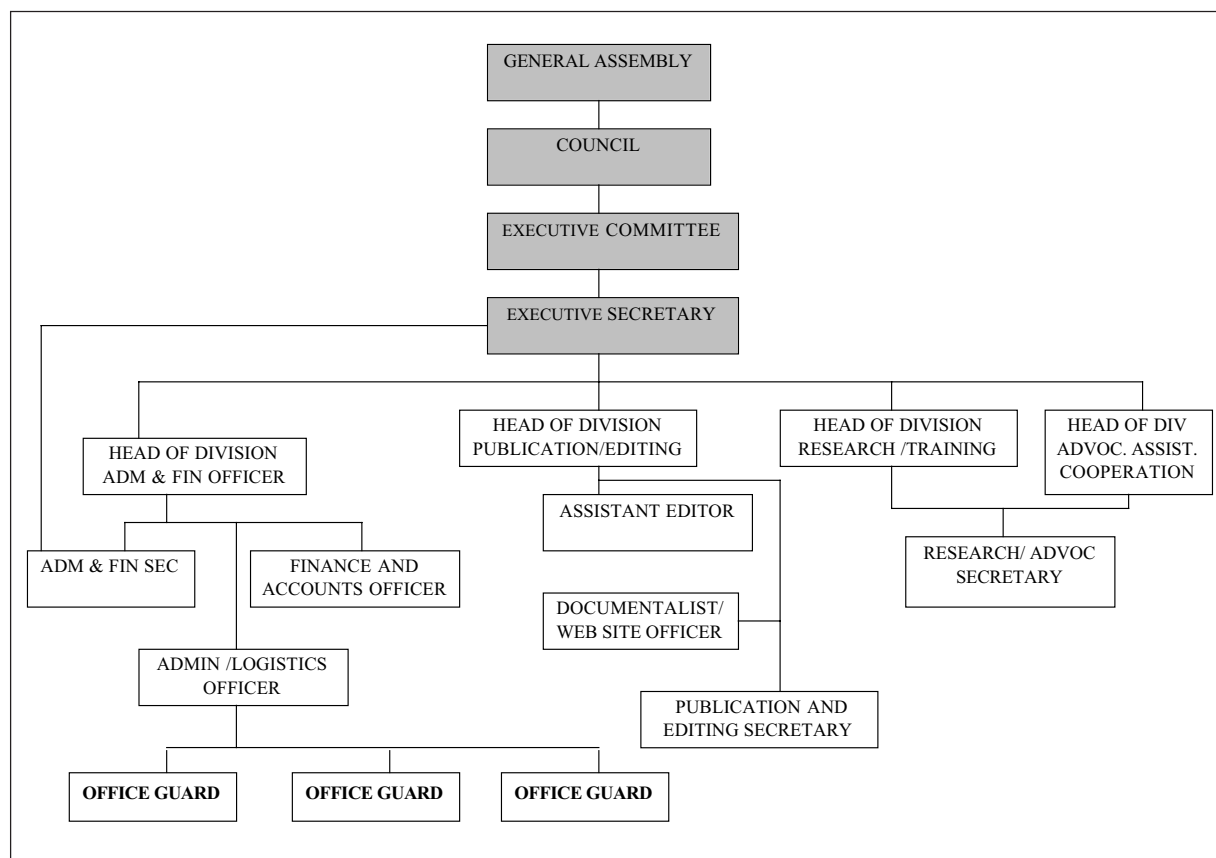
The work of the Secretariat is lagging behind in several important respects. The loss of the former Executive Secretary is an important reason but not the only one. To manage a backlog of work left by the outgoing Council adds to the effects of staff losses. “Democracy costs” is another reason – to improve contacts with members takes time.

One conspicuous indication of the imbalance between needs and realities is given by the state of work plans. There exists today a number of annual and semi-annual plans, which do not always give the same picture – a lack of co-ordination between divisions can be seen. The overall plan guiding the period of the Council (2001–2004) was left to a Dakar consultant, whose work is a peculiar application of LogFrame methods in the first part of the plan, supplemented by a more regular time-frame plan of activities and events. Links between the two are not easy to find.

An advance version of the plan (which may never be finalised) was made available in Dakar. My impression is that it was not necessarily seen as a useful tool for either Secretariat or Council.

¹⁰ There are composite reasons behind the resignation, among them growing problems of collaboration between the Council and the Executive Secretary, and his own growing engagement in a local Senegalese NGO. The ad hoc Council meeting in May was called to decide on a candidate for the post. By the time he is expected to start working, the Secretariat will have had to live without a head for six months.

UAPS' organisation according to Manual of Procedures



The Secretariat is today heavily burdened by regular parts of the work plan and by trying to respond to new exigencies. Among the former are

- 5) to reduce the publications backlog from SGP reports;
- 6) to prepare for a new phase of SGP – not launched since 1998 – by creating a new scientific committee and preparing funding applications;
- 7) to prepare new applications for international funding to UAPS;
- 8) to prepare the Abidjan international symposium for July and the Rabat training of trainers workshop for later in 2001;
- 9) to improve the status of members' fee payment and updating of their addresses;
- 10) to engage with R-R and F-P and give the necessary support;

The present imbalance between the combined capacity of the Council and the Secretariat, and the range of tasks to be undertaken simultaneously with acquiring new financial contributions from donors, is a potential threat to the sustainability of the momentum of change introduced with the new Council.

5.3 Work programmes, plans, and reality of progress

Many of the activities of UAPS are “regular”, i.e. framed in programmes that have been part of the organisation for several years. In this sense a work programme would be easy to develop – in principle to fill in the slots with concrete data about “where” and “when”.

The current Council embarked on a more ambitious form of planning – whether out of own initiative or in response to donor request is not known. A consultant was hired to develop a four-year programme in LogFrame format. It appears to have been a failure in several respects: costly, time-consuming not least for Secretariat staff, delaying the delivery of a good programme, and - in its current unfinished version – of little value.¹¹

The work is today guided by a plan made last year for presentation to a donor, and by a number of annual and semi-annual plans, which do not always give the same picture. This indicates a lack of co-ordination between divisions. The situation reflects the burden of everyday work on a reduced Secretariat. The main problem is not the lack of a common work programme, but the lack of sufficient time to implement the tasks at hand.

Where delays in programming affect the union is in the effects on fund-raising. To launch a new phase of the SGP programme requires applications for funding, based a carefully laid out plan. The same holds for other events in the work programme.

All in all, this means that progress during the term of the Council will be less than hoped for. While important steps are taken to consolidate and strengthen the Union in key respects, the setbacks especially in Secretariat capacity will lead to a lower than expected output.

¹¹ An advance copy of the plan was made available in Dakar. My impression is that it was not necessarily seen as a useful tool by either Secretariat or Council. Earlier plans were probably developed by the Secretariat in direct co-operation with the president. Only with the current Council is the president no longer able to spend longer periods in Dakar, which might have contributed to the decision to hire a consultant.

6 Organisational issues – lower levels

The UAPS organisation works through a vertical network down to country level, and through special committees or other groups. The size of the Africa region made it necessary early on to divide the region into sub-units, and recently the decision was taken to also identify and enrol country representatives.

6.1 The roles of regional representatives

R-R are intermediaries. Five regions have been created, each of them vast enough to virtually eliminate the chances for an R-R to reach out without e-mail access to F-P. The number of countries per R-R is as follows:

Central Africa	8
East Africa	11
North Africa	6
Southern Africa	12
West Africa	14

Nigeria is not included in any of the regions. Due to its population size and the large number of universities, Nigeria is treated separately. It has its own “R-R”, the Nigerian member of Council and editor-in-chief. Further, four F-P have been recruited to assist in covering the country.

The current division is not without its problems. Under the last Council, Sudan belonged to North Africa, and the R-R, based in Khartoum, had very little contact with North African countries. Sudan has now been moved to East Africa, and Mauritania included in North Africa. This makes the region more homogenous, but much remains to bring the region closer to UAPS. A special seminar to be run in Rabat during 2001 is intended to vitalise the relation.¹²

Asked directly about his region, R-R West Africa disclosed that he had a division of labour with the Secretariat, which was supposed to handle seven of the fourteen countries.¹³ The division was in part based on language differences, in part related to sheer geographical barriers in relation to his own range of movements in service.

No written Terms of Reference exist for R-R. They are members of the Council. Following the decision to nominate F-P, they were charged with identifying such in respective countries. In the June 2000 Council meeting, they were given advance cash for their own expenses in communication etc., not including any money for journeys. Cash sums intended for F-P were also given for them, to hand over when occasions arose. They may collect members fees, and receive such money from the F-P.

R-R are generally well-known and trusted members of the Union. In this capacity, they are expected to use the means at their disposal to strengthen the presence of UAPS in their region, to reactivate old members and recruit new ones, to publicise SGP and other opportunities provided by the Union, and to be a link between F-P and the central level.

The idea is well founded. Realities put many constraints in the way of good performance. In some regions, the banking system and currency regulations do not facilitate either for bank transfers or for the

¹² The seminar has been postponed for reasons which relate to the poor links to Dakar. North Africa R-R had many interesting ideas about how to strengthen the region in UAPS, but had done little for this to materialise.

¹³ The disclosure appeared to come as a surprise for the Secretariat.

personal movement of hard currency between countries. To travel is a prerogative of people who do so in their employment. Simply to identify old members whose addresses are obsolete is a trying task which requires ingenuity and time.

Excerpts from the picture given by the five R-R are given in Annex 4.

6.2 Focal points – key players in the organisation?

The 1999 General Assembly in Durban recommended the creation of F-P in all countries of the region. R-R have generally been assigned the responsibility for identifying and recruiting UAPS members for this post. In May, 2001, F-P lists had been sent to the Secretariat from five R-R, covering 18 countries.¹⁴ R-R North Africa had identified but not yet reported on F-P in most countries of the region.

For some countries, UAPS may not have any members. For others, links have not been maintained, and R-R face the challenge of finding suitable members without personally visiting the country.¹⁵

ToR for F-P give them a range of roles as advertisers of UAPS, links to other members, collectors of members' fees, liaison with governments etc. In addition, they are seen as a vital partner in the 'Forum' dialogues planned as a way to implement the new fifth goal of the Union; advocacy (see section 11 below). They can also play an instrumental role in the SGP, both in advertising the opportunities and in arranging for "dissemination seminars" for SGP reports.

In support, they get some advance cash to cover expenses. Like the R-R, they have no money to travel, and no reimbursement for the time they spend on such tasks. Like the R-R, the cash support is handled quite informally, with no instructions for what expenses are "legitimate" and how to account for expenses.

Not all selected F-P have yet received their advance cash. R-R may have difficulties to get the money into their hands. This problem is one expression of a wider problem of poor infrastructure for financial transactions. See further section 10.2.

6.3 UAPS Committees

The situation of committees is under revision. One reason is the need for renewal of work methods, the other the issue of finding new volunteers.

One of the steps in launching a new Small Grants Programme is the establishment of a new SGP Scientific Committee to handle invitations, selection and follow-up activities. A request for members to apply for membership in the committee gave no response, and the Council has since decided to make personal invitations. The committee is still to be established.

The Editorial Advisory Board has been more of a list of people than a functioning support to UAPS. A very difficult problem is to get useful reviews of drafts made, and returned within reasonable time limits. The current practice is to make use of Council meetings and similar opportunities to get members to spend a few extra days to review drafts in situ. Intensive work is underway to find a good and practical solution (see also Section 8 below).

¹⁴ R-R North Africa had identified but not yet reported on F-P in most countries of the region.

¹⁵ This is not an unsurmountable challenge. Demographers are few and generally know each other. IUSSP member lists, government statistical offices and statistical departments in universities are possible sources of information.

7 Support to scientific development

A key purpose of the Union is to lend support to the strengthening of institutional and personal capacities for scientific work on population-related matters. Besides workshops and other meetings, the two main activities in this direction are the Small Grants Programme and the Thematic Research Networks.

7.1 SGP

The SGP is primarily intended to support young scientists to plan and implement empirical studies aimed at a post-graduate degree.¹⁶ The latest phase where applications were invited was 1997/98. Today, preparations are underway for a new phase.

The SGP requires from the Union, a) that funds are raised; b) that a scientific committee is there to handle applications, make selections and receive drafts for reading and critique; c) that selected grantees are offered the opportunity to participate in a methodology training seminar; d) that the Union possesses capacity for publishing a selection of the resulting reports; e) that the Union organises “dissemination workshops” to make research findings known and expose them to debate. Points d) and e) are directly related to other purposes of Union work, namely to increase the access to prime research done in the region by its own researchers, and to broaden access to and application of research findings among government and other circles.

SGP is important also in that it gives UAPS a visible role as provider of highly attractive goods. Over 860 applications were received during the 1997/98 period, of which 48 – around 5% – were selected. A new stock of applications has built up, although the new phase is yet to be announced; 28 are late applications made in 1998 and 54 have been received during the two years thereafter. Unfortunately, much remains in terms of preparations for the next phase and no date appears to have been set for the launching.

In its first Newsletter (September 2000), the Council made a general invitation to members to express their interest for a place in the scientific committee. As an insufficient number of members came forward, it has now decided to select and invite people on an individual basis.

The recent recruitment of competent publishing staff to the Secretariat, and the introduction of time-saving methods for evaluating drafts¹⁷, have paved the way for handling the backlog of drafts awaiting publication.

Who applies, and who gets, a grant depends on many factors. The UAPS presence (through active members) in local university institutions is an important condition, the academic tradition of support to students another. The traditional orientation of UAPS towards certain regions and countries, and the relatively high level of demographic activity in the same areas, reflect in a fairly skewed distribution of grantees (see table below). For the latest phase, 1997–98, only two grantees came from North Africa and three from Southern Africa, while Nigeria alone had 6. To remedy such imbalances requires a conscious and determined policy of the Union over several years.

¹⁶ Most likely Master, as PhD is not available in the region except possibly in South Africa and Egypt.

¹⁷ The new method consists in calling relevant members to Dakar for a week of joint evaluation of drafts. Earlier, members received drafts in the mail, and generally took long time to answer, if at all.

The distribution of SPG Grantees* in Africa			
Region	Total	English speaking country	French speaking country
North Africa	2		2
West Africa	7	3	4
Central Africa	9		9
East Africa	7	7	
Southern Africa	3	3	
Nigeria	6	6	
Total	34	19	15

* 1997–1998

While two dissemination seminars took place last year, no methodology seminars have yet been held under the current Council. The Council plan is to bring such seminars to scale through a “training-of-trainers” workshop to be held in Rabat, Morocco. The workshop is also intended to lead to the production of a training manual, which can be used by would-be trainers in future national training workshops. The Rabat workshop has run into difficulties. Originally planned for November 2000, it is likely to take place in October 2001. One reason given was the lack of applications, which again must be linked to the late date that members were informed and the brief period given to apply for enrolment.¹⁸

7.2 Thematic Research Networks

The TRN system was created by the former Council, in replacement of the programme of grants to senior researchers which did not give satisfactory results. Between 1996 and 1999, seven TRN were set up. Despite slightly conflicting reports, the evidence is that only two TRN ever took off.¹⁹ One has completed its work and is now moving into a second phase. The other is responsible for an international seminar to take place in July this year in Abidjan.

For two of the other TRNs, a Council activity report (See General Assembly 7 December 1999) places the failure in lack of co-ordinator activity. There are, however, general problems in the launching and management of TRNs, which increase their vulnerability and dependence on their own internal strengths. Firstly, no ToR for TRNs appears ever to have been produced. Secondly, explicit clarification regarding roles and responsibilities of the Union (i.e. the Secretariat) has not been produced up to today.

A “killing factor” for a TRN is the ability to raise funds – from sources similar to those already exploited by the Union for its own running. Whether or not the theme is “popular”, whether or not its operationalisation is in line with the thinking of funders, is a critical factor in the chances of a TRN to survive. This gives an importance to the co-ordinator and her/his links to funders, general prestige in the scientific world etc that is questionable.²⁰

¹⁸ The Newsletter was at best received by members during October; applications should be in by November and the workshop take place in December. Other difficulties relate to internal problems in the Rabat institute, which most likely could have been solved more quickly with sufficient Secretariat capacity to visit Rabat directly.

¹⁹ Five TRNs took part in the Durban conference by organising a session there.

²⁰ IUSSP has a series of scientific committees with a predetermined length of life and a budget primarily arranged by the organisation itself. The IUSSP Secretariat has an important role in preparing the ground for such activities and, when a new committee is launched, ensure that it can do its work.

I personally took part in the launching of the first TRN under the current Council. It was a new attempt to launch a TRN related to the AIDS epidemic – the one from 1997 did not take off. The September 2000 Newsletter invited members to express their interest. In the brief time given, three persons responded. The launching was postponed until May, when it took place in the presence of four interested members, none of them senior in this field of research.

This experience clarified the lack of concrete guidelines for a TRN, the reliance on TRN members to produce, by themselves, a tenable framework for the TRN, and the lack of clarity regarding the role of the Secretariat to generally support its work. It illustrates the wider observation that much will and intention is there in the Union. For their initiatives to survive and be sustained, they need to be better balanced by more systematic preparations in the Council and by a more professional attitude to the management issues around selected activities.

8 Publications – policy and practice

Early in 2001, the Secretariat was reinforced with a professional senior publications editor, with many years of experience i.a. from Codesria. He is bilingual. His collaborators consist of one assistant editor, equally fluent in both languages, a website specialist and documentalist (recruited, to start soon), and a secretary. With the documentalist, this will be the most well staffed unit of the Secretariat.

The unit has an important mandate; to ensure regular and up-to-date publishing in a professional quality of both outlook and content. This is badly required, both to attract qualified scientists with access to more prestigious journals, and to widen the readership within as well as outside the region.

So far, Union publications have been published irregularly, not infrequently reporting on research done some time back. The journal *African Population Studies* is intended to come out with 3 issues per year; a target still to be reached with regularity. The UAPS Newsletter is published less frequently than planned. Most of the other publications are reports from the SGP, either the complete report or as an abridged version. Currently there is a backlog of some 20 drafts awaiting evaluation, to be followed by revisions, approval and printing.

While the Newsletter is distributed to all members, publications are in principle distributed only to members who have paid extra for this service. Shortcomings in the members' register lead to unfortunate differences between intention and practice. Publications are also sent on an exchange basis to many institutions in the region and elsewhere.²¹ There appears to be very little of sales activities. The Union has big stocks of some publications, while others are no longer available.

The current publication and distribution practice of UAPS is the result of many years of work in the field, and not an expression of a systematic policy. Such a document is likely to come, and could then contribute to make the publications more widely available. This is badly needed; while research reports and journal articles cover issues over a wide field of population and social science, the publications are most likely little known outside of the UAPS membership and population institutes themselves.

The SGP has resulted in a series of useful publications. Lately, they appear in two versions; a more elaborated research report and a summary report, a commendable policy when SGP reports are disseminated to people from government and other non-academic circles. My impression is that these reports have improved considerably, in both content and layout. The main problem is that they relate to research undertaken some years back, a result of time-consuming manuscript revisions as well as printing backlogs.

Publications such as these are badly needed in African academic institutions which tend to have highly insufficient budgets for the acquisition of publications, and where members' copies would be a valuable contribution. They are also an important way of making the Union visible in the region, and an impetus to improve the efficiency and quality in all its work. Much work remains to improve the scientific and of writing quality in the publications, for instance through workshops in "scientific writing" – a subject missing from university courses so far. Efforts in this direction need to be complemented by an active marketing policy, such as participation in international book fairs, finding European market outlets etc.²²

²¹ Where the exchange publications go was not possible to find out. A small library at the Secretariat seemed to have mainly old publications.

²² These comments are partly based on an internal paper by the new senior publications editor.

There is no doubt that scholars and students in the region need their own outlets for the circulation of results of their research. Competition in international journals outside the region is high, and if a paper is accepted, publication is a long process. The UAPS journal could serve parts of this need, provided resources for and organisation of the work would permit higher production. Steps in the latter direction have been undertaken, and when circulation and 'visibility' are improved, there should be no shortage of manuscripts from the region.

The Durban conference served to publish and disseminate a large number of papers presented at the conference itself. With an admirable efficiency, UAPS managed to print three volumes of papers within the last few months before the conference, providing thereby a good stock of scientific writings to universities and students. A final report covering all the official documents of the conference was prepared last year, and serves to consolidate the conference in the development of population studies in the region.

For UAPS, a main strategy should be to use publication work to strengthen its support to scientific activities in the region. Firstly, to facilitate for students to access the publications, secondly to sharpen its demands on quality and so improve on the scientific quality of research and reporting in the region. All this requires external financial support, based on the understanding that potential readers are poor and that all money transactions in the region are cumbersome and expensive.

9 The fifth UAPS activity area – advocacy

The June 2000 Council meeting spent substantial time reviewing the Union's objectives, its organisation and other means to fulfil the objectives. It used a concluding statement with recommendations from the Durban conference, and a 'logical programming framework' called CLPG. The deliberations came to focus on a common problem for Africa: Poverty and impoverishment. The participants agreed that UAPS' activities should be developed so as to be of optimum value in the struggle against poverty. This reasoning in turn led the Council to add a fifth activity area for UAPS: 'advocacy'.

The review was important also in a broader perspective. It represents yet another important step of the union to "take ownership" of its objectives and activities. If successful, it means that UAPS will have its own platform from where both scientific work and collaboration with other actors get their direction. It would be the platform to guide dialogues with funders and negotiations with governments. With its own perspectives on development and the role of an institution such as UAPS, it will be better equipped to respond to demands or expectations from for instance funders.

As it stands, the resulting platform is very wide – far beyond any reasonable definition of 'population and development'. A second step seems essential; to define the Union-specific activities in relation to the platform, and how it can engage (even more than today) in interdisciplinary activities without losing its identity and professional competence.

In a follow-up half a year after the June Council meeting, another UAPS forum²³ discussed related issues. It reached the conclusion that focused 'dialogue' in various forms would be the main strategy to advance. The basis of all dialogues, the Durban document, is to be launched together with situational population reports, in meetings with different stakeholders on country and region levels. These 'forums' appear to be the intended backbone of UAPS' activities to reach important audiences and thus increase the use-value of research findings. Presumably, they would also give feedbacks to the Union on what issues to prioritise and how the exchange between science and practice could unfold so as not to limit the former to "applied" or "policy research" in ways similar to those of the period when demography could be called "the hand-maiden of family planning activities".²⁴

In the current situation, UAPS is not yet ready to put concrete work into implementing such a strategy. F-P and R-R need to be in place and active, and directions and resources are required from the Council. However, the preparatory work for the next general conference, an important point on the Agenda for the next council meeting in July, is likely to be another step in the direction outlined.

²³ See *Report on The First Follow-up Meeting Third African Population Conference*, Saly Portudal December 2000

²⁴ Paul Demeny, "Social Science and Population Policy", *Population and Development Review*, 14, 3, September 1988, 451–79

10 Surmounting the barriers to regional exchange

There are formidable barriers to be overcome by a pan-African organisation. Three European languages are the colonial heritage for Sub-Saharan African countries, Arabic dominates in North Africa, and some countries – e.g. Eritrea, Ethiopia and Tanzania – have their own languages. With over 50 countries and generally very poor communication infrastructure, the region simply does not allow for smooth co-operation across all its different parts.

10.1 The regional question

The regional imbalances in UAPS reflect the growth of demography and population studies since Independence. Ghana and Nigeria in West Africa, and Kenya in East Africa, were early out. French-speaking Africa (probably including most of North Africa) never really embraced the “family planning ideology” that gave so much of institutional development and research funding to the others. Portuguese-speaking Africa, liberating itself from a dictatorship, simply did not have a social science tradition to fall back on.

Locating the Secretariat in Dakar, and drawing many of its leading members from West and East Africa, the Union came “by default” to have much of its activities in these regions. The democratisation of South Africa opens for balancing the scale in favour of Southern Africa – the Durban conference was a great impetus in that direction. Remains North Africa, which for all practical purposes is still somewhat peripheral.

The recent redefinition of North Africa to exclude Sudan and include Mauretania was a step in the right direction, the decision to hold one workshop in North Africa another. Further steps could include contact visits to Libya and Egypt, countries with little or no presence in the Union. To translate some Union material into Arabic would give UAPS a visible appearance. To invite some of the qualified professionals in the region to TRN or other scientific work would create an important interface, through which new members could be recruited.

The steps taken so far show the positive attitude of the Council in relation to North Africa. What more will be done is, undoubtedly, linked to the shortage of human resources and the pressure of other activities of a regular nature. There is a danger that the volume of such tasks will mean that momentum in bringing North Africa closer to the Union is lost. A well-intentioned but insufficiently committed R-R needs rapid and concrete support from UAPS if her work, and the forthcoming workshop in Rabat, are to consolidate this momentum.

10.2 Financial transactions

The Union is constantly riddled by problems of moving money around in the region. Member fees should get to Dakar, advance cash sums should leave Dakar for R-R and F-P. Workshops and other meetings require funds at the place of the meetings. Participants need tickets and per diems.

For large parts of Africa, the banking system is not conducive to border-crossing financial transactions. R-R reported on problems to get advance cash to their F-P, members and F-P reported on problems in getting fees to Dakar. UAPS has bank accounts in Dakar and in USA. Its current status as an NGO in Senegal needs changing if better arrangements should be possible.

These problems are not likely to get short-term and well-functioning solutions. Donors with offices in different parts of the region may help – and probably have been doing so – by being paid in Dakar and moving cash to other parts of its network. Other NGOs – regional or international – might have systems in place that could serve as models for UAPS.

The new R-R/F-P hierarchy opens for simplification in one respect. Member fees collected in a country could remain there, to fund local F-P expenses and be used for Dissemination seminars, Forum's or other activities in the country. They might also be of value to finance travel to UAPS meetings elsewhere. This would reduce the need for financial flows in both directions between countries and the Secretariat.

10.3 Reaching to and recovering old members

As already mentioned, internet and email communication are of immense value for UAPS. To fully exploit its potential, the Union needs to make a genuine effort to update its address register.

Member fees will not for a long time be more than a small fraction of the budget of UAPS. Fees should be seen in another light: They are the tangible contribution from members for something equally tangible they get in return. They are a sign not only of expectations from members, but equally of claims which give members the right to demand returns from the Union. As such, they tie members and their Union much closer to each other.

Today, somewhere between 100 and 150 members appear to be paying regularly. UAPS claims to have close to 900 members. This difference tells of a formidable challenge for the Union; to recover the majority of its members.

No serious investigation has been carried out to explain the fact of non-payment. My impressions are that fairly many members, including some now in leading positions, failed to pay for a shorter or longer period during the 1990s. Reasons could vary – some went abroad and did not need the Union, others went into other occupations, still others paid but did not get anything in return. Whatever the reasons, the non-payment period has led to a loss in contact, to addresses turning obsolete, to members no longer getting publications and no longer acting on behalf of the Union.

The R-R and F-P hierarchy is intended to contribute to improving this situation. Members lists have been distributed, with address details as they are known to the Secretariat. A personal contact can make wonders. For those who are found, an important problem remains; how to make up for Union neglect to send publications, where members have paid up and received nothing? What amount of back-payment to demand from members? The questions have been raised, but formal systematic answers appear still to be lacking.

My impressions are, that UAPS enjoys a great deal of respect as the pan-African organisation of people engaged in population-related issues. It should be possible to recover a good proportion of those not paying today, if reasonable terms for back payment can be offered, backlogs of material delivered and simple means for payment offered. An active membership of perhaps 7–800 people is a very different base for dialogue and advocacy, for SGP and TRN, than the Union enjoys today.

11 Constraints to consolidation and expansion

UAPS, as a pan-African organisation, has from the start been facing formidable challenges to its development. That the organisation survives and today is stronger than it has been for a long time, shows the value of such an organisation for people all over the region. There is undoubtedly a solid base in the support UAPS enjoys from members and sympathetic people both within and out of the region – the diaspora increasingly important among the latter. But consolidation into a more stable state of existence is not yet fully secured.

For all its tasks, the Union depends heavily on voluntary work. The only paid workers are the Secretariat employees. Members of the SGP scientific committee get remuneration for the fairly substantial time they are expected to give to its work. All the members elected to positions work for free. For this to function, two conditions need to be fulfilled: a) that a person has sufficient flexibility in her/his own work to be able to take time off when required; b) that incomes from her/his ordinary employment are sufficient.

In relation to a), there is a clear tendency that important members leave academia and move into offices, be they government or donor offices. This might reduce flexibility considerably. As for b), the whole region is suffering from economic stagnation, and salaries in the public sector generally fall far short of supporting an ordinary family. Many people have several occupations, and time matters – unpaid work is increasingly difficult to demand. How the Union should handle these constraints is not clear, but they have to be addressed.

Not only people, but also governments or the public sector are poor. Debt servicing adds to other burdens, reducing the resources available for higher-level education and support to civil society activities. Even if it proves itself of value to the public sector, UAPS cannot count on government support until economic conditions improve. The Union is, therefore, entirely dependent on external funding, a potential risk for an organisation whose leadership works under so tough conditions and which at the same time wants to increase the elements of participation and democracy. Such elements cost. They are key to the kind of internalised development of science that UAPS aims for, and its success in this endeavour depends entirely on the understanding and support of external funders.

And funding in itself is not enough. Members have stopped paying to UAPS because of poor services from the Secretariat. Non-payment may signify change to student status or to an employment where a person no longer needs UAPS. In many cases however it signifies disappointment or frustrated expectations. The current movement towards making the whole organisation, including its Secretariat, more professional, is highly important – yet it will be some time before the effects are felt, and improved services is an urgent requirement.

Modernisation is the key word of UAPS today. Still, it may have some way to go to fully adopt the new means of working that Internet technology allows for. To replace physical meetings of the Council with e-mail correspondence has not worked; few members take their time to engage in exchange even on important matters. “Conference calls” can sometimes be done over the phone, and “chatting” on the email is a method developed not least in Internet education. Such methods should be tried and systematised wherever possible.

The idea of these methods is to enable people to meet without having to move physically to the same place. When people move, they are available full-time in the context they have moved to. The challenge is to organise the same full commitment, even if colleagues are met only through the words they send on e-mail or Internet. That this is possible has been proved in so-called e-mail conferences, where

everything is organised in the same way as an ordinary conference – except that participants sit by a computer instead of in a conference room.²⁵

Finally, the language problem. I have already touched on it above. Although the Union is bilingual, members of the Council are not always so. It might be difficult to uphold that condition for Secretariat staff as well. Even so, large communities are constrained by language barriers from participating – Arab and Portuguese language groups are the largest. Over time, this barrier will be less important – Internet is one powerful factor that contributes to spreading English over the region.

These big issues should not be allowed to overshadow the concrete “small” issues of the everyday work. One such relates to communication. The Union leadership appears to have an unrealistic expectation of the efficiency of its Newsletter in reaching the membership. Examples have been given above where Newsletter circulation – if it reached out – gave far too short time for members to decide on participation in different events.²⁶ Systematic consideration of how to improve speed and frequency of communication with the membership is badly needed.

²⁵ The December 2000 Africa Development Forum on AIDS was preceded by an email conference, organised meticulously with sessions and organisers, papers and discussants, paid contributions and proceedings at the end. The method can be applied to a workshop format, to a Council meeting, or to a wider scientific gathering. The key seems to be to get binding commitments from people, and to pay for prepared interventions where necessary.

²⁶ A special announcement for the post of Executive Secretary drew very few replies, despite the consensus in Dakar that the post should be highly attractive for many people around the region. One reason could be poor outreach and the short time given to consider the opportunity.

Annex 1

Persons met directly and via conference call

Abdel-Ilah Yaakoubd, INSEA Rabat, UAPS-member

Laurent N. Assogba, UAPS treasurer

Eliwo M. Akoto, UAPS Regional representative Central Africa

Elias Ayiemba, UAPS Regional representative East Africa

Suleiman Bah, launching member of new TRN on AIDS, UAPS member

Martin Bangha, Secretariat officer-in-charge

Absa Thérèse Correa, SGP secretary

Khardiata Diene Faye, secretary publications section

Ibrahima Lamine Diop, former UAPS executive secretary

Aminata Fall, accountant

Jean Marie Houssou, logistics officer

Uche Isiugo-Abanihe, UAPS editor-in-chief

Joseph Kamah-Kanu, assistant editor

Bob Kandeh, UAPS president

Abdoul Aziz Ly, head of publications

Rassifi Mohammed, Ministry of Economic Planning Morocco, UAPS-member

Sophie Ndiaye, executive secretary assistant

Ngoné Abès Niang, assistant SGP coordinator

Salama Saidi, UAPS Regional representative North Africa

Maletela Tuoane, UAPS Regional representative Southern Africa

Kokou Vignikin, UAPS Regional representative West Africa

Annex 2

UAPS documents consulted

A Brief Appraisal of the Results of UAPS Research Work: Initial Reflections of a New Hand, by Abdoul Aziz Ly, undated 2001

Activity Report from the first quarter of Year 2001 (January–March), April 30, 2001

Audit of the financial situation of year 2000, period going from 1st January 2000 to 31st December 2000, UAPS, GARECGO Dakar April 2001

Estimated budget 2001 by type of expense and donor, version 05/02/2001

Expenditures from January to December, 2000, version 01/04/2001

Funding request for UAPS work programme in 2001 (to Sida), October 2000

Inaugural Seminar on the Thematic Research Networks, Working Paper, Abidjan, Ibis Hotel, 23–25 June 1997

List of UAPS Staff, incl. Distribution of roles in the activities for year 2001, undated

Logical Framework of UAPS program: 2001–2004, MGP Afrique, draft, 2001

Manual of Administrative, Financial and Accounting Procedures for UAPS, EL Hadj Idrissa Mbaye, Consultant Audit & Counsel, June 2000

Minutes of the UAPS Council Meeting (Palm Beach Hotel, Saly Portudal) June 19–23, 2000, Dakar, July 2000

Minutes of UAPS General Assembly, Durban, December 7, 1999

Mission Report Uppsala, 29 November–3 December 2000, by Dr. Ibrahima Lamine DIOP, UAPS Executive Secretary

Progress Report for 2000, February 2001

Progress Report January–December 2000, March 2001

Progress Report for the 1st quarter of 2001 (January–March), April 30, 2001

Report on the first Follow-Up Meeting Third African Population Conference, Saly Portudal, December 11–15, 2000

Report on the Inaugural Seminar for the Launching of the Thematic Research Networks (TRN), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 23–25 June 1997, Dakar July 1997

Report on the Meeting of the UAPS Scientific Committee on Methodology of Social Science Research, on Population and Sustainable Development Saly Portudal 18–22 December 2000, December 2000

Small Grants Programme Seminars Organized and the Collaborating Institutions 1992–2000, undated

Tentative Planning of Some Major Activities for 2001 (with concentration on the 1st of the year: January–July), undated

Terms of Reference for UAPS Contact Persons (Focal Points), undated

The UAPS Response to HIV/AIDS Challenge, paper to a Seminar on the HIV/AIDS Challenge in Africa and the Response of Social Sciences (Uppsala – November 29, 2000), undated 2000

UAPS: Fifteen years of Promoting Research on African Population Issues, UAPS Studies and Researches, Number 1 October 1999

UAPS Focal Points (listing by name), undated

UAPS Newsletters No. 28–29 (Dec. 98), 30 (Dec. 99), 31–32 (Sept. 00), 33 Dec. 00), Special Edition (Jan. 01)

UAPS Newsletter No. 30, December 1999

UAPS Newsletter No. 31–32, September 2000

UAPS Newsletter No. 33, December 2000

UAPS Newsletter, Special Edition of the Newsletter, January 2001

UEPA/UAPS Statuts/Constitution

Annex 3

Forms used for e-mail and fax enquetes to selected categories of members.

French versions of the forms are not included.

Dear xxx,

The questionnaire below should be self-explanatory. If it is insufficient in some respect, please do not hesitate to comment on this. But most importantly, add your own comments if the pre-entered reply alternatives are not enough for your needs.

At the end of the questionnaire you will find space to add whatever personal comments you would like to give to us. We will do our best to have your answers and comments represented in the report to Sida/SAREC.

Regional representatives (RR)

Fill in the white spaces only.

Age	Sex	Country	What year did you join UAPS?
Do you receive any publications of UAPS? (Mark with an X for each)		Are you still a member? (Mark with an X)	
1) Reports () 2) Journals () 3) Newsletters () 4) No ()		1) Yes, and paying annual fee incl. for publications () not for publications () 2) Yes, but not paying at present () 3) No ()	
What year were you elected to RR?		Do you have a ToR for the assignment?	
		Yes () No ()	
What activities have you undertaken so far in this capacity?			
We need to understand what difficulties RR face in carrying out their activities. What constraints have you met in undertaking these activities? Are there activities you have not been able to undertake because of some constraints? If so, which constraints?			

What ways would you propose for these constraints to be solved?		
Have you succeeded in designating Focal points (FP), and if so, for what countries and when? (Mark with the year between the brackets)		
Central Africa Representative		
Angola ()	Cameroon ()	São Tomé and Príncipe ()
Gabon ()	Equatorial Guinea ()	Central Africa Republic ()
Chad ()	Congo ()	
East African Representative		
Burundi ()	Comoros Islands ()	Djibouti ()
Ethiopia ()	Eritrea ()	Kenya ()
Rwanda ()	Somalia ()	Sudan ()
Uganda ()	Tanzania ()	
North Africa Representative		
Algeria ()	Egypt ()	Libya ()
Morocco ()	Tunisia ()	Mauritania ()
Southern Africa Representative		
Botswana ()	Lesotho ()	Madagascar ()
Malawi ()	Mauritius Island ()	Mozambique ()
Namibia ()	South Africa ()	Swaziland ()
Seychelles ()	Zambia ()	Zimbabwe ()
West Africa Representative (Please cross out the countries your not responsible for)		
Benin ()	Burkina Faso ()	Cape Verde ()
Ivory Coast ()	Gambia ()	Ghana ()
Liberia ()	Mali ()	Senegal ()
Niger ()	Sierra Leone ()	Togo ()
Guinea Bissau ()	Republic of Guinea ()	
Are you the FP in your own country?		
Yes ()	No ()	
Have you been entrusted with cash advance to forward to FP?		
Yes ()	No ()	

If yes, which FP have received it? (If not all, list the countries)	By what means or channels was it given?
Do you have addresses of all members in the countries of your region? If yes, indicate the status of the address list (Mark with an X)	
1) Yes, list from June –00 () 2) Yes, a more recent list () a) Available list is incomplete () 3) No () b) We are gradually improving the list ()	
Have you recruited new members?	Have you collected members' fees?
Yes () how many? No ()	Yes () No () If yes, have you informed Dakar? Yes () No () Forwarded the money? Yes () No ()
Have you started to use your own RR advance cash? Any handling problems?	
Do you receive necessary information from Dakar? Eg minutes from meetings, information concerning decisions taken, addresses of new members in your region etc?	
Do you have a supply of UAPS publications and brochures to show to old and new members or other interested people? If not, have you asked for it?	
Yes () No () – asked for it: Yes () No ()	
Please write below any additional comments you would like to make, so as to improve the results of the assessment.	

Focal points

Fill in the white spaces only.

Age	Sex	Country	What year did you join UAPS?
Are you still a member? (Mark with an X)		Do you receive any publications from UAPS? (Mark with an X for each)	
1) Yes, and paying annual fee incl. for publications() not for publications ()) 2) Yes, but not paying at present () 3) No ())		1) Research reports () 2) The journals () 3) The newsletters () 4) No ()	
What year did you accept to become a Focal Point? Who asked you?			Do you have a ToR for your work as Focal Point?
Have you received advance cash to cover cost?			
Yes ()			
No ()			
What activities have you carried out so far?			
Have you recruited any new member(s)? (If yes, how many?)			
Yes () - how many?			
No ()			
Do you have any contacts with old UAPS members in your country?	If yes, do you know their current situation vis-à-vis (non-) payment of fees, (non-) receipt of publications from Dakar?		
Yes ()			
No ()			

Have you collected fees from members?	If yes, have you informed Dakar about who has paid? Where is the money now?
Yes () No ()	
Have you taken any action to inform about the Small Grants Programme in your country?	
Do you have any contact with your RR?	
1) Yes regularly () 2) Yes, occasionally () 3) No ()	
Do you get the support you need from your RR?	
Please write below any additional comments you would like to make, so as to improve the results of the assessment.	

Small Grants Programme

Fill in the white parts only.

Age	Sex	Country	What year did you join UAPS?
Do you receive any publications from UAPS? (Mark with an X for each)		Are you still a member? (Mark with an X)	
1) Research reports () 2) The journals () 3) The newsletter () 4) No ()		1) Yes, and paying annual fee () Incl. for publications () not for publications () 2) Yes, but not paying at present () 3) No ()	
Which ways did you learn about the Small Grants Programme?		Which year did you compete and win?	
Have you finished your report to UAPS? If yes, which year was it ready?			
1) No () 2b) (write the year) 2) Yes ()			
Has it been published by UAPS? If yes, which year?			
1) No () 2b) (write the year) 2) Yes ()			
Do you have any comments about the time required for publication and the way your report was circulated? Did you get a sufficient number of copies for personal use?			
What recommendations would you give to improve the circulation of SGP reports?			
Are you satisfied with the way UAPS handled the SGP in your case? Please write your comments below.			

The fourth phase of the SGP programme is in preparation. What changes and improvements would you recommend for this phase?
What was the significance of this grant for your professional career?
Do you have contacts with other grantees in your own country? Mark with an X.
1. Yes all () 2. Yes a few () 3. No () 4. No, there is no other grantee ()
Please write below any additional comments you would like to make, so as to improve the results of the assessment.

TRN Members

Fill in the white spaces only.

Age	Sex	Country	What year did you join UAPS?
Are you still a member? (Mark with an X)		Do you receive any publications of UAPS? (Mark with an X for each)	
1) Yes, and paying annual fee incl. for publications () not for publications () 2) Yes, but not paying at present () 3) No ()		1) Research reports () 2) The journals () 3) The newsletters () 4) No ()	
In which TRN are/ were you a member?		Which year was it created?	
Whose initiative was it to create this TRN?		How did you become a member?	
What has your TRN done until now/until being suspended?			
Are you satisfied with its work? If not, what could have been done, and why was this not undertaken?			

What constraints for the different TRN to deliver have you observed?
Should UAPS engage in TRN activities in the future? If yes, what conditions need to be satisfied for a TRN programme to succeed?
Do you see other, perhaps more rewarding, ways for UAPS to support the development of scientific collaboration? Which?
Please write below any additional comments you would like to make, so as to improve the results of the assessment.

Annex 4

Brief summary of views on UAPS from regional representatives

Issue	Central	East	North	Southern	West
F-P identified	5 of 8 tries	3 of 11	3 of 6	6 of 12 (language !!)	R-R: 6 of 7 (language, geography) Secr: 1 of 7 (passive)
How to cover all countries?	No easy solution, no travel money		Needs travelling!	Use UAPS meetings to identify F-P	Uses duty travel, means some countries never visited
Cash advance to F-P?	'Courier' is only possibility	Bank transfers	All money with R-R	Bank transfer thru own a/c	Mainly in personal contacts
Importance of cash?			Great! Not least for own commun. Expenses		Great! No clarity re use, accounting and refill
Has a list of members?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (partly updated)
Collects member fees?		No	Yes (not forwarded)	No	
Recruits new members?		Yes, 7 so far	Yes	Yes, 19 so far	
How to get old members back?	F-P have important role		Clear rules re treatment of backlog pay, and UAPS' obligations	Union needs to live up to commitments	
SGP activities	Two dissem. seminars - important!	Regional workshops	No links so far	One dissem. seminar, useful	
Next SGP round	Eagerly awaited! Methods sem. necessary			Support in supervision important	
Coop with Secretariat	Good, and important	Good, but postage expensive	Good, but little time to read UAPS material	Good	
Council meetings	To attend requires advance notice, stable programme			Commitment is there, but hard to fulfil	
Recommendations		Money for regional meetings	Spread UAPS pub's only on demand.		

Annex 5

Terms of Reference for the assignment (available only in the printed version)

Recent Sida Evaluations

- 02/14** **Area Development Projects, Poverty Reduction, and the New Architecture of Aid. Volume I: Synthesis Report.**
John Farrington, Ian Christoplos, Roger Blench, Karin Ralsgård, Stephen Gossage, Anders Rudqvist
Department for Evaluation and Internal Audit
- 02/14:01** **Area Development Projects, Poverty Reduction, and the New Architecture of Aid. Volume II – Case Studies – CARERE/Seila, Cambodia; ANRS, Ethiopia; EEOA, Zambia.**
Roger Blench, Karin Ralsgård, Stephen Gossage, Dessalegn Rahmato, Guy Scott
Department for Evaluation and Internal Audit
- 02/15** **Regional Centre for Reproductive Health Research and Training, Harare, Zimbabwe: Reproductive health research, capacity building and health care improvement in eastern and southern Africa.**
Ulf Högberg
Department for Research Cooperation
- 02/16** **Network for Research and Training in Parasitic Diseases at the Southern Cone of Latinamerica (RTPD) 1995/1996–2001.**
Alvaro Moncayo, Mikael Jondal,
Department for Research Cooperation
- 02/17** **Sida Supported ICT Projects at Universities and Research Organizations in Sri Lanka.**
Alan Greenberg, George Sadowsky
Department for Research Cooperation
- 02/18** **Development of a National Quality Infrastructure in Namibia. Evaluation of Phase I of the Programme and Appraisal of a Programme Proposal for Phase I.**
Bertil Sjöberg
Department for Infrastructure and Economic Cooperation
- 02/19** **Estrategias de Suecia y Holanda para la Promoción de la Equidad de Género en Bolivia.**
Tomas Dahl-Östergaard, Sarah Forti, Mónica Crespo
Department for Latin America
- 02/20** **The Partnership Programme of Swedish Mission Council (SMC).**
Gordon Tamm, Charlotte Mathiassen, Malin Nystrand
Department for Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organisations and Humanitarian Assistance
- 02/21** **Support to Regional Development in Estonia through Business Development: an Evaluation of the NUTEK Implemented Projects 1992–1998.**
Claes Lindahl
Department for Central and Eastern Europe
- 02/22** **Water Utility Partnership's Project for Water Utility Management and Unaccounted for Water, Phase 1.**
Olle Colling
Department for Infrastructure and Economic Cooperation
- 02/23** **Sida Supported Programme withn the African Energy Policy Research Network (AFREPREN).**
Joy Clancy, Ian H. Rowlands
Department for Research Cooperation

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