

AFRICAN UNION

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**DRAFT STATUTES OF THE AFRICAN UNION INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE FOR GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN AFRICA
(AU/CIEFFA)**

We, Member States of the African Union:

RECALLING the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.44 (III) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which agreed to make the International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA) an African institution under the aegis of the African Union;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Assembly, in the aforementioned Decision, welcomed the establishment and operationalization of African Union International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) under the aegis of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as an institution for the promotion of Education of girls and women in Africa;

CONSIDERING that at the 30th session of its General Conference in 1999, UNESCO included the creation of CIEFFA in the global Programme I, Action Plan 2, as part of the special project of "promotion of girl's and women's education in Africa";

ALSO CONSIDERING the agreements between UNESCO and the Government of Burkina Faso on the collaborations regarding the CIEFFA;

REAFFIRMING the Headquarters' Agreement of 05 March 2008 between the Government of Burkina Faso and the African Union on the establishment of the Headquarters of the CIEFFA;

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts made by the Government of Burkina Faso and other partners, including UNESCO, to make the centre operational;

MINDFUL of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (2016-2025) adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council and considering the role of CIEFFA in the implementation of this Strategy;

EMPHASIZING that the mission of CIEFFA is in line with the vision of Agenda 2063, which outlines that the African woman will be fully empowered in all spheres, with equal social, political, and economic rights and opportunities and enabled to fight against all forms of violence and discrimination against her;

DETERMINED to provide CIEFFA with a statutory and regulatory framework for its organization and functioning under the aegis of the African Union;

HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 Definitions

In this Statute:

“**Assembly**” means the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the African Union;

“**AU**” or “**Union**” means the African Union established by the Constitutive Act;

“**CIEFFA**” means the African Union-International Centre for Girls and Women’s Education in Africa;

“**Commission**” means the African Union Commission;

“**Executive Director**” means the the Head of the Secretariat;

“**General Conference**”, means UNESCO General Conference;

“**Member States**” means Member States of the African Union;

“**RECs**” means Regional Economic Communities;

“**Secretariat**” means the Secretariat of the AU/CIEFFA;

“**Statute**” means this Statute of the African Union-International Centre for Girls’ and Women’s Education in Africa;

“**STC**” means the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology;

“**Steering Committee**” means the Steering Committee established by this Statute; and

“**UNESCO**” means the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article 2 Legal Status and Capacity of the CIEFFA

1. The CIEFFA shall be a Specialized Technical Institution of the Union and shall be governed in accordance with the provisions of this Statute.
2. The CIEFFA shall enjoy, in the territory of the Host Country legal capacity necessary for the fulfilment of its objectives and the exercise of its functions in accordance with this Statute, including capacity to enter into agreements, acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property, and to institute and defend legal proceedings.

Article 3 Headquarters

The Headquarters of the CIEFFA shall be in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Article 4

Objectives of CIEFFA

1. CIEFFA aims to provide necessary policies, lines of actions, strategies and guidance to all relevant stakeholders to address gender equality, equity, leadership and advocacy in a learning environment in order to create gender sensitive schools, to increase girls' access and retention in education systems in the African Continent towards sustaining Africa's development.
2. CIEFFA shall:
 - a) Promote girls' and women's education at both formal and non-formal levels;
 - b) Promote gender mainstreaming in education policies and development programmes;
 - c) Build the operational capacities of Member States on girls and women's education issues;
 - d) Establish networks for information and experience sharing on girls and women's education;
 - e) Develop strategies and innovative approaches for advocacy and a fruitful partnership to promote and consolidate girls and women's education;
 - f) Promote research on girls and women's Education issues;
 - g) Conduct observatory activities on the status of education and training for girls and women in Africa;
 - h) Organize training on information and data collection, management and programmatic use; and
 - i) Monitor and report on decisions and programmes implementation at national, regional and continental levels.

Article 5

Framework for implementing programs

1. CIEFFA shall implement its program as part of the Commission in collaboration with national, regional and international institutions.
2. CIEFFA shall establish and maintain a network with the institutions referred to in paragraph (1), to promote the education and training of girls and women in line with AU's Agenda.

Article 6 Administration and Institutional Framework

CIEFFA shall be governed by the following bodies:

1. The STC;
2. The Steering Committee; and
3. The Secretariat.

Article 7 Establishment of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is hereby established as an advisory body of the CIEFFA.

Article 8 The Composition of the Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee shall be composed of:
 - a) A representative of the Commission;
 - b) Five representatives from Member-States composed of one (1) representative from each AU region;
 - c) A representative of an international organization other than UNESCO;
 - d) A representative of an African Civil Society Organization duly accredited to the AU working on issues of girls and women's education nominated by the Chairperson of the Commission; and
 - e) A representative of UNESCO as a permanent member.
 - f) The Executive Director of CIEFFA shall serve as Secretary of the Steering Committee.
2. The Steering Committee may invite a representative from the host country to attend its meetings as an observer and such representative shall have no right to vote.
3. The Steering Committee shall elect from among its members, a President and a Vice-President to facilitate its meetings and activities.
4. In the absence of the President, the Vice President or any member elected from among the members shall act as the President.
5. For any session, a simple majority of the members shall be required to constitute a quorum.
6. Decisions of the Steering Committee shall be made by consensus and failing which, by a simple majority vote of the members present.

7. The Members of the Steering Committee shall hold office for a period of two (2) years.
8. The Steering Committee shall meet once a year in ordinary session upon the invitation of the Executive Director of the CIEFFA and may, subject to availability of resources, meet in extraordinary sessions as required.

Article 9 **The Functions of the Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee shall:

1. Consider the Centre's action plan and budget and allocated resources for the functioning of the Centre in accordance with the provisions of this Statute. The budget ceiling must not exceed the total amount of available resources for the fiscal year concerned, including the contributions and subsidies paid to the Centre;
2. Facilitate mobilization of the resources required to enable AU/CIEFFA fulfil its tasks under this Statute as appropriate;
3. Consider the Centre's work plan and ensure the implementation of its program; and
4. Consider the Centre's annual activities report.

Article 10 **The Secretariat**

1. The Executive Director shall be the Head of the Secretariat and shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of CIEFFA.
2. The Executive Director, shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer and shall represent the CIEFFA in all matters, and shall report to the Steering Committee, the and the African Union, as appropriate
3. The functions and appointment of the Executive Director and other staff of the Secretariat shall be in accordance with the structure and procedures of the AUC.
4. The structure of the Secretariat shall be defined by the African Union Commission in collaboration with the Steering Committee.

Article 11 **Functions of the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall perform the following functions:

- a) Prepare the budget and financial reports of CIEFFA;
- b) Work closely with Member States and RECs to advocate for girls' and women's education in the continent;
- c) Mobilize resources in the framework of the AU policy in this area;
- d) Establish strategic partnerships in areas of competence of CIEFFA; and
- e) Perform any other functions that are deemed necessary in line with the objectives of CIEFFA.

**Article 12
Budget**

1. The budget of the CIEFFA shall be within the budget of the Union.
2. In addition to the regular budget of the Union, other sources of funding the CIEFFA may include:
 - a) Voluntary contributions from AU Member States and partners;
 - b) Contributions from Development Partners of the Union and the Commission;
 - c) Contributions from the Private Sector;
 - d) National and regional financial institutions and other financing mechanisms;
 - e) Any other source of funding in accordance with AU Rules.
3. The budget calendar of the CIEFFA shall be that of the Union.
4. Funds of CIEFFA shall be managed and administered in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of the AU.

**Article 13
Privileges and Immunities**

The CIEFFA, and all its personnel, premises, property and assets, and experts on mission providing advice or assistance to the CIEFFA, shall enjoy In the territory of the Host Country, the privileges and immunities as stipulated in the General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the OAU and its Additional Protocol.

**Article 14
Amendments**

The present Statute may be amended by the Assembly upon the recommendation of the STC.

**Article 15
Languages**

The working languages of the CIEFFA shall be those of the Union.

**Article 16
Entry into force**

The present Statute shall enter into force upon its adoption by the Assembly.

Adopted by.....on

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