

**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

**ORGANIZAÇÃO DA  
UNIDADE AFRICANA**



**ORGANISATION DE  
L'UNITE AFRICAINE**

**منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية**

---

**Addis Ababa - Ethiopia P. O. Box: 3243 Tel. 51 77 00 Telex: 21046 Fax: (251 1) 51 30 36**

---

**MEETING OF THE AFRICAN  
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES  
5 – 7 February 2002  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia**

**AAL/Rpt (I)**

**FINAL REPORT OF THE MEETING OF  
GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON THE  
AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES**

**DRAFT FINAL REPORT OF THE MEETING OF GOVERNMENT  
EXPERTS ON THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES  
5 -7 FEBRUARY 2002, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

1. The meeting of Government Experts to examine the Statutes establishing the African Academy of Languages was held at the OAU Headquarters from 5-7 February 2002, pursuant to Decision CM/Dec.613 (LXXIV) adopted by the 74<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Lusaka, Zambia in July 2001.

2. In attendance were delegates from the following Member States: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya Madagascar, Malawi, Mali Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia. The representatives of UNESCO, Organization Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and Sumner Institute of Linguistics (SIL) and members of the Scientific Consultative Committee were also present. The list of participants is annexed to this report.

**Opening**

3. The Opening Session was marked by the welcome address made by Prof. C. Johnson, Acting Director of the Community Affairs Department (OAU/AU) and the statement of the Malian Minister Mr. Adama Samassekou, Interim President of the African Academy of Languages. The full texts of the two statements are also attached to this report.

**Election of the Bureau**

3. The meeting then elected its Bureau as follows:

- |                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| - Chairman                      | - Mozambique |
| - 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman | - Nigeria    |
| - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman | - Libya      |
| - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairman | - Madagascar |
| - Rapporteur                    | - Congo      |

**Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work**

5. The Agenda and Programme of Work of the meeting are annexed to this report.

scheduled to take place in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002, a Draft Declaration of Solemn Commitment.

**Item IV: Establishment of the Academy (time schedule)**

11. Owing to the difficulty in determining the date of entry into force of the Statutes and, therefore, the actual date of take-off of the Academy, fixing the Implementation Calendar for the Institution was postponed. The Provisional Presidency of the Academy, in consultation with the OAU General Secretariat, would propose an appropriate calendar.

**Item V: Adoption of the Final Report and Recommendations, and Closing Session**

12. The Experts then examined and adopted the report of the meeting. They also discussed and adopted the Draft Recommendations annexed to this report.

13. The Closing Session was marked by statements by the representative of the OAU General Secretariat, the Interim President of the Academy and the Chairman of the meeting. They expressed satisfaction at the successful conduct of the deliberations and thanked the participants for their quality contribution.

**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

**ORGANIZAÇÃO DA  
UNIDADE AFRICANA**



**ORGANISATION DE  
L'UNITE AFRICAINE**

**منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية**

---

**Addis Ababa - Ethiopia P. O. Box: 3243 Tel. 51 77 00 Telex: 21046 Fax: (251 1) 51 30 36**

---

**MEETING OF THE AFRICAN  
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES  
5 – 6 February 2002  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia**

**Annex I  
Rev.2**

**DRAFT STATUTES OF THE AFRICAN  
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES**

**DRAFT STATUTES OF THE AFRICAN  
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES**

**PREAMBLE**

The Member States of the Organization of African Unity/African Union;

**RECALLING** Decision CM/Dec.613 (LXXIV) adopted by the Council of Ministers meeting in its Seventy-Fourth Ordinary Session in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001, which decided the establishment of an African Academy of Languages;

**CONSIDERING** that the promotion of African languages forms an integral part of the objectives of the Organization of African Unity/African Union and has been spelt out in the Cultural Charter for Africa (1996), the Linguistic Plan of Action for Africa (1986), the Harare Inter-Governmental Conference (1997) and the Decade of Education in Africa (1997 – 2006);

**RECOGNIZING** the fact that illiteracy constitutes a factor likely to hinder development in the Continent, and **AWARE** that languages contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of peoples;

**ALSO AWARE** of the role which languages can play in the process of African integration as a factor of peace, understanding and conflict prevention;

Have agreed as follows:

**Article I**  
**Definitions**

For the purposes of these Statutes,

- a) **“Academy”** shall mean **the African Academy of Languages**;
- b) **“Academician”** shall mean **member of the African Academy of Languages** as provided for by Articles 16, 17, 18 and 19 of these Statutes;
- c) **“Accountant”** shall mean **Accountant** as provided for by Articles 32 and 33 of these Statutes;

- r) **“Chairman of the Board”** shall mean **Chairman of the Board of Directors**;
- s) **“Secretary General”** shall mean **Secretary General** as provided for by Articles 28 and 29 of these Statutes;
- t) **“Structure of Origin”** shall mean State, private or independent structure;
- u) **“AU”** shall mean **African Union**.

**PART I: ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ACADEMY**

**Article 2**  
**Establishment**

It is hereby established, under OAU/AU auspices, a Pan-African Scientific Institution to be known as “African Academy of Languages” (ACALAN). It shall have its Headquarters in Bamako, Republic of Mali.

**Article 3**  
**Objectives**

The primary objectives of the Academy shall be to:

- a) promote African Languages ;
- b) promote crossborder vehicular languages;
- c) strengthen linguistic co-operation among African States;
- d) promote African Languages at all levels of education;
- e) propagate African Languages at international level;
- f) analyse language policies in Africa;
- g) promote scientific and democratic culture;
- h) enhance harmonious economic, social and cultural development of African countries;

- m) redefine African languages/partner languages relations;
- n) mobilise resources for language research;
- o) disseminate information on language research.

### **Article 5** **Activities**

1. The Academy shall engage in continuous brainstorming on all matters relating to African languages in general, and crossborder vehicular languages in particular, by:

- a) providing pertinent opinion at the request of public authorities, communities and research structures;
- b) commissioning of studies,
- c) formulating and following up on recommendations of meetings;
- d) promoting crossborder African vehicular Languages at international level;
- e) exchange of views and information with foreign institutions pursuing similar objectives;
- f) controlling application of linguistic standards.

2. The Academy shall also institute and award prizes and honours to Organizations and individuals who contribute to the promotion of African Languages.

## **PART III: POLICY BODY AND ORGANS OF THE ACADEMY**

### **Article 6** **Organs of the Academy**

The Organs of the Academy shall be :

- 1. The Board of Directors;
- 2. The Scientific and Technical Committee;
- 3. The Presidency;
- 4. The Language Commissions.

**Article 11**  
**Decisions**

The Board shall take decisions by a simple majority of the members. Each member shall have one vote: in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote;

**Article 12**  
**Chairman of the Board**

The Chairman of the Board shall be elected by his peers by two-third majority for two (2) year term. Chairmanship of the Board shall be rotational among the regions, according to an order to be determined.

**Article 13**  
**Quality of Members**

The Committee shall be composed of reputable men and women of science and culture, who shall be nationals of Member States of the OAU/AU.

**Article 14**  
**Composition**

The Academy shall be made up of:

- Academicians,
- Associate Members, and
- Correspondent Members

**Article 15**  
**Mode of Appointment**

1. Members of the Academy shall be elected by their peers at the level of the Language Commission;
2. Candidature proposals shall originate from Members of the Academy, higher research and educational institutions or other reputable African scientific and cultural bodies. The authorities of Member States shall transmit the proposals to the Presidency of the Academy.



**CHAPTER II: THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**Article 19**  
**Sessions**

1. The Academicians and the President shall meet once a year in ordinary session at the Headquarters or in any other Member State. However, at the request of two-thirds of its Members, the President of the Academy shall convene an extraordinary session on specific agenda which shall be communicated to all Member States at least one month in advance.
2. The President of the Academy and the Academicians shall have the right to one vote.
3. A sitting allowance shall be paid to the Academicians.
4. The Specialized International Institutions and any other such Organizations or resource persons whose participation is deemed necessary, may be invited to participate in the sessions of the Academy.

**SECTION II: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

**Article 20**  
**Composition**

Associate Members comprising at most two (2) persons per language Commission and per country concerned by the language, shall be renowned African scientific personalities working in their respective structures of origin.

**Article 21**  
**Functions**

1. The Associate Members shall:
  - a) participate in the meetings of the Commission and in all such activities of the Commission as require their presence;
  - b) study such issues as shall be referred to them and freely give opinion thereon;

**Article 25**  
**Functions of the Presidency**

1. The Presidency of the Academy shall be the Organ for the Academy's moderation, management and direction;
2. The members of the Presidency shall exercise permanent functions remunerated according to the salaries of the OAU Specialised Agencies.

**SECTION I: THE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY**

**Article 26**  
**Mode of Appointment of the President**

1. The President shall be elected by the General Assembly by two-thirds majority and shall be appointed by the Board for a four (4) year mandate renewable only once. The mandate of the President may be terminated on the grounds of misconduct adversely affecting the proper functioning of the Academy.

**Article 27**  
**Functions**

1. The President shall be the legal representative of the Academy.
2. He shall perform the following functions:
  - manage the affairs of the Academy.
  - be the Accounting Officer of the Academy, and may delegate this power to the Secretary General.
  - implement the directives of the Board and shall be responsible to the latter.
  - prepare the Draft Rules of Procedure of the Academy .
  - prepare the Programme of Activities, the Financial Report and the Report of the Academy.
  - attend all meetings of the Board and act as its Secretary.

- a) collate and disseminate the results of the linguistic research;
- b) co-ordinate the training programmes of the researchers;
- c) ensure conservation and preservation of documents and set up a data bank;
- d) be responsible for production and translation of publications of the Academy in the common crossborder languages and in the partner languages;
- e) be responsible for publication of the Newsletter of the Academy;
- f) act as Secretary General in the absence of the latter.

#### **SECTION IV: THE ACCOUNTANT**

##### **Article 32**

##### **Mode of Appointment of the Accountant**

1. The Accountant shall be elected, upon the proposal of the President, by the General Assembly by two-thirds majority and appointed by the Board after vacancy announcement.

##### **Article 33**

##### **Functions**

The Accountant shall be responsible for bulk and cost accounting. He shall be in charge of keeping the accounts of the Academy. He and the President shall be co-signatories of all accounting documents.

#### **CHAPTER IV: LANGUAGE COMMISSIONS**

##### **Article 34**

##### **Composition and Functions**

1. The Academy shall set up a Language Commission for each common crossborder language.
2. The Language Commissions shall constitute the working structures of the Academicians and members of the Academy.
3. Each Language Commission shall be composed of a maximum of two (2) Academicians and two (2) Associate Members per country

**Article 38**  
**Interim Structure**

1. Following the adoption of these Statutes by the Member States, and pending their entry into force, the OAU Secretary General/Chairperson of the Commission of the AU shall, in close collaboration with the host country, take all necessary measures to appoint the requisite staff and put in place an interim structure with a view to facilitating speedy establishment of ACALAN pursuant to the provisions of these Statutes.
2. For the initial set up of the Academy, the provisional Presidency of the Academy, with the support of an Ad Hoc Commission, shall propose to the Board a list of the prospective Academicians, Associate Members and Correspondent Members.

**PART VII: FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 39**  
**Amendments**

1. These Statutes may be amended by the Board if the Chairman of the Board of Directors notifies all Member States in writing at least three (3) months prior to the session of the Council convened to decide on the proposed amendment.
2. The amendment shall come into force upon adoption by at least two-thirds of States Parties.

**Article 40**  
**Signature, Ratification and Accession**

1. These Statutes shall be open to signature, ratification and accession by Member States of the OAU.
2. The Instruments of Ratification of and Accession to these Statutes shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the OAU/Chairperson of the AU Commission.
3. The Secretary General of the OAU/Chairperson of the AU Commission shall transmit certified true copies of these Statutes as well as information regarding its signature, ratification and accession to all Member States.



---

**Addis Ababa - Ethiopia P. O. Box: 3243 Tel. 51 77 00 Telex: 21046 Fax: (251 1) 51 30 36**

---

**Annex II**

**MEETING OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS TO PREPARE  
THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE AFRICAN  
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 5-6 February 2002**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

- Opening
  - Election of Bureau
  - Adoption of the Agenda and Organisation of Work
1. Presentation of the African Academy of Languages
  2. Consideration of the Statutes of the Academy
  3. Establishment of the Academy (modalities, financial resources, activities and time schedule)
  4. Broad Guidelines for Linguistic policies and linguistic research priorities in Africa
  5. Any Other Business
  6. Adoption of Final Report and Recommendations
  7. Closing.



**Annex III**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**ALGERIA**

1. Mr. Bousbia El-Mouloud  
Ministre Conseiller  
Ambassade d'Algérie à Addis Abéba  
Tel: 71 96 65/66  
Fax: 71 96 68
- Chef de Délégation

**ANGOLA**

1. Mr. Fernando Carlos Camuamba  
First Secretary  
Embassy of the Republic of Angola  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 51 00 85
- Head of Delegation

**BURKINA FASO**

1. M. Bruno N. Zidouemba  
Ambassadeur du Burkina Faso  
P.O.Box 19685  
Tel: 61 58 65  
Fax: 61 20 94  
Addis Abéba, Ethiopie
- Chef de Délégation

### **CONGO(DR)**

1. Mr. René Ilume Dembele  
2ème Conseiller  
P.O. Box 2732  
Fax: 71 34 66  
Ambassade de la République Démocratique  
Du Congo  
Addis Abéba, Ethiopie
- Chef de Délégation

### **COTE D'IVOIRE**

1. S.E. M. Pierre L. Yere  
Ambassadeur de la République de  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Tel: 71 54 30  
Fax: 71 21 78  
B.P. 3668  
Addis Abéba, Ethiopie
  2. Mr. Séverin K. Kouadio  
Ambassade de la République de  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Addis Abéba, Ethiopie
  3. Mr. Nestor Ouedo  
Ambassade de la République de  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Addis Abéba, Ethiopie
- Chef de Délégation  
  
Membre  
  
Membre

### **EGYPT**

1. Mr. Sherif Naguib  
Counselor  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Head of Delegation

### **ETHIOPIA**

1. Mrs. Gifti Aba-Siya  
Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture  
Vice Minister  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 51 53 24
- Head of Delegation

## **LESOTHO**

1. H.E. Mr. M. H. Leteka  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho  
P.O.Box 7483  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Head of Delegation
2. Motjoka Ramonono  
First Secretary  
Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Member

## **LIBYA**

1. Mr. Esmail M. Abuzinin  
General People's Commission for  
African Union  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Head of Delegation
2. Mr. Mohamed El Sukne  
Third Secretary  
The People's Bureau of the Great Socialist  
People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
Tel: 51 13 83  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Member

## **MADAGASCAR**

1. M. Jaona  
Conseiller  
Ambassade de la République de Madagascar  
Addis Abéba, Ethiopie  
Tél.: 61 25 55  
Fax: 61 01 27  
Chef de Délégation

## **MALAWI**

1. Mr. B. E. Kamanga  
Second Secretary  
Embassy of the Republic of Malawi  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Head of Delegation



### **SENEGAL**

1. S.E. M. Mame Balla Sy  
Ambassadeur de la République  
du Sénégal  
Addis Abéba, Ethiopie  
Tél: 61 17 61  
Fax: 61 00 20  
Chef de Délégation
2. M. Khaly Adama Ndour  
Premier Conseiller  
Ambassade de la République  
du Sénégal  
Addis Abéba, Ethiopie  
Membre
3. M. Abdou Karim Diouf  
Premier Secrétaire  
Ambassade de la République du Sénégal  
Addis Abéba, Ethiopie  
Membre

### **TCHAD**

1. Mr. Brahim Adoum  
Premier Conseiller  
Ambassade de la République du Tchad  
Addis Abéba, Ethiopie  
Chef de Délégation

### **TANZANIE**

1. Mr. J.M. Biswaro  
Minister Counselor  
P.O. Box 1077  
Addis-Abéba, Ethiopie  
Head of Delegation

### **TUNISIA**

1. S.E. M. Zouheir Allagui  
Ambassadeur de la République Tunisienne  
Représentant Permanent auprès de l'OUA  
Addis Abéba, Ethiopie  
Tél: 61 20 63/Fax: 62 18 42  
Chef de Délégation

2. Gatera Augustin  
Comité Scientifique Consultatif de  
l'Académie Africaine  
B.P. 6123 Kigali – Rwanda  
Tél.: (250) 82712 or (250) 08520081  
E-mail: [gatera123@yahoo.com](mailto:gatera123@yahoo.com)
3. Diarra Boubacar  
Comité Scientifique Consultatif de  
L'Académie Africaine  
B.P. 2282  
Bamako – Mali  
[Bdiarra84@hotmail.com](mailto:Bdiarra84@hotmail.com)
4. Salam Diakite  
African Academy of Languages  
P.O.Box 10  
Koulouba – Bamako  
Tel: (223) 23 84 47
5. Ayo Bamgbose  
African Academy of Languages  
University of Ibadan  
Ibadan, Nigeria  
Tel : 234-2-8104017  
Fax : 234-2-8107279  
E-mail : [bamgbose@skannete.com](mailto:bamgbose@skannete.com)
6. Marie Tadadjeu  
University of Yaounde  
Cameroon  
P.O.Box 2905 Yaounde  
Tel/Fax (237) 231-91-43  
E-mail: [nacalco@camnet.com](mailto:nacalco@camnet.com)
7. Shaaban A. K. Mlacha  
University of Dar-Es-Salaam  
P.O.Box 35110  
Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania  
E-mail: [mlacha@tuki.udsm.ac.tz](mailto:mlacha@tuki.udsm.ac.tz)
8. Rakissouiligi Mathieu Ouedraogo  
Université de Ouagadougou  
Burkina Faso  
Tel: (226) 38 43 07  
E-mail: [mathieu@univ-ouaga.bf](mailto:mathieu@univ-ouaga.bf)

## **OAU SECRETARIAT**

1. Prof. C. L. Johnson  
Director a.i. Community Affairs  
Department  
Tel.: 51 24 56  
Fax: 51 26 22  
E-mail: johnson@telcom.net.et  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2. Marcel Diouf  
Head of Education Culture and  
Human Development Division  
Tel.: 51 35 22  
Fax: 51 12 02  
E-mail: marceldiouf@hotmail.com  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3. Ms Djeneba. Diarra  
Legal Officer  
OAU General Secretariat  
P.O. Box 3243  
Tel.: 51 24 55  
Fax: 51 78 44/51 87 18  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE**

**African Union Common Repository**

**<http://archives.au.int>**

---

Specialized Technical and representational Agencies

ACALAN Collection

---

2002

# Final report of the meeting of Government experts on the African Academy of Languages

African Union

African Union

---

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/1614>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*