**Minutes: Executive Council Lunch Meeting - July 25th 2018**

Attendees:

At-large: Ronald Lee (Founding Director), Sang-Hyop Lee (Chair), Iván Mejía (Secretary)

Africa: Eugenia Amporfu, Latif Dramani

Europe: Concepció Patxot, Agnieszka Chlon-Dominczak

Asia-Pacific: Michael Abrigo, Tengku Aizan Hamid, Bazlul Khondker

LAC: Paulo Saad, Piedad Urdinola

**Agenda items:**

1. **New NTA organization**
2. **Regional reports**
3. **Funding opportunities and publications**
4. **New NTA organization**

**NTA has a new organization with a new Executive Council (EC)**

Our founding directors, Ron Lee and Andy Mason, have been in charge of the organization and have provided financial and intellectual support from the beginning. We are very grateful for their support. The NTA network has grown so rapidly that a new organization is needed to address challenges related to the management and financing of regions/countries. The new NTA Bylaws provides details of the specific organization of the NTA network, membership rules, and duties for each officer.

1. **Regional reports**

**Europe (Concepció):**

* + - 1. Current projects. There is funding for 2 small project . One leaded by Alexia (with France and Italy) and another by Ció (with Finland and Austria).
      2. Future projects and funding.
* AGENTA is looking for funding from the European Council, which is not easy.
* Some funding is available only to specific country members.
* Concepció has already submitted a proposal that would include funding for Spain, Portugal and the U.S.
* European regional leaders are planning to meet with investigators from European countries that are currently outside the network.

**Africa (Latif):**

1. Current projects. There are two projects running in parallel that provide funding for NTA research for countries of West and Central Africa.

* The first project has been funded by UNFPA for the training and production of NTA accounts for 23 countries, 22 of them already have NTA profiles. The main objective of the project is the development of a national plan strategy based on NTA.
* The second is a policy-oriented project based on NTA national observatories. The project is funded by UNFPA offices from every country and has the support of Center of Excellence (Consortium Regional Pour la Recherche en Economie Generationnelle –CREG). The following countries have received training under this initiative: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

1. Future plans for the region include extending the support to other African countries from the East and South of Africa.
2. CREG plans to formally align countries that already have an NTA profile in the West Africa region to the NTA network.
3. CREG will act as the secretariat for the African NTA network and is developing an internet web site to unite, coordinate and inform on all NTA initiatives on the continent CREG will.

**Latin America and the Caribbean (Paulo):**

1. Latin America stablished a strong network when funding from IDRC was available, but most country-members were unable to advance their research activities consistently after the funding ended.
2. Current and future projects. A new Development Account from CELADE is currently funding a policy-oriented project with three specific objectives: update of estimates, technical support, and elaboration of a regional study.

* A regional meeting for this project took place in Santiago during the summer of 2017.
* New NTA estimates will be produced by seven countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico.
* Piedad went to Bolivia to provide training. Additional training for Jamaica is expected to take place soon.
* A policy-oriented regional report will be presented in a meeting in Santiago during the fall of 2019, where invitations will be extended to special invites and policy makers. Cassió Turra is coordinating the regional study.
* Results from this project will also be disseminated in a special issue of *Notas de Población*. Separate articles for each participant country in the project will be peer-

reviewed and considered for publication in this special issue.

1. Other issues.

* Regional coordinators are in talks with investigators from Paraguay and Dominican Republic for their potential integration to the NTA network.
* Funding for Latin America highly relies on ECLAC, and country members from the region are exploring other funding opportunities. One possibility is looking for funding from academic grants such as those in partnership with European countries (Piedad).

**North America (Ron):**

1. Current projects.

* The Center for the Economics and Demography of Ageing (CEDA) provides funding for the organization of the NTA meeting and for supporting Gretchen, and there is hope that it will continue in the coming year, but there is uncertainty.
* NIH changed the rules and does not fund NTA-related projects anymore. Ron and Andy’s network NIH grant will end soon.

1. Future funding opportunities. Hewlett Foundation is a current possibility for funding new projects in this specific area.

**Asia-Pacific (Sang-Hyop):**

1. In large part due to funding support from UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office and Country Offices, practically all countries in the region are collaborating with the NTA network. There are few exceptions such as Myanmar and Sri Lanka.
2. Funding was entirely cut beginning this year, which will have important implications, such as limiting the organization of regional meetings.
3. **Funding opportunities and publications**

**Funding:**

1. How to make NTA sustainable? Some ideas:

* Put NTA as part of the production of statistical offices in each country (creating a satellite account for NTA). Not easy, high-level political support is needed. Mexico tried to do this around 3 years ago with INEGI, but the initiative did not advance further.
* The UN Development Fund provides funds for projects every year. It is very selective and would require the preparation of a good project. A joint submission with ECLAC is a good possibility.

**Publications:**

1. We need to publish more.

* The NTA network has produced a substantial amount of data, but we are falling short in terms of publishing/disseminating results.
* One possibility for disseminating our findings is to collaborate on papers that include many authors (people who produce the estimates/results, and those that collaborate directly with the writing and review of the article) and submit them in high-impact journals (e.g., BMJ, Science). This approach is very common in other research areas (Medicine) and it was followed for Ron-Andy’s Science paper. A good descriptive analysis that shows and important scientific advance in our research area or a clear policy-oriented recommendation is enough for publishing in this kind of journals.
* Springer books are also a good alternative. The NTTA group is going to disseminate results for three Latin American countries and the U.S.