



ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY

Secretariat
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منظمة الوحدة الافريقية
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APPLICATION FOR AN OAU OBSERVER STATUS SUBMITTED BY THE
AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION
(ARSO)



APPLICATION FOR AN OAU OBSERVER STATUS SUBMITTED BY THE
AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION
(ARSO)

The African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) with Headquarters in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), has submitted an application to the OAU for Observer Status. This Organization was founded in Accra (Ghana) by representatives of 17 African States on 25th November, 1977.

Aims and Objectives of ARSO

1. Objectives of the Organization are:

- a) to promote standardization activities in Africa;
- b) to promote the harmonization of the views of its members as well as their contribution and participation at international level in the activities of standardization;
- c) to elaborate regional standards; and
- d) to promote social, industrial and economic development and provide consumer protection and human safety by advocating and establishing activities concerning standardization in Africa.

2. To achieve the purposes enumerated in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Organization seeks through its organs to:

- a) harmonize standards so as to facilitate trade among African countries;
- b) elaborate regional standards for Africa with particular reference to products which are of interest to Africa;
- c) promote and co-ordinate standardization, quality control, certification marking and metrology activities and practices in Africa;
- d) promote the exchange of experts and information, co-operation in the training of personnel in standardization and the use of laboratory and research facilities;
- e) co-ordinate the views of its members at the ISO, IEC, OIML and other International Organizations concerned with standardization, quality control, certification marking and metrology; and
- f) provide services relating to standardization and other matters to members of the Organization.

Membership:

Membership of the Organization is open to the national standards organizations of each Member State of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity and where no such organization exists in a State referred to in this Article, membership shall be open to a government body concerned with standardization designated for that purpose by the government of that State.

The following countries are members of the ARSO

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. EGYPT | 10. NIGERIA |
| 2. ETHIOPIA | 11. SENEGAL |
| 3. GHANA | 12. THE SUDAN |
| 4. IVORY COAST | 13. TOGO |
| 5. KENYA | 14. TUNISIA |
| 6. LIBERIA | 15. UGANDA |
| 7. LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA | 16. UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON |
| 8. MALAWI | 17. UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA |
| 9. MAURITIUS | 18. UPPER VOLTA |

Financial Sources of the Organization

The financial sources of the Organization are:

- Annual contributions of the members of the Organization;
- Fees charged by the Organization for its services.

Besides, grants and gifts may be accepted by the Organization in accordance with Article XIII of its Constitution.

General Remarks:

The African Regional Organization for Standardization is an Inter-governmental Organization whose aims and objectives are in line with those of the OAU Charter.

The Lagos Plan of Action recommends that the Member States of the OAU make adequate resources available to a number of technological institutions so that they carry out their activities fully. The African Regional Organization for Standardization is one of those technological institutions.

This same Lagos Plan of Action also recommends that the OAU and the ECA provide the means of co-ordinating the activities of these institutions both among the institutions themselves and among Member States. (Lagos Plan of Action Page 67)

The General Secretariat is, therefore, urging the Council of Ministers to consider favourably this application.

ANNEXS:

- I. Criteria for Granting the OAU Observer Status.
- II. The Constitution of the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO)
- III. Provisional work programme and the priorities for the period 1980-81.
- IV. Financial Statement as at 30th November, 1979.

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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 genuiness; 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 wider profession. For instance an Association of Engineers should include all Organizations of various discipline 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.
4. 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 it. 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 past and present activities of the Organization, its connections, including any connections 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.

It is further stipulated that the granting of Observer Status to an organization shall be subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers, and that the Council of Ministers shall have the right to withdraw the status at any time.

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 II under.
7. Observer may have access to OAU documents provided that they are:
 - a) Not of a confidential nature;
 - b) Once 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 before hand 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;
- ii. African inter-governmental organizations which have important interest in most of the activities of OAU Member States and which comprises a large number of OAU Member States.

B. Category A Observers may:

- i) Attend all public sessions;
- ii) Request the inclusion of certain items falling within their exclusive competence in the draft agenda;
- iii) Make a written or oral statement on a matter of special interest to them in the provisional agenda;

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 Commission 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;

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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.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Thirty-eighth Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

February 22 - March 3, 1982

CM/1180 (XXXVIII)

Annex II

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION
FOR STANDARDIZATION (ARSO)

(As adopted at the Founding Conference of ARSO held in
January 1977 and signed by the delegates of 17 African
countries)

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL
ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

Preamble

The National Standards Bodies on whose behalf this constitution is signed:

Determined to promote standardization activities in Africa and to strengthen the African voice, contribution and participation at international level in the field of standardization,

Recognizing the desirability of elaborating regional standards particularly with respect to products of interest to Africa,

Convinced that these can best be achieved by the establishment of an African Regional Organization for Standardization,

HEREBY agree as follows:

Article I
Establishment

1. There is hereby established an organization to be known as the African Regional Organization for Standardization, (hereinafter referred to as the "Organization") which shall operate in accordance with this Constitution;
2. The abbreviated name of the Organization shall be "ARSO"

Article II

Objectives and functions of the Organization

1. The objectives of the Organization shall be:

(a) to promote standardization activities in Africa;

(b) to promote the harmonization of the views of its members and their contribution and participation at the international level in the field of standardization;

(c) to elaborate regional standards; and

(d) to promote social, industrial and economic development and provide consumer protection and human safety by advocating and establishing activities concerning standardization in Africa.

2. For the purposes enumerated in paragraph 1 of this Article the Organization shall through its organs seek to:

(a) harmonize standards so as to facilitate trade among African countries;

(b) elaborate regional standards for Africa with particular references to products which are of interest to Africa;

(c) promote and co-ordinate standardization, quality control, certification marking, and metrology activities and practices in Africa;

- (d) promote the exchange of experts and information, co-operation in the training of personnel in standardization and the use of laboratory and research facilities;
- (e) co-ordinate the views of its members at the ISO, IEC, OIML and other international organizations concerned with standardization, quality control, certification, marking and metrology; and
- (f) provide services relating to standardization and allied matters to the members of the Organization.

Article III

Membership

1. Membership of the Organization shall be open to the national standards body of each member state of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity and where no such body exists in a state referred to in this Article membership shall be open to a government body concerned with standardization designated for that purpose by the government of that state.
2. Eligible bodies may acquire membership of the Organization in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Article XIX of this Constitution.

Article IV

The Organization shall have the following organs:

1. The General Assembly;

2. The Council;
3. The General Secretariat; and
4. Such other bodies and technical committees as may be established by the General Assembly or the Council.

Article V

Officers of the Organization

There shall be the following principal officers of the Organization:

The President

The Vice-President

The Secretary-General

Article VI

Working Languages

The official working languages of the Organization shall be English and French.

Article VII

General Assembly - Composition and functions

1. The General Assembly which shall be the supreme organ of the Organization, shall consist of the members of the Organization;
2. The General Assembly shall elect from amongst its members the President and Vice-President of the Organization. The terms of office of the President and Vice-President shall be for three years. They shall not immediately be eligible for re-election;

3. (a) The General Assembly shall meet at least once every three years as indicated by the President of the Organization and may hold extraordinary meetings at the request of the President or two thirds of

its members;

(b) The President of the Organization shall preside over all meetings of the General Assembly and where for any reason he is unable to do so the

Vice-President of the Organization

shall preside over such meetings;

(c) Each member of the General Assembly shall have one vote at the meetings of the General Assembly;

(d) The General Assembly shall subject to this Article, adopt its own rules of procedure for all its meetings including rules relating to time, place, notice of meetings, quorum, voting and the conduct of business thereat and at other times.

4. (a) For the purposes of the foregoing each member of the Organization shall designate one person to represent it on the General Assembly who may be accompanied by alternates. Provided that no person shall represent a member of the General Assembly which is elected as President, or Vice-President of the Organization as such, unless he be a national of the country of such member;

- (b) In designating its representative to the General Assembly, a member of the Organization shall have regard to the desirability of designating persons who are competent in matters relating to the objectives of the Organization.

5.1 The General Assembly shall:

- (a) determine the general principles and policies governing the activities of the Organization;
- (b) review and approve the programme of activities of the Organization;
- (c) determine the annual contributions to be paid by the members of the Organization;
- (d) select the headquarters of the Organization;
- (e) establish such other subsidiary organs as it may deem necessary for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the Organization and prescribe for such bodies rules for the conduct of their activities;
- (f) taking into account sub-regional and linguistic consideration, elect from among its members six members to serve on the Council;
- (g) perform such other functions as may be necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Organization.

5.2 At the end of each of its meetings the General Assembly shall adopt a Report.

5.3 The General Assembly may delegate any of its powers and functions provided for in this Article to the Council.

Article VIII

Council, composition and functions

1. (a) The Council shall consist of the President and the Vice-President of the Organization and the six members of the Organization elected for that purpose. The elected members of the Council shall each designate a person to represent it on the Council;
 - (b) Half of the first Council members shall retire after two years and the remaining half after three years. Thereafter, Council members shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election;
 - (c) The Council may as it deems necessary, and for such periods as it may determine co-opt other members and/or persons to assist it in the consideration of a particular matter.
2. The Council shall meet as often as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions and the President of the Organization shall preside at its meetings;

3. The Council shall determine its own Rules of Procedure;

4. Subject to the directions of the General Assembly, the Council shall:

- (a) direct, review, control and co-ordinate the financial, technical and other activities of the General Secretariat and other subsidiary organs of the Organization;
- (b) approve after consulting the member of the Organization, the budget of the Organization;
- (c) submit for the approval of the General Assembly a report on the activities of the Organization and an annual report on the activities of the Organization to each member of the Organization;
- (d) make rules governing the financial, administrative and other activities of the Organization;
- (e) determine the representation of the Organization at meetings to which the Organization is invited;
- (f) appoint the Secretary-General of the Organization, who shall hold office at the pleasure of the Council and subject to the provisions of this Constitution prescribe his powers, duties and functions, and determine the other offices and the technical divisions of the General Secretariat;

- (g) establish other subsidiary organs including Technical Committees as it may deem desirable for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the Organization and prescribe for such organs rules for the conduct of their activities; and
- (h) perform such other functions as may be delegated to it by the General Assembly.
5. The Council may refer particular questions for the decision of the members of the Organization without the necessity of calling a meeting of the General Assembly and the views of the members of the Organization may be conveyed by letter or cable.

Article IX

Technical Committees

1. The Council may establish Technical Committees and prescribe their functions;
2. Members of the Organization, which are interested in the activities of a Technical Committee may be represented on the Technical Committee;
3. A technical Committee shall determine within the limits of its functions, its own programme of work.

Article X

The General Secretariat, Secretary-General and Functions

1. The General Secretariat shall:

- (a) subject to the general directions of the Council, be entrusted with the administration of the Organization;
- (b) keep up-to-date with current developments in standardization and metrology and other matters that may be of interest to the Organization and keep the members of the Organization informed of such developments;
- (c) submit to the Council the programmes of activities, budget and accounts of the Organization;
- (d) prepare and submit to the Council, an annual report on the activities of the Organization;
- (e) submit to the Council draft rules governing the financial, administrative and other activities of the Organization;
- (f) provide secretariat services to the General Assembly, the Council and the subsidiary organs of the Organization, and convene their meetings in accordance with this Constitution and rules of procedure that may be made thereunder; and
- (g) implement the decisions of the General Assembly and the Council and perform any other functions that may be delegated to it by the Council.

2. The Secretary-General who shall be the head of the General Secretariat, shall be responsible for the discharge of his functions to the Council and shall be entitled to attend in an advisory capacity all meetings of the General Assembly, the Council, and the subsidiary organs of the Organization;

3. The Secretary-General or any person acting for the time being as Secretary-General, shall act on behalf of the Organization for the purposes enumerated in Article XI of this Constitution;

4. In the performance of his duties, the Secretary-General shall not seek nor receive instructions from any member of the Organization nor from any authority external to the Organization, except as specifically provided for in this Constitution or as directed by the Council or the General Assembly. He shall refrain from any acts which might reflect adversely on his position as an international official responsible only to the Council of the Organization;

5. Each member of the Organization shall respect the international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and his staff and shall not seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Article XI

Status of the Organization

1. The Organization shall have capacity to enter into contracts, sue and be sued and acquire and dispose of immovable or movable property;
2. The Organization shall enter into an agreement with the government of the country where its headquarters is situated concerning the provision of premises, facilities, services, privileges and immunities for the purpose and efficient operation of the Organization.

Article XIICo-operation and affiliation with States and Organizations

1. The Organization shall through the Secretary-General seek co-operation with States and Organizations which are desirous of assisting the Organization or its members in achieving the objectives of the Organization and such States and Organizations may, subject to paragraph 2 of this Article, be invited to attend meetings of the General Assembly, the Council and other organs of the Organization without the right to vote;
2. The General Assembly shall approve the affiliation of the Organization with the Organizations referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, and the Council shall approve the establishment of technical relations between the Organization and the States and Organizations referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article XIIIFinancial Resources of the Organization

The resources of the Organization shall consist of the annual contributions of the members of the Organization determined by the General Assembly in accordance with clauses 5.1.c of Article VII and fees charged by the Organization for services performed by it.

Further resources such as technical assistance, grants and gifts may be derived from the United Nations, the specialized agencies, other governmental organizations and institutions, governments

and non-governmental organizations. Acceptance by the Organization of offers of such further assistance shall in every case be subject to the decision of the Council, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the rules governing the financial management of the Organization.

Article XIV

Obligations of members of the Organization

Members of the Organization shall co-operate in every way so as to assist the Organization to achieve its objective. They shall in particular:

- (a) Pay promptly their annual contributions which shall be in respect of every calendar year and such fees as may be due from them for services rendered to them by the Organization;
- (b) Facilitate the collection, exchange and dissemination of information by the organs of the Organization;
- (c) Submit all necessary reports and information required by the organs of the Organization; and
- (d) Make available training, research, testing and other facilities on such terms as may be agreed with the appropriate organ of the Organization.

Article XV

Amendments of the Constitution

1. This Constitution may be amended on the proposal of the General Assembly, the Council or of at least five members of the Organization;

2. The Secretary-General shall notify all members of the Organization of the proposed amendment at least three months prior to the meeting of the General Assembly where the proposed amendment is to be considered;

3. No amendment shall be effective unless approved by at least two thirds of the entire membership of the Organization.

Article XVI

Withdrawal, suspension and cessation of membership

1. Any member of the Organization may withdraw from the Organization at any time after the expiration of one year from the date on which it became a member of the Organization by giving written notice of its withdrawal to the Secretary-General which shall forthwith inform all members of the Organization of the receipt of such notice of withdrawal;
2. Withdrawal shall become effective one year from the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the notice of withdrawal:

Provided that any member of the Organization withdrawing from the Organization shall nevertheless remain liable for the fulfilment of its financial obligations to the Organization including the payment of contributions in respect of the entire year in which the notice of withdrawal takes effect.

3. (a) The Council may suspend a member of the Organization who fails to meet its financial obligations towards the Organization as may be prescribed in the rules concerning the financial management of the Organization;
- (b) The suspension of a member of the Organization shall not relieve that member from the fulfilment of its financial obligations incurred prior to its suspension unless otherwise ~~decided by the Council;~~
- (c) During the suspension of a member of the Organization it shall not hold office in the Organization, participate in the activities of the organs of the Organization nor receive documents and publications of the Organization;
- (d) The suspension of a member of the Organization shall be revoked upon the payment by it of the arrears of its financial obligations to the Organization; such a member shall thereupon enjoy all the facilities and privileges of a member of the Organization;
- (e) A suspended member of the Organization who does not meet his financial obligations to the Organization for three consecutive years shall automatically cease to be a member of the Organization;

- (f) The suspension, revocation of a suspension or cessation of membership with respect to a member of the Organization shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to all other members of the Organization.

Article XVII

Settlement of disputes

Any dispute that may arise concerning the interpretation or application of any of the provisions of this Constitution which cannot be settled by the members of the Organizations concerned shall be submitted to the General Assembly whose decision shall be final.

Article XVIII

Dissolution

The Organization may on the proposal of the General Assembly, the Council or at least one-fourth of the members of the Organization be dissolved by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of all the members of the Organization. The General Assembly shall appoint a committee for the orderly dissolution of the Organization.

Article XIX

Final provisions

1. The Constitution of which the English and French texts are equally authentic shall be deposited with the Secretary-General after the Secretariat is formed but before this it shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary of the ECA;

2. This Constitution shall be applied provisionally when signed on behalf of at least eight of the standards bodies referred to in Article III of this Constitution;
3. This Constitution shall enter into force six months from the date of its provisional application if ratified, accepted or approved on behalf of at least eight of the standards bodies referred to in Article III of this Constitution;
4. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretariat as formed but before this it shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary of the ECA;
5. A standards body referred to in Article III of this Constitution which is desirous of becoming a member of the Organization after the coming into force of this Constitution may do so by depositing with the Secretary-General its instrument of accession to this Constitution after the Secretariat is formed but before this it shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary of the ECA;
6. The Secretary-General shall transmit certified copies of this Constitution and information concerning ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to this Constitution to members of the Organization, all Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned being duly authorized have signed this Constitution on the dates appearing under their signature, on behalf of their respective standards bodies.

In pursuance of the provisions of paragraph (1) and (6) of Article XIX of the Constitution of the African Regional Organization for Standardization, I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the said Constitution.

SIGNED

25 November 1977

Adebayo Adedeji
Executive Secretary of
the United Nations
Economic Commission for
Africa

Depository of the Constitution
of the African Regional
Organization for Standardization

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Annex III

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR THE PERIOD 1980-82

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES
FOR THE PERIOD 1980 - 1982

Introduction

1.1. In preparing a programme of work for standardization at the regional level, prior consideration should be given to standardization projects which will, in general, contribute towards increasing the performance capacity of the over-all economy of individual Member States and that of the region as a whole by facilitating industrial development and Inter-African trade and by promoting the exports of African countries.

1.2 Hence, the need for standardization activities in the African region is basically felt:

- (a) With respect to domestic markets, in order to reduce unnecessary varieties and to improve the quality of national production, increase its efficiency and provide a basis for consumer protection; and
- (b) With respect to exports, in order to control the quality of goods coming into Africa from different parts of the world, and to reduce unnecessary variety in imports as well as to progressively ensure that goods manufactured in foreign countries will be better adapted for the purposes and conditions of usage in African countries;
- (c) With respect to imports, in order to enable African countries to open their markets in free competition to goods that are in conformity with the specified needs and conditions of African countries;



(d) With respect to Inter-African Trade and communication, in order to facilitate the exchange of goods, services and information between African countries, and the co-ordination of industrial investment policies and programmes in sectors such as transport ~~telecommunications, energy, heavy and light industry;~~

(e) With respect to technology, in order to assist in the national selection and orderly transfer and application of technologies for the industrialization of African countries.

1.3 In this connection, it would be advantageous for the African region and, particularly in order to gain a break-through at different fronts, to implement the the concept of integrated approach to standardization by making efforts in developing, at the regional level, a combined and co-ordinated programme of standardization and related activities. Hence, during the working period 1980-1982, activities in the following principal fields shall be undertaken:

- (i) Preparation and Issuance of African Regional Standards;
- (ii) Quality Control;
- (iii) Certification Marking;
- (iv) Metrology;
- (v) Testing and Applied Research for quality Improvement;
- (vi) Creation and Strengthening of National Standards Bodies;
- (vii) Technical Standards Documentation Services;
- (viii) Training Programmes;
- (ix) International Liaison and Participation.

2. Preparation and Issuance of African Regional Standards

- 2.1 During the working period, standardization projects in a number of economic and industrial fields are planned to be undertaken. The result of this activity will be to prepare and issue African Regional Standards.
- 2.2. These standards shall concern elements such as terminology, dimensions, quality levels, safety requirements, sampling procedures, test methods, packing and marking. African Regional Standards shall be prepared, approved and adopted in accordance with the Rules Governing Technical Activities of ARSO.
- 2.3. The following shall be the priority fields in which standardization work at the regional level will be conducted during the period under consideration:
- (i) Basic and General Standards:
 - Quantities and Units
 - Limits and fits
 - Size of paper and envelopes
 - Trade documents
 - (ii) Building and Civil Engineering
 - Building materials
 - Structures (design of)
 - (iii) Industrial and Mechanical Engineering
 - Capital equipment
 - Engineering products
 - Parts and components

(iv) Electrical Engineering

- Generation, distribution and measurement of electrical power
- Electrical installation (code of practice of)
- Electrical products

(v) Chemical Engineering

- Petroleum and petroleum products
- Chemical products such as pesticides, fertilizers and surface active agents

(vi) Metrology

- Measuring instruments
- Scientific equipment

(vii) Transport and Communication

- Freight containers
- Pallets
- Fork lift trucks
- Packing and handling
- Railway gauges
- Road traffic system and signs
- Civil aviation equipment and practices
- Maritime transport
- Telecommunication systems (design of)

(viii) Textiles

- Textile machinery
- Fabrics

(ix) Agriculture and Forestry

- Agricultural export products such as coffee, tea and oilseeds
- Forestry products (raw and manufactured)

- (x) Food and Pharmaceuticals
 - Export and import food products (processed of)
 - Pharmaceutical products
- (xi) Natural Resources and Environment
 - Methods of conservation and evaluation of resources during exploration and development work
 - Environmental standards
- (xii) Education and Training
 - School and laboratory equipment and furniture
 - Audiovisual aids and educational material
- (xiii) Public Administration
 - Stationery and office equipment and furniture
 - Accounting and budgeting systems

3. Quality Control

- 3.1 Activities which will concern the promotion, in Member States, of quality control practices will be undertaken in relation to:
 - (i) The operation of internal quality control methods at the factory and production levels;
 - (ii) The development of national quality control programmes, in particular, with respect to exports and imports.
- 3.2 These tasks will be executed by providing logistic supports to Member States and by conducting training programmes in quality control methods and its operations.
- 3.3. Project studies concerning the feasibility of establishing and operating a Regional Quality Control Centre shall also be conducted.

4. Certification Marking

- 4.1 During the working period, efforts will be made to establish a Regional Certification Marking Scheme for operation by ARSO in connection with products concerning which African Regional Standards have been issued or adopted for such purposes.
- 4.2 Action will also be taken towards achieving reciprocal and multilateral recognition of certification marks of member bodies. In this connection, the ARSO shall promote knowledge of the subject and practices of certification marking among individual Member States.

5. Metrology

- 5.1 ARSO will assist, by defining needs and promoting knowledge of metrology, the establishment and operation of appropriate metrology programmes by Member States at the national level in order to improve their measurement services required to put standardization into practice.
- 5.2 During the working period, efforts will also be made, by conducting studies and preparing project proposals, towards the establishment of a Regional Metrology Centre which will provide measurement and calibration services to Member States.

6. Testing and Applied Research for Quality Improvement

- 6.1 The ARSO will assist, by reviewing the capabilities of and defining the needs for testing and research, the establishment and operation of programmes in testing and applied research for quality improvement by Member States at the national level in order to strengthen the practices of preparation and implementation of standards.

6.2 In this connection, decisions shall be made, during the working period, to appoint testing and research facilities available in Member States as Regional Testing and Research Laboratories for particular products or range of products.

7. Assistance in Establishing and Strengthening National Standards Bodies

7.1. The ARSO will assist, by providing logistic support and consultancy services to Member States, in creating and strengthening National Standards Bodies (NSBs).

7.2 In this regard, concerted efforts will be made in order to promote the application of the integrated approach to standardization -- a concept which concerns the combined operation of activities in standards formulation, quality control, certification marking, metrology and testing under the NSB.

7.3 Furthermore, ARSO will promote the exchange of technical information among Member States and steps will be taken towards establishing and operating a Regional Technical Standards Documentation Centre.

7.4 It is anticipated that the task of promoting the creation and operation viable NSBs will itself assist in obtaining increased membership and the active participation of African countries in ARSO. This concern of promoting membership and participation in ARSO will, during the working period, be given full and particular attention.

8. Technical Standards Documentation Service

8.1 ARSO shall, in the long-term, establish and operate a Technical Standards Documentation Centre which shall be primarily responsible for:

- The classification, storage and retrieval of information on the subject of standardization and related activities
- The preparation of a summary of relevant reference sources and a digest of the contents of African Regional Standards, national standards of member bodies and other pertinent international standards and related documents.

8.2 However, ARSO shall establish during this working period a library of standards as well as shall be engaged with the task of compiling and disseminating information on standardization activities of Member States of ARSO. The task shall also include the gathering and processing of information on the priorities of Member States concerning standardization work.

9. Training Programmes

9.1 During the working period, training arrangements shall be made for:

- (i) The staff of the NSBs of Member States, in particular, and other African countries;
- (ii) The company standards engineers of Member States, in particular, and other African countries.

9.2 The training programmes will, in the main, concern:

- (i) Principles and benefits of standardization and related activities;
- (ii) Organization and techniques for operating a NSB;

- (iii) Quality control;
- (iv) Certification marking and implementation of standards;
- (v) Metrology;
- (vi) Public relations including information services.

9.3 The training programmes will be conducted through:

- (i) Workshops and seminars;
- (ii) In-plant group trainings;
- (iii) Study visits;
- (iv) Exchange programmes;
- (v) On-the-job training;
- (vi) Special courses and fellowships.

9.4 Efforts shall be made to organize and conduct at least one training programme during each year of the working period.

10. International Liaison and Participation

10.1 ARSO shall establish and maintain liaison with international, regional and foreign national organizations working or interested in standardization and related activities. Particular attention shall be given towards establishing and maintaining close working relations with those organizations which operate and are concerned with programmes of standardization activities in the African region.

10.2 Efforts will be made to obtain support and assistance from organizations, indicated in paragraph 10.1 above, in executing the programme of work of ARSO aimed at promoting standardization and related activities in the African region.

10.3 During the working period, ARSO will make special efforts to strengthen the participation of and to safeguard the interests of Member States and that of the region as a whole in international standardization work by:

(i) Co-ordinating the participation and views of Member States in matters of international standardization activities;

(ii) Encouraging Member States to gain membership in organizations concerned with international standardization;

(iii) Participating actively in the work and deliberations of organizations concerned with international standardization and related activities.

11. Conclusion

11.1 The provisions of this general programme of work and priorities of ARSO for the period 1980-1982 will be detailed out and implemented through annual programmes of work of the Organization.

11.2 The proposals considered in this document provide, in aggregate, an indicative work plan of, more or less, a medium-term. Following a definite start and achievement of some progress in the activities of ARSO, it would be possible to trace out, with exact approximation of needs and capabilities, more specific programmes and the correct courses of action required to promote successfully the objectives of the Organization.

AFRICAN REGIONAL STANDARDISATION
ORGANIZATION (ARSO)

FINANCIAL MATTERS

1) FINANCIAL SITUATION AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 1979

<u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Cost</u> (in US dollars)	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Net Value</u>
Automobile vehicle	10,300	51.50	10,248.50
<u>Cash assets</u>			
Cash in ARSO Bank Account		70,533.78	
<u>Less</u>			
Increase in Bank charges		<u>3,640.00</u>	
			66,893.78
BALANCE AS AT 30 NOVEMBER, 1979			<u><u>77,142.28</u></u>

2) SOURCES OF INCOME

2.1 ARSO sources of income are:

- contributions from Member States
- fees for services rendered by ARSO

2.2 Besides, pursuant to Article XIII of the ARSO constitution, subventions and donations may be made to the Organization

1982-02-22

Application for an OAU Observer Status Submitted by the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO)

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

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