

**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC**

**REPUBLIC OF MALI**  
**One People-One Goal-One Faith**

**MISSION FOR THE AFRICAN  
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES**

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

**April 2001**

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

## **PREAMBLE**

### **The adherents to the present Statutes**

- Considering the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity (1963);
- Considering the Cultural Charter of Africa (1976);
- Considering the O.A.U. Linguistic Action Plan (July 21-25 1986);

Conscious of

- the role of languages in the economic, social and cultural development of nations;
- the role of languages in African integration as a factor of peace, comprehension and prevention of conflicts;
- the weight of illiteracy in Africa,

Have agreed on the following:

## **TITLE I: ON CREATION AND MISSIONS**

**Article 1.** It has been created in Bamako (Mali) under the protection of the African Union the African Academy of Languages, in short ACALAN. The African Academy is a pan-African institution. It has an unlimited lifetime and its seat is in Bamako.

**Article 2.** The African Academy of Languages has the following missions:

- the advancement of African languages in general, and of cross border languages in particular;
- the reinforcement of linguistic co-operation between African States;
- the international promotion of African languages.

In carrying out these missions, the African Academy of Languages will contribute to

- promotion of scientific and democratic culture;
- the harmonious economic, social and cultural development of African countries;
- African integration as an instrument of peace and prevention of conflicts.

## **TITLE II. ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ACADEMY.**

**Article 3.** The African Academy of Languages works towards the

- the boosting of research on African languages;
- the co-ordination and the development of research activities and the setting up of a consultation framework;
- the centralisation and dissemination of the results of linguistic research;
- the technical assistance to the different States as regard the development and the implementation of their linguistic policy, especially in the creation and/or setting up of national structures for the advancement of African languages;
- the modernisation of linguistic tools through the use of new technologies of information and communication (NTIC);
- the use of African languages as working languages at the national, sub-regional and international levels;
- the development of a linguistic Atlas of Africa;
- the harmonisation of instructional curricula of cross-border languages;
- the filing and the gathering of data banks;
- the redefinition of the relationships between African languages and partner languages.

**Article 4.** The African Academy carries a constant reflection on all matters pertaining to African languages in general and cross border languages in particular, and sees to the application of linguistic standards through:

- its opinion on the request of the authorities, the communities and the research institutions;
- the research works it finances;
- the formulation and follow up of the recommendations;
- the representation of African cross border languages at the international level;
- developing co-operation and exchange agreement with foreign institutions aiming at similar objectives;
- awarding prizes and distinctions.

## **TITLE III. ON MEMBERSHIP OF THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES**

**Article 5.** The African Academy of Languages is a learned society composed of distinguished men and women of science and culture called Academicians.

**Article 6.** The African Academy of languages is composed of:

- incumbent members;
- associate members;
- corresponding members.

**Article 7.** The members of the African Academy of Languages are elected by their peers, and then appointed by the Board of Governors of the ACALAN..

**Article 8.** Proposals for candidacy come from the members of the Academy, institutions of research and higher education and other national, African or international renowned cultural and scientific bodies.

## **CHAPTER I: THE INCUMBENT MEMBERS**

**Article 9.** To be an incumbent member of the ACALAN a candidate must satisfy the following conditions:

- be a citizen of an African country;
- be a scientific, technical, cultural and moral authority and having achieved outstanding results.

**Article 10.** There is a maximum of two incumbent members per Language Commission and per country. The incumbent members remain in their original institutions. They must

- attend the public sessions of the Academy in which they can present the original results of their works or make presentations on topics related to scientific, technical and cultural news;
- participate in the meetings of the Commission and in all the works of the Academy which require their presence;
- encourage researchers to make the significant results of their works available to the Academy;
- study the notes and questions submitted to them and give their opinion in all independence.

## **CHAPTER II: THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

**Article 11.** The associate members, a maximum of two (2) per Language Commission and per country, are renowned African scientific personalities working in their original institutions.

They participate in the public sessions and in the works of the Academy but cannot vote.

They must encourage researchers to make the significant results of their works available to the Academy.

## **CHAPTER III: THE CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.**

**Article 12.** The corresponding members, a maximum of two (2) per Language Commission and per continent, are non-African scientific personalities who have made notoriously contributed to the study and advancement of African languages. In addition to their contributions, they will plead everywhere for the African Academy. They participate in the public sessions of the Academy but cannot vote.

## **TITLE IV: ON THE ORGANS AND THE INSTANCES OF THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES.**

### **CHAPTER I: THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Article 13.** The Board of Governors is the highest authority of the Academy. It is composed of the Ministers in charge of Education, of Culture, or of Scientific Research of member states.

**Article 14.** The Board of Governors calls an ordinary meeting biennially at the seat of the Academy.. However, upon the request of two thirds (3/4) of its members, the President shall call an extraordinary session on a precise agenda communicated in advance to all the members

**Article 15.** The Board of Governors has the following prerogatives:

- It elects the President of the Academy;
- It approves the Internal Rules, the Activity Report, the Action Plan and the Budget of the Academy.
- It makes its decisions on the simple majority of the members present. Each member is entitled to one vote. Should the votes be even, the President is empowered with the casting vote.
- It can order an audit of the management of the Academy.

## **CHAPTER II: THE PRESIDENCY OF THE ACADEMY**

**Article 16.** The Presidency of the Academy is the animation, administration and leadership authority of the Academy.

**Article 17.** The Presidency of the Academy includes: the President of the Academy, the Secretary General, the Director of the Documentation and Information Centre, and the Accountant. It is run by the President of the Academy.

**Article 18.** The President of the Academy is elected by the Board of Governors for a four (4) year term renewable only once. He authorises the expenditures of the Academy and can, on his authority, empower the Secretary General.

**Article 19.** The President prepares the International Rules of the Academy. He implements the instructions of the Board of Governors and is accountable to it. He prepares the programs of activity, the balance sheet and the reports of the Academy. He attends all the meetings of the Board of Governors and accounts for all its secretarial work.

**Article 20.** The President appoints to the administrative jobs within the Academy. He represents the Academy to the administrative and political authorities of member states, and to the authorities of the African Union and International Institutions as well.

**Article 21.** The Secretary General is appointed by the President of the Academy on the proposal of the host country. Under the authority of the President, he and runs, co-ordinates and stimulates the administrative services of the Academy.

He is in charge of the secretarial work of the meetings of the Board of Governors and of the Presidency.

He files the archives, the minutes of the meetings and the reports of the debates.

He ensures contact and facilitates the collaboration between the Academy and the administrative authorities of the host country.

**Article 22.** The Director of the Documentation and Information Centre is appointed by the President after announcement of a vacancy. He is in charge of

- centralising and disseminating the results of linguistic research;
- filing and gathering data banks;
- ensuring the production and the translation of the documents of the Academy in cross border languages and in partner languages;
- ensuring the publication of the Bulletin of the Academy.

**Article 23.** The Accountant is appointed by the President of the Academy after announcement of a vacancy and upon approval by the Board of Governors. He is in charge of general accounting and cost accounting.

The Accountant is responsible for the bookkeeping of the Academy. With the President, he co-signs all the supporting documents.

**Article 24.** The members of the Presidency fulfil permanent duties remunerated in accordance with the salary scale of the specialised institutions of the African Union.

### CHAPTER III. THE LANGUAGE COMMISSIONS

**Article 25.** The African Academy of Languages sets up a Language Commission for every cross frontier language of wider communication.

Language Commissions are the working structures for the Academicians.

**Article 26.** Each Commission is composed of two (2) incumbent members, two (2) associate members, per country and two (2) corresponding members per continent.

**Article 27.** Each Language Commission is animated by a Permanent Secretary elected among the incumbent members.

**Article 28.** The Permanent Secretary co-ordinates the activities of the Commission and centralises the results of the works of the commission for the Sessions of the Academy.

### CHAPTER IV: THE SESSION.

**Article 29.** The Session is the authority of the Academy which brings together twice a year the incumbent members, the associate members and the corresponding members. The members discuss and adopt the results of the works of the commissions. In case of necessity the President shall call an extraordinary session. He presides over all the sessions of the Academy..

Only the President and the incumbent members can vote.

**Article 30.** A session allowance is provided to the Academicians.

## **TITLE V: ON FINAL CLAUSES**

**Article 31.** The Internal Rules of the Academy defines the mode of election and appointment of the members of the Presidency and the Language Commissions, lays down their prerogatives and the conditions in which they fulfil their duties.

**Article 32.** For the initial constitution of the African Academy of Languages, the public and private scientific organisations and institutions propose to the Board of Governors the scientific lists eligible to the Academy for membership as incumbent members, associate members and corresponding members.

**Article 33.** The present Statutes are completed by the Internal Rules.

**Article 34.** The present Statutes of the African Academy of Languages can be modified only by the Board of Governors called in an extraordinary session.

Bamako,

2001

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