



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**  
Secretariat  
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية  
السكرتارية  
ب. ص. ٣٢٤٣

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN**  
Secretariat  
B. P. 3243

اديس ابابا \* \* \* Ababa

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
Ninth Ordinary Session  
Kinshasa - September 1967.

CM/162/Rev.2

OBSERVER STATUS  
WITH THE OAU  
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OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE OAU

Considering that neither the Charter of the OAU, nor the Rules of Procedure of its principal institutions contain provisions regarding the granting of observer status;

Considering that co-operative relations between the OAU and other international institutions are growing increasingly closer;

Considering that numerous requests have been addressed to the Administrative Secretary-General by African inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and various African unions and associations; canvassing for the advantages of observer status with the OAU;

Considering that the attainment of the aims and objectives of the OAU calls for a working relationship with other organizations inspired by the same ideals;

Considering that in accordance with the decision by the Heads of State and Government, as far as possible only African institutions may enjoy observer status;

Considering that Resolution CM/Res.80/Rev.1 requests the Secretary-General to prepare a set of rules for observer status dealing with all possible cases;

The Fourth Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopts the following Statutes, hereinafter designated as "OAU Observer Status"

PART I: ADMISSIONArticle 1

All justified requests to enjoy the advantages of observer status at meetings of one or more institutions of the Organization of African Unity shall be addressed to the Administrative Secretary-General.

Where such a request emanates from an African national organization, it should be sponsored by the Member-State directly concerned.

Article 2

Any organization seeking to enjoy observer status shall attach to its request, provided for in article 1 of these statutes:

- (a) The Convention, Charter or Statutes governing its functions
- (b) A memorandum describing its programmes and activities and indicating the number of its Members or its supporters in one or more Member-States.

### Article 3

The Administrative Secretary-General shall transmit the request as well as his own recommendations to all Member States within thirty days from the date on which the request is filed with the General Secretariat.

### Article 4

The Administrative Secretary-General shall bring the request for observer status to the attention of the Council of Ministers, after all Member States have been duly advised.

### Article 5

Consideration of the request with a view to gaining observer status shall be subject to the following pre-conditions:

- (a) The request shall conform with the fundamental principles set forth in the Charter of the OAU;
- (b) The activities of the body seeking observer status shall be in conformity with the objectives of the OAU.

### Article 6

- (a) The provisions of Articles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of these Statutes shall not apply to those international institutions which have signed co-operative agreements with the Organization of African Unity, to OAU recognized governments-in-exile or to liberation movements of African territories under colonial domination;
- (b) The provisions of these Statutes and those of any agreement signed between the OAU and international institutions in all cases where they relate to the same subject, shall as far as possible, be considered complementary; however in the event of sheer incompatibility, the provisions of the agreement shall prevail.

### Article 7

All requests to enjoy the advantages of observer status shall be dealt in accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers reached by simple majority.

### Article 7 bis (Decision CM/Dec.207 (XIX))

The granting of observer status to an organization entails no obligation for the Organization of African Unity to grant a subsidy to that organization. The granting of a subsidy to any organization can be envisaged only in certain cases, in exceptional and urgent circumstances, and when such a 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

Article 8

- (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 an OAU institution may participate in the proceedings of that institution only in accordance with the conditions laid down in the relative provisions of these Statutes, particularly those in Article II.

Article 9

The Administrative Secretary-General shall communicate to the observers concerned and to all Member States the inaugural date and the provisional agenda of OAU Conferences.

Article 10

All observers may have access to OAU documents, subject to these documents:

- (a) Not being of a confidential nature;
- (b) 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.

Article 11

Observers may be expressly invited to attend private meetings during discussion of a subject within their competence.

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

Article 12

Observers may be authorized by the Chairman of the Conference to make a statement on a matter within their competence, subject to the text of the statement being communicated beforehand to the Conference Chairman, through the medium of the Secretary-General.

Article 13

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

Article 14

Apart from the privileges provided under Articles 8, 9 and 10 of these Statutes, observers at the Specialized Commissions of the OAU, save the Defence Commission, shall be classified as regards their participation in the work of these Commissions into three categories: A, B and C.

Article 15

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 a fundamental 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.

Article 16

A. Category B shall cover African inter-governmental organizations having a specialized competence, and having an interest in a reduced number of 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.

Article 17

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 of particular interest to 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

Article 18

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

Article 19

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.

Article 20

These Statutes 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 the provisions of these Statutes, and particularly those of Article 5.

Article 21

These Statutes may be amended in accordance with a decision of the Council of Ministers reached by simple majority.

ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WORK  
EDUCATION IN AFRICA

Secretariat  
School of Social Work  
Haile Sellassie I University  
P.O. Box 1176  
Addis Ababa/Ethiopia

H.E. The Administrative Secretary-General,  
Organization of African Unity,  
P.O. Box 3243,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Your Excellency,

The Association for Social Work Education in Africa (ASWEA),  
a Pan-African Organization officially set up in March 1971 with  
the assistance and under the auspices of the UNECA, and having its  
headquarters in Addis Ababa, is hereby requesting to be granted an  
Observer Status with the Organization of African Unity.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of ASWEA, I have the  
honour to introduce this request together with all the relevant  
documents hoping that action will be taken to have it submitted to  
the forthcoming session of the OAU Council of Ministers, for due  
consideration.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest  
consideration.

Ahmed Kamal Ahmed (Dr.)  
President a.i.

Association for Social Work Education in  
Africa

Encl. ASWEA Constitution (English and French)  
ASWEA Brochure (Bilingual printed document)



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# Observer status with the OAU

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