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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN

Secrétariat  
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
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ADDIS ABABA  
6 - 15 FEBRUARY, 1980

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CM-1038

MIGROFICHE

APPLICATION FOR OAU OBSERVER STATUS (OMSA)

APPLICATION FOR OAU OBSERVER STATUS (OMMSA)

The Organization of Museums, Monuments and Sites in Africa (OMMSA) whose Headquarters is in ACCRA, GHANA, has applied for OAU observer status. The Organization was founded in Nairobi in January 1978 by representatives of OAU Member States for the preservation and conservation of Museums, Monuments and Sites in Africa.

Aims and objectives of OMMSA

The aims and objectives of OMMSA are to:

- a) promote the interests of appropriate institutions responsible for Museums, Monuments, Sites, objects of art, archeology and especially for the collection, discovery, study, preservation and the presentation of the natural and cultural heritage of Africa for the purpose of information, and education as well as for the enjoyment of all people;
- b) encourage and assist in museological studies, training, scientific research as well as educational and cultural services of appropriate institutions responsible for Museums, Monuments and Sites throughout Africa;
- c) promote co-operation between research workers and staff of appropriate institutions responsible for Museums, Monuments and Sites in Africa, and further promote a close co-operation with UNESCO, ICOMOS and other appropriate institutions responsible for Museums, Monuments and Sites the world over.

- d) establish a communication organ between its members, to be known as OMMSA Bulletin;
- e) invite African States to collaborate as much as possible in preventing any illicit trafficking of the natural and cultural heritage of the continent;

### Composition

Membership of the Organization is open to all national institutions responsible for Museums, Monuments and Sites in all African countries, referred to as "National Committees" and upon payment of the appropriate registration fees. Private persons may become associate members.

### Funding Sources

OMSA derives its resources from:

- subscriptions by members
- legacies and donations in cash or in the form of movable and immovable properties
- subventions
- services

OMMSA has appointed the following countries, members of the OAU, as those fully conversant with the affairs of the Organization:

1. CAMEROON
2. TANZANIA
3. KENYA
4. NIGERIA
5. TOGO

General remarks

OMMSA is an inter-governmental Organization encompassing all OAU Member States. The Constitution and Memorandum on its activities were sent to all OAU Member States on 3/8/1979. None of these States opposes the granting of OAU observer status to the Organization.

The aims and objectives of OMMSA are in line with those of OAU. No similar organization has so far obtained OAU observer status. Consequently, the General Secretariat wishes to support the application submitted by OMMSA.

- Annex I - Criteria for granting OAU observer status.
- Annex II - Constitution of the Organization of Museums, Monuments and Sites in Africa (OMMSA)
- Annex III - Memorandum on the activities of OMMSA

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ANNEX I

CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OAU OBSERVER STATUS

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ANNEX I

CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE OAU

CM/1038/(XXXIV)

Annex I

Council of Ministers

Thirty-Fourth Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa,

6-15, February 1980

CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS  
WITH THE OAU

CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE OAU

At its 14th Session, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government approved the following criteria for granting Observer Status with the OAU:-

a) Any organization applying for Observer Status with the OAU will show its genuineness; its credibility; its pan-Africanism; the impossibility of its being influenced by forces external and inimical to Africa. If it is a professional Organization, it should include all various disciplines of the wider profession. For instance an Association of Engineers should include all Organizations of various disciplines of engineering, civil and mechanical, for the whole Africa. Any organization seeking Observer Status with the OAU should therefore:

- 1) Have its objectives and activities conform with the fundamental principles and objectives set forth in the Charter of the OAU;
2. Be an African Organization, registered in Africa with its headquarters in Africa. Membership would be African, excluding South Africa, Rhodesia and South West Africa, while minority Racist Governments are still in power in these places. Membership external to Africa should not have voting rights;
- 3) Have sound financial basis. Sources of finance should be African. Donors external to Africa are to be clearly disclosed.

2. To the above end, the Organization should be required to submit:

- a) a written application and the following documents to the General Secretariat indicating its intention, at least six months before, it can be considered by the Council of Ministers, in order to allow for sufficient time for processing the application,



- b) its Constitution or Charter, its list of up-to-date membership, sources of its finance, including copies of its most recent balance sheet, and Memorandum of activities, all in the main languages of the OAU in sufficient quantity to facilitate circulation to Member States,
- c) if a non-governmental organization, the particulars of at least five Member States of the OAU, who have intimate knowledge of the Organization, and who are prepared to sponsor its. One of those States should be that where the Organization has its registered headquarters.

3. No application for Observer Status shall be submitted for consideration of the Council of Ministers, unless it has been fully processed by the General Secretariat.

4. The Memorandum of Activities should contain the present activities of the Organization, its connections, including any connection external to Africa, and any other information, which will assist in determining the identity of the Organization, especially its scope of activities (Ref.CM/784 (XXVIII)).

5. The Assembly also stipulated that:

The granting of Observer Status to an organization entails no obligation on the Organization of African Unity to grant ~~subsidy~~ to that Organization. The granting of subsidy to any organization can be envisaged only in certain cases, in exceptional and urgent circumstances, when such subsidy represents a temporary and vital addition to the budget of the organization enjoying observer status.

## PART II. OBSERVER PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE OAU

6. a) All observers may be invited to be present in the public galleries for the inaugural and closing meetings of all OAU Conferences;

- b) An observer at a meeting of OAU institution may participate in the proceedings of that institution only in accordance with the conditions laid down in Part III under:

7. Observer may have access to OAU documents provided that they are:

- a) Not of a confidential nature
- b) Ones not dealing with matters of interest to the observers concerned.

Distribution of OAU documents shall be against payment in those cases where there is no reciprocity.

8. Observers may be expressly invited to attend private meetings during discussion of a subject in which they are concerned.

9. With the express authorization of the Chairman, observers may participate in the proceedings of meetings to which they are invited. Although they may participate in the proceedings, observers shall not have the right to vote.

10. Observers may be authorized by the Chairman of the Conference to make a statement on a matter on which they are concerned, subject to the text of the statement being communicated beforehand to the Conference Chairman, through the medium of the Secretary-General.

11. The Conference Chairman may give the floor to observers in order to enable them to reply to questions which might be addressed to them by Member States.

PART III: SPECIAL PROVISIONS DEALING WITH PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS IN THE WORK OF OAU SPECIALIZED COMMISSIONS

12. Observer Status shall be granted under the following categories:

A. Category A shall include:

- i) Governments in exile and the liberation movements of African territories under colonial domination recognized by the OAU. International organizations or their specialized agencies which have signed a co-operative or consultative agreement with the OAU;

- ii) African inter-governmental organizations which have important interest in most of the activities of OAU Member States and which comprise a large number of OAU Member States.

B. Category A observers may:

- i) Attend all public sessions;
- ii) Request the inclusion of certain items of particular interest to them in the provisional agenda;
- iii) Make a written or oral statement on a matter of special interest to them, subject to the prior approval of the Chairman of the Session.

13. A. Category B shall cover African inter-governmental organizations having a specialized competence, and having an interest in substantial activities of the OAU.

B. Category B observers may:

- i) Attend all public sessions;
- ii) Make a written or an oral statement to the Specialized Commissions on a matter of special interest to them, subject to the approval of the Chairman of the session;
- iii) Reply to questions which the Commission, or Member States, might address to them.

14. A. Category C shall include:

- i) Inter-African non-governmental organizations associations or unions;
- ii) Inter-African non-governmental institutions;

B. Category C observers may:

- i) Attend the public sessions of the OAU Specialized Commissions during discussion of a matter concerning them;
- ii) Communicate a written declaration to the Commission through the medium of the Administrative Secretary-General, and after approval by the Chairman of the session.

PART IV: FINAL PROVISIONS

15. The provisions of the General Convention on Privileges and immunities, and those relating to the Headquarters Agreement of the OAU, shall not be applicable to observers, save for those regarding facilities provided for the granting of visas.

16. Observers shall themselves be responsible for expenses incurred as a result of their travel to and from, and their stay at the venue of the Conference.

17. These Rules may cease to apply to any institution enjoying the advantages of observer status should the Council of Ministers consider that this institution has ceased to satisfy the requirements laid down in these criteria.

(Ref.CM/162/Rev.2)

STATUTES OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR MUSEUMS,  
MONUMENTS AND SITES OF AFRICA

PREAMBLE

Representatives of Member States of OAU having met in Nairobi from 9th to 15th January 1978,

Considering the 19th Recommendation adopted at the Inter-Governmental Conference on Cultural Policies (Africacult-Accra, 1975)

Considering the cultural charter adopted by Heads of State and Government of Member States of OAU,

Considering the recommendation of the meeting of representatives of national institutions for Museums, Monuments and Sites of Member States of OAU who met in Nairobi (Kenya) on the 10th and 11th November, 1976 in connection with the 19th General Conference of UNESCO,

Conscious of the opportunity for creating a single Organization for the preservation and conservation of Museums, Monuments and sites in Africa,

Considering the African Cultural Renaissance as a source of interest to other regions of the world,

Considering the necessity to put an end to illicit trade in cultural property,

Convinced that the preservation and conservation of cultural and natural heritage are a duty which is primarily incumbent on each African,

Decide to establish for the African continent as a whole a single institution to be known as: "Organization for Museums, Monuments and Sites of Africa (OMMSA)".

Article 1 - Name

The name of the Organization shall be: "Organization for Museums, Monuments and Sites of Africa (OMMSA)".

Article 2 - Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Organization shall be as follows:

- a) To promote the interests of competent bodies responsible for museums, monuments and sites, works of art and archaeology and in particular to foster the collection, discovery, study, preservation and presentation of natural and cultural heritage of Africa, for the information, education and enjoyment of all.
- b) To encourage and help museological studies, training, scientific research and educational and cultural services of competent bodies throughout Africa responsible for museums, monuments and sites.
- c) To develop co-operation between research workers and the staff of competent bodies responsible for museums, monuments and sites throughout Africa and also to encourage close co-operation with UNESCO, ICOM, ICOMOS as well as with other competent institutions concerned with museums, monuments and sites throughout the world.
- d) To create an organ of communication between its members which shall be known as the OMMSA Bulletin.
- e) To invite African States to work together to the greatest extent possible for the prevention of every illicit trade in cultural and natural heritage on the continent.

Article 3 - Members

Membership of the Organization shall be open to all national bodies responsible for museums, monuments and sites in all African countries referred to hereinafter as "national committees" on payment of the appropriate subscription determined by the Executive Council. Private individuals shall be entitled to become associate members.

Article 4 - Financial Resources

The financial resources of OMMSA may be derived from:

- Members' subscriptions
- Gifts and bequests in cash or kind, whether personal property or real estates
- Subventions
- Services rendered.

Article 5 - Sovereign body

The sovereign body of the Organization shall be the General Assembly.

Article 6 - Meeting of the General Assembly

All the activities shall be carried out in the name of its members. It shall meet every four years following an invitation by the Chairman of the Organization.

It shall deliberate on the running of the Organization, receive reports of the Council which shall give a detailed account of the activities of the Organization including a statement of its accounts, duly verified by an auditor.

Article 7 - Members and Functions of the Executive Council

1. An Executive Council shall be elected by the General Assembly; it shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary-General, a Treasurer and seven Members.
2. The Executive Council shall have the following functions:
  - a) To represent, defend the interest of the Organization and translate into realities the decisions and programmes of the OMMSA General Assembly.
  - b) To draw up rules and procedures (for the smooth running of the Organization) in consonance with the aims and objectives stated above.
  - c) To manage and be responsible for the financial resources, movables and real estates of the Organization.

Article 8 - Duration of Term of Office of the Executive Council

The Executive Council shall be empowered to appoint from among its members or members of the Organization a Committee which will be responsible for the execution of any tasks designed to promote the aims of the Organization.

The Committee thus appointed shall report on its activities to the Executive Council.

Article 10 - Meeting of Professional Experts

Meeting of professional experts shall be convened either in the course of a general assembly meeting or at another time during which papers on matters of scientific and cultural interest shall be read; these shall be published in the Organization's Bulletin.

Article 11 - Headquarters of OMMSA Secretariat

The General Assembly shall decide on the location of the Headquarters of the Secretariat.



Article 12 - National Committees

National Committees on which public and private bodies responsible for museums, monuments and sites shall be represented, shall be encouraged in each African country with a view to co-ordinating the activities of these bodies at the national level.

Article 13 -- Vote

At General Assemblies, only representatives of national committees shall be entitled to vote and each committee shall have only one vote regardless of the number of its representatives. Decisions shall be taken by simple majority. Where votes are equally divided the President shall have a casting vote.

Article 14 -- Quorum

The requisite quorum for deliberation in the name of the Organization (whether in the General Assembly or the Executive Council) shall be constituted by one-third of the representatives of its members who have paid their subscriptions.

Article 15 - Working Languages

The work of the Organization shall be carried out in English and French for the time being.

Article 16 - Seal

The Executive Council shall be authorised to adopt a seal as a symbol of the authority of the Organization. It shall be responsible for its safe-keeping.

Article 17 -- Amendments

Proposals for amendments to the statutes of the Organization which must be submitted under conditions to be determined by the Rules of Procedure must be notified to members in writing three months before a General meeting. Such notifications must include full justification of the proposed amendments.

Amendments shall be adopted on an affirmative vote by more than one-half of the members present having paid their subscriptions and voting at a meeting of the General Assembly convened in due form.

#### Article 18 - Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure shall be drawn up by the Executive Committee and adopted by the General Assembly. The rules shall lay down the requirements for the application of these statutes.

#### Article 19 - Resolution

The decision to dissolve the Organization may be taken by the General Assembly. The procedure and conditions governing dissolution shall be laid down in the Rules of Procedure. In deciding to dissolve the Organization the General Assembly shall wind its financial affairs and decide on the disposal of its property.

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OMMSA 4 YEAR PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES1978 TO 1982BUDGET 1978 TO 1982INTRODUCTION:

The basic philosophy underlying this programme of activities is to try at this initial stage to set up an effective Secretariat, to get all OAU Member States to become active members of OMMSA, and to disseminate information about this Organization.

As the organization has no funds, only the most urgent Activities are to be undertaken.

The illicit trafficking in antiquities and the restitution of cultural and natural heritage are matters that need immediate attention. All Member States of OMMSA are therefore urged to take steps to prevent illegal dealing in cultural property. It is also strongly recommended that all Member States of OMMSA should get their Governments to ratify the UNESCO Conventions on illicit exportation of cultural property and the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage to enable OMMSA to present this important subject as one of its proposals at the forthcoming UNESCO General Conference to be held in Paris in October, 1978.

NEWSLETTER:

As the proceedings of this General Assembly constitute suitable material for a Newsletter, the Secretary-General is to prepare one (Newsletter) as soon as possible. Subsequently the Newsletter is to be prepared and circulated at regular intervals to keep OMMSA members informed of the activities of the organization.

FIRST YEAR: JUNE, 1978 TO JUNE, 1979

1. The setting up of OMMSA Secretariat

The Secretary-General is to set up an effective Secretariat by June, 1978.

2. Membership Drive

The Secretariat is to undertake a vigorous membership drive to get all Member States of OAU to ratify the OMMSA Statutes, and thus become members of this organization.

3. Contacts with International Organizations

a. The Secretariat is to establish working relations with the following international organizations:

UNESCO, ICOM, OAU, Pan-African Association of Pre-history and Related Studies, and any other relevant bodies.

b. The Secretariat is to take immediate steps to get OMMSA formally recognized by UNESCO, and accorded a suitable status in time to enable OMMSA proposals to be presented at the 20th General Conference of UNESCO to be held in Paris in October this year.

SECOND YEAR: JUNE, 1979 TO JUNE, 1980

1. Inventory of Monuments

The Secretariat is to find out about index cards with the view to designing a suitable one for making inventory of monuments of Africa.

2. A professional meeting to discuss the training of personnel and conservation is to be organized.

This meeting is to coincide with the conference of the Pan African Association of prehistory and related Studies which is to be held in Nigeria in September, 1981.

3. Membership Drive

The Secretariat should continue with the membership drive to get all Member States of the OAU to become members of OMMSA.

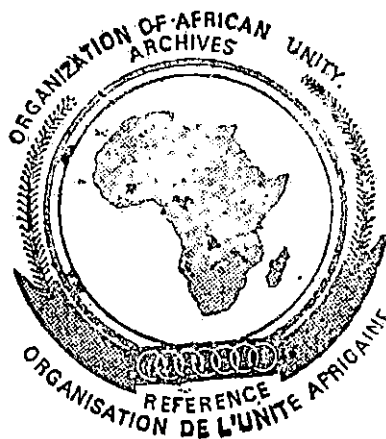
THIRD YEAR: JUNE, 1980 TO JUNE, 1981

The Secretariat is to make preparations towards the meeting of the next General Assembly, At the same time preparations should be made at the Regional and sub-regional levels. Every effort should be made to explore all the financial possibilities.

BUDGET 1978 TO 1982

OMMSA has no funds at the moment, and so no detail figures can be given.

1. The Ghana Delegation has offered to continue to provide secretarial facilities for OMMSA; and for the first year 1978 to 1979 give the sum of US \$3,000.00 to the Secretariat.
2. Every Member State of OMMSA is to contribute an annual subscription of not less than US \$1,000.00. Member States which can contribute more than this sum are urged to do so.
3. Associate Members are to pay an annual subscription of US \$ 10.00 and this amount is to be sent to the National Committee for onward transmission to the Secretariat.



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# Application for OAU Observer Status (OMMSA)

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