

ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY

ORGANIZAÇÃO DA  
UNIDADE AFRICANA



ORGANISATION DE  
L'UNITE AFRICAINE

ORGANISATIE VAN  
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**RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF  
THE BRUSSELS OAU GROUP**

# **RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE BRUSSELS OAU GROUP**

## **CHAPTER I - OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS**

*Rule 1 :* The Representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Member States in Brussels hereby constitute within the framework of the Charter of the OAU the body known as the Brussels OAU Group.

*Rule 2 :* In compliance with the objectives defined in Article 2 and 3 of the OAU Charter, the Brussels OAU Group shall undertake the following activities :

1. Demonstrate and promote at all times active and effective solidarity as well as the will to act within the framework of intra-African co-operation.
2. Promote the unity of action and effective solidarity of OAU Member States with regard to all questions of common concern with the Belgian Authorities and the level of the European Union in search of appropriate solutions.
3. Exchange information and views on matters of common interest, including co-operation with EU, with other regional and sub-regional groups (e.g. ACP, League of Arab States, ASEAN, Latin America etc.) in pursuance of OAU Policy.
4. Develop contacts with various organizations or associations based in Brussels whose objectives are intended to lend active support to the OAU in its efforts to promote political, economic and cultural independence of the African states and peoples.
5. Take appropriate protocol measures during visits to Brussels of Heads of States and Government of OAU Member States.
6. Take appropriate protocol measures during the departure of Heads of African Diplomatic Missions.
7. Undertake and support African cultural and social activities in Belgium.

*Rule 3 :* Any important issue concerning Africa may be considered by the Group with a view to adopting a common stand as a basis for concerted action when necessary.

## **CHAPTER II - STRUCTURE - DESIGNATION - COMPOSITION**

*Rule 4 :* The Headquarters of the OAU Group is established in Brussels.

*Rule 5 :* The Brussels OAU Group shall be responsible to the OAU Council of Ministers.

*Rule 6 :* Any diplomatic Mission of an OAU Member State accredited to Brussels shall be a member of the Brussels OAU Group.

*Rule 7 :* For purposes of the activities of the Representative of OAU Member States in Brussels, the Brussels OAU Group may set up as and when necessary mechanisms such as : ad hoc committees and working groups.

*Rule 7bis :* In accordance with Article 7 of these Rules of Procedure a Standing Committee on the ACP-EU Relations is established at the level of the Member States of the Group parties to the Lome Convention.

*Rule 8 :* Each Mission of the OAU Member States in Brussels shall be represented at the meetings of the Brussels OAU Group by the Head of the mission concerned, or where this is not possible, by his representative.

## **CHAPTER III - ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING**

*Rule 9 :* The structure of the Brussels OAU Group shall be as follows:

1. The Group shall comprise the Representatives of all the OAU Member States in Brussels.
2. The Group shall function under a bureau made up of :
  - i) A Chairman appointed for six (6) months on a rotational basis according to the French alphabetical order of the Missions represented in Brussels. The Chairmanship shall be held at all times by an Ambassador resident in Brussels.
  - ii) Four Vice-Chairmen appointed for the same period for the other four regions.

- iii) The Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps shall be President d'honneur of the Group.
  - iv) The Representative of the OAU Current Chairman shall be an ex-officio member of the bureau.
3. The Director of the OAU Office shall act as Secretary and treasurer.

#### **CHAPTER IV - ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS - DELIBERATIONS**

##### *Rule 10 :*

- 1. The Brussels OAU Group shall meet in ordinary session, at least once every two(2) months.
- 2. In case of emergency, the Chairman of the Group may convene in extraordinary session at the specific request of a Representative of a Member State or the Director of the OAU Office in Brussels after consultation with the bureau of the OAU Group.
- 3. The Chairman of the OAU Group, in consultation with the Director of the OAU Office in Brussels, shall fix the date and time of the meetings.
- 4. The meetings of the OAU Group shall be held at the Permanent Office of the OAU or at any other suitable venue as may be indicated in the agenda for the meetings.
- 5. Unless the Group decides otherwise, all meetings shall be held in closed session (private).
- 6. The working languages for the meetings of the OAU Group shall be those of the OAU, Arabic, English, French and Portuguese.

##### *Rule 11 :*

- 1. The meeting shall be presided over by the Chairman of the OAU Group and in his absence by one of the Vice-Chairmen.
- 2. The Director of the OAU Office shall act as Secretary/ Rapporteur of the Group at meetings of the Group.

3. The Chairman shall open and close meetings, conduct discussions, summarize debates at the appropriate time and submit decisions or recommendations for adoption in conformity with the provisions of the present regulations.

*Rule 12 :*

1. The Chairman of the OAU Group shall determine the draft agenda for the meetings of the Group; the draft agenda shall be communicated to members of the Group at least three(3) days before the meeting in the case of ordinary meetings, and one(1) or two(2) days in the case of extraordinary meetings.
2. The agenda for an extraordinary meeting shall only comprise the item(s) submitted for consideration in the request for the convening of the meeting.

## **CHAPTER V - PROCEDURE**

*Rule 13 :*

1. A quorum shall be reached if two-thirds(2/3) of the members of the group are present.
2. No representative shall take the floor without the consent of the Chairman.
3. The Chairman shall give floor to speakers in the order in which it is requested. He may call to order any representative whose contribution has no bearing on the issue under discussion.

*Rule 14 :*

1. During the debate, the Chairman may read out the list of speakers and, with the consent of the participants, declare the list closed. He may, however, accord to any member the right to reply if a statement made after the closure of the list of speakers justified such a procedure.
2. When an issue is sufficiently discussed, the Chairman may declare the debate closed at the request of a representative or upon his own initiative.

*Rule 15 :*

1. The Chairman may limit the time allowed to each speaker whatever the issue under discussion. On matters of procedure, the Chairman may limit each statement to a maximum of five(5) minutes.
2. When a debate is limited and a representative moves for the adjournment of the debate, or of the meeting, the motion shall be put to the vote immediately.

*Rule 16 :*

1. During the debate, any representative may raise a point of order on which the Chairman shall immediately rule in compliance with the rules of procedure. Any representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman. The appeal shall immediately be put to the vote. A final decision shall then be taken by a simple majority of members present and voting.
2. A representative raising a point of order may not speak on the substance of the issue under discussion.

*Rule 17 :* Subject to Rule 16, the following motion shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or motions before the meeting :

1. to suspend the meeting;
2. to adjourn the meeting;
3. to adjourn the debate on the issue under discussion;
4. for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.

*Rule 18 :*

1. Decision of the Group on major issues shall normally be taken by consensus. In the absence of such a consensus, the Chairman of the Group shall be requested to hold consultations, with a view to establishing the basis of an agreement generally acceptable to the Group.
2. Should these consultations fail, decisions shall be taken by two-thirds(2/3) majority of members present and voting except on simple procedural questions in which case a simple majority shall suffice.
3. Each member Mission of the Brussels OAU Group shall be entitled to one vote.

## **CHAPTER VI - RELATIONS BETWEEN THE OAU GROUP AND THE PERMANENT OFFICE OF THE OAU IN BRUSSELS**

### *Rule 19 :*

1. The Permanent Office of the OAU in Brussels shall be the administrative organ of the Brussels OAU Group.
2. The Director of the OAU Office shall work in close co-operation with the members of the OAU Group and all the Representatives of the OAU Member States in Brussels.
3. To this end, the Director shall inform the Representatives of Member States of the Brussels OAU Group of the activities of the OAU by ensuring a wide distribution of information and the main documents relating to the Organization.
4. The Director shall ensure, with members of the OAU Group, the follow up and implementation as and when necessary, of decisions and stands adopted by the OAU.
5. The Director of the OAU Office shall prepare the draft operational budget of the Group in consultation with the Chairman of the OAU Group.

## **CHAPTER VII - AMENDMENTS - MODIFICATIONS**

*Rule 20 :* These rules of Procedure may be modified or amended by members of the OAU Group in Brussels by two-thirds(2/3) majority of members present and voting.

Done and adopted in Brussels on June 29, 1981

Rev. 1 : 17 June, 1992

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# Rules of Procedure of the Brussels OAU Group, Revision 2 (III) of 1998

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