

ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY  
SECRETARIAT  
P. O. Box 3243

ADDIS ABABA

ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN  
SECRETARIAT  
B. P. 3243

CM/278

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
Thirteenth Ordinary Session  
Addis Ababa, August-September 1969

APPLICATIONS FOR OBSERVER STATUS



## APPLICATIONS FOR OBSERVER STATUS

The statutes governing OAU observer status, adopted by the Fourth Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Kinshasa in September 1967 is the legal instrument whereby certain African organizations with similar ideals may be associated with the work of the Organization of African Unity.

Making use of the possibilities offered by the said status, a certain number of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations have already applied for and obtained observer status. These are: African and Malagasy Common Organization (OCAM), the Central African Economic and Customs Union, the Organization of the Senegal Riparian States, the Niger River Commission, the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa and the All-African Women's Conference. Three other African Organizations, the Association of African Cultural Society (SAC) which edits the Présence Africaine Review, the Pan-African Youth Movement and the Union of African National and Television Services have now applied for OAU observer status.

It should be recalled that the three applications were placed on the agenda of the Twelfth Session of the Council of Ministers held in Addis Ababa in February 1969. It should also be recalled that for reasons beyond the General Secretariat's control, the documents concerning these applications were not forwarded to Member States in time and consequently the Council of Ministers postponed their consideration to its next session.

The papers of the three requesting organizations were forwarded once more to Member States for consideration by the present session of the Council of Ministers.

In the opinion of the Administrative Secretary-General the three applications fulfil all the conditions required by the provisions governing observer status and deserve careful consideration by the Council, for all three are from organizations which, in their respective fields of activities with their own means and methods pursue objectives which do not seem contrary to those of the Organization of African Unity.

In its efforts to revive culture, particularly African civilization, the Association of the African Cultural Society (SAC) has played the role of a true pioneer. By assembling within the same organization men of letters and artists interested in African Culture in its most authentic form by pooling their efforts and their talents, the Association of the African Cultural Society (SAC) has contributed considerably to propagating African culture which has now taken its place in world culture. In the course of years of a struggle often characterized by difficulties, the Association of the African Cultural Society has accumulated a wealth of unique experience and its contribution to the activities of the Cultural Department of the OAU may prove very promising.

Concerning the Union of African National Radio and Television Services, it was the outcome of the wish of Member States to pool their resources in order to ensure, in this vital field of audio-visual system of transmission, the safeguard of their interests. URTNA has already many accomplishments to its credit. In the efforts of the OAU to develop a modern African system of telecommunications between Member States, the experience of URTNA can be a great asset. Indeed, it is hardly necessary to mention how much a United African Youth, the future of our continent, is important and how valuable is its contribution for the harmonious development of our countries and peoples.

The Administrative Secretary-General is therefore particularly pleased to recommend that the present Council of Ministers give the applications of the Association of the African Cultural Society (SAC), the Pan-African Youth Movement and the Union of African National Radio and Television Services, the attention they deserve. In conformity with the provisions of the Statutes, the three requesting organizations could be given observer status, The Union of African National Radio and television Services under Category B, the Association of the African Cultural Society and the Pan-African Youth Movement under category C.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

1. ORG 100/2 of 27 May 1969
2. CM/249/Add.1;
3. CM/249/Add.2;
4. CM/249/Add.3.

REF. ORG. 100/2

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity presents its compliments to the Foreign Ministry of all Member States and has the honour to attach herewith the papers relating to the applications for observer status from:

- Society of African Culture
- Pan-African Youth Movement
- Union of African National Radio and Television

The General Secretariat wishes to remind the Ministry that since the application papers could not be forwarded in time, the Council of Ministers had not been able to consider them at its Twelfth Session held in Addis Ababa in February 1969 and had postponed the matter to the next session.

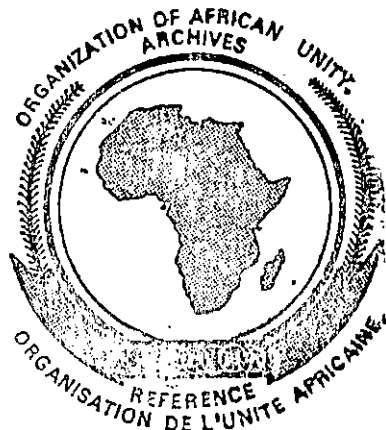
The General Secretariat would like to recommend that Member States consider carefully these applications which shall be submitted to the thirteenth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers scheduled for August 1969.

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Foreign Ministry of OAU Member States the assurance of its highest consideration.

Addis Ababa, on

27 May 1969

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of all OAU Member States.



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

SECRETARIAT  
P. O. Box 3243

ADDIS ABABA

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN**

SECRETARIAT  
B. P. 3243

Council of Ministers

Thirteenth Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa, August/September 1969

CM/278/Add.1.

Application for Observer Status

Submitted by the "Association of African Universities"

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

Temporary Office  
of the Secretariat  
Cable Address-c/o Gamaa

University of Khartoum  
P.O. Box 321  
Khartoum  
Sudan

Ref.

Date 23rd April 1969.

The Administrative Secretary General  
Organisation of African Unity  
Addis Ababa

Dear Sir,

OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE O.A.U.

We refer to Mr. Buliro's letter SC/ESCHC/ 28/47.69 dated 12.3.69, in which he was informing us about the Observer Status and we wish hereby, in the name of the ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES apply formally for OBSERVER STATUS Category "A" with the ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY.

We enclose herewith the relevant documents to support our application:-

- a) Constitution of the Association of African Universities
- b) By-Laws
- c) List of member-institutions.

Yours faithfully,

E.N. DAFAALLA  
Executive Vice-President

LIST OF UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONS  
(ACTIVE AND POTENTIAL) OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

LISTE DES INSTITUTIONS UNIVERSITAIRES  
(ACTUELLES OU A CREER) DE  
L'ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITES AFRICAINES

ALGERIA

University of Algiers,  
Algiers.

BOTSWANA

University of Botswana, Lesotho  
and Swaziland,  
Roma, Lesotho, Southern Africa

BURUNDI

University Officielle de  
Bujumbara,  
Bujumbara

CAMEROON

University Federale du  
Cameroon  
Yaounde

CONGO BRAZZAVILLE

Centre d'Enseignement Superieur,  
Brazzaville

CONGO KINSHASA

Universite Lovanium de  
Kinshasa,  
Kinshasa

CONGO KINSHASA

Universite Officielle du Congo,  
Lubumbashi

Universite Libre de la  
Province Orientale du Congo  
Kisangani

GHANA

University of Ghana,  
Legon Accra,

University of Science and  
Technology  
Kumasi

University College of Cape  
Coast  
Cape Coast

IVORY COAST

Universite d'Abidjan,  
Abidjan

KENYA

University College, Nairobi,  
Nairobi

LIBERIA

University of Liberia,  
Monrovia

Cuttington College and  
Divinity School,  
Monrovia

Maryland College of Our  
Lady of Fatima,  
Harper, Cape Palmas

LIBYA

University of Libya  
Benghazi

MALAWI

University of Malawi  
Limbe

MADAGASCAR

Universite de Madagascar,  
Tananarive

MOROCCO

Universite Mohammed V,  
Rabat

Universite Qarawiyyine,  
Rabat

NIGERIA

Ahmadu Bello University  
Zaria

University of Ibadan  
Ibadan

NIGERIA

University of Ife  
Ife

University of Lagos

University of Nigeria  
Nsukka.

UGANDA

University of East Africa,  
Kampala.

Makerere University College  
Kampala.

U.A.R.

Ain Shams  
Cairo

Alexandria University  
Alexandria

University of Assiut  
Assiut

University of Cairo  
Cairo

Al Azhar University  
Cairo.

RWANDA

Universite Nationale du Rwanda  
Butare

SENEGAL

Universite de Dakar,  
Dakar.



SIERRA LEONE

University of Sierra Leone,  
Freetown

SOMALIA

Istituto Universitario della  
Somalia,  
Mogadiscio.

SUDAN

University of Khartoum,  
Khartoum.

Islamic University of Omdurman  
Omdurman.

University of Cairo, Khartoum  
Branch,  
Khartoum.

TANZANIA

The University College of  
Dar-Es-Salaam,  
Dar-Es-Salaam.

TUNISIA

Universite de Tunis  
Tunis

ZAMBIA

University of Zambia  
Lusaka.

BY - LAWSOF THEASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

as passed by the Executive Board during their meeting held at Makerere University College, Kampala, on 21 and 22 October 1968

-----

Section 1. Requirements for Membership

1. To be eligible for membership pursuant to Article III, Section 1, of the Constitution of the Association of African Universities, the University shall grant the B.A. Degree, or its equivalent.
2. Any University desiring membership in the Association as of the next General Conference shall submit an application for membership to the Executive Board at least one month before the convening of the next General Conference. The application shall set forth that the applicant intends to adhere to the aims and objectives of the Organisation of African Unity and that the applicant meets the requirements set forth in Section 1 of the By-Laws. The Executive Board may then admit new members by majority vote at the next General Conference by a simple majority of members present and voting.
3. The following specific information concerning the applicant institution shall also accompany the application for membership:
  - a) Name and location
  - b) General background information
  - c) Officers of administration
  - d) The Governing Body: its constitution and functions
  - e) Requirements for admission
  - f) Colleges, Faculties, Institutes, Departments, Schools and affiliated Schools, and Colleges,

- 2 -

- g) Requirements for degrees and diplomas
- h) Degrees and diplomas awarded
- i) The Academic Staff : numbers and distribution
- j) The Library
- k) Student enrollment : numbers and nationalities
- l) Relations, if any, with other Universities
- m) Fees and other charges
- n) Principal source of financing
- o) Student services and facilities
- p) Special features or characteristics, if any.

Section 2.            Exceptional admissions to Membership.

Art.III 1.            The Executive Board may admit new members  
Sec.2    under the exceptional admissions provisions of Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution, only if no educational institution in that country would be eligible for membership under the regular requirements of the Constitution and these By-Laws.

2.            Members admitted under these exceptional circumstances shall be deemed 'Associate Members' and as such shall enjoy the same rights and privileges and have the same duties as regular members except that no Associate Member may be a member of the Executive Board.

3.            If and when an Associate Member fulfills the requirements for regular membership, it may be admitted to full membership at the next General Conference by a simple majority of members present and voting provided the Association has received advice in writing from the Associate Member, through the Executive Board, of the attainment of such status.

Section 3.            Resignations.

Art. IV 1.            Any member of the Association may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Executive Board.

- 3 -

2. Such resignations shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein. Unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 4.                    Vote for suspension of Rights  
                                 of Members.

1. Suspension of the rights of members of the Association pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, of the Constitution, shall be by a majority vote of a quorum of the Executive Board subject to ratification by the General Conference.

2. Failure on part of a member institution to fulfill its obligations in respect of subscription payments shall not impose on the Executive Board a compulsory duty to suspend the member nor shall such failure result in automatic loss or suspension of the membership of the defaulting member in the Association.

Art.V.

Section 5           Annual Contributions

1. The scale of annual contributions and subscriptions to the budget of the Association shall be so formulated that no member or associate member shall make a fixed annual contribution of not less than five hundred U.S. Dollars nor more than one thousand five hundred U.S. Dollars.

2. The scale of contributions and subscriptions shall be based upon the number of full-time degree candidates duly registered in such institution. For the time being, the following rates of annual subscriptions shall be levied:-

- a)           Universities with up to 500 students - \$500 (US)
- b)           Universities with over 500 students - not  
   more than \$1500 (US)

3.

3. In special circumstances, additional contributions and subscriptions may be assessed by the Executive Board.

Section 6. Nomination and Election of President

1. Nominations for President of the Association shall be made during the Plenary Session of the General Conference. Each nomination shall be seconded by at least two members of the Conference.

2. The President shall then be elected by a secret ballot. The candidate securing the majority vote of the members present and voting shall be declared elected.

Section 7 Nomination and Election of the Executive Board

1. Nominations for members of the Executive Board shall be made in a Plenary Session of the General Conference. Each nomination shall be seconded by one member.

2. Election shall be by secret ballot. The ten candidates so nominated who receive the highest number of votes shall be declared Members of the Executive Board, the five names receiving the next highest number of votes shall be declared the Alternate Members of the Executive Board and may be called upon by the President to serve on the Board under the circumstances set forth in Article VIII, Section 1 (b) of the Constitution.

3. As far as possible, all members of the Executive Board should be the Executive Head of an Institution.

4. Once a member has been elected, he continues to be a member of the Board even if he ceases to be the Head of that Institution, provided that he remains a member of that Institution.

Art.VIII      Section 8      Vacancies on Executive Board

Sec.1(b)

1.                In case of death, resignation or a vacancy occurring for any other reason, and also if any Board Member is absent from two consecutive meetings of the Board for any reason, the Executive Board shall, at its next ordinary or extra-ordinary session, replace that Member from the list of five Alternate Members.

2.                The Alternate so chosen shall be that Alternate who received the highest number of votes at the previous election, so long as Article VIII Section 1(d) is not violated. If that provision would be violated by the choosing of the first Alternate, then the Alternate receiving the next highest number of votes shall be chosen to fill the vacancy.

Art.VIII      Section 9      Duties of Commissions in General

Sec.4(c)

1.                In constituting Commissions or Working Groups under Article VIII, Section 4(c) of the Constitution, the Executive Board shall specify the terms of reference of each such Commission or Working Group.

2.                All Commissions or Working Groups constituted by the Executive Board shall submit a full and complete account of their activities at each ordinary session of the Executive Board, and more often if so requested by the President. Such reports shall include a complete account of expenditure, if any, by that Commission or Working Group.

Art. IX        Section 10      Duties of Secretary General

Sec.5

1.                The Secretary General shall direct and oversee the general administrative operations of the Secretariat as set forth in Article IX, Section 2 of the Constitution. He shall be directly responsible to the Executive Board.

2. The Secretary General's duties shall be considered full-time and incompatible with the performance of any other duties, national or international. He shall be paid a salary commensurate with his duties, which salary is to be fixed by the Executive Board.

Art.VII Section 11 Executive Board Meetings

1. For the time being, ordinary sessions of the Executive Board shall normally be held during the last two weeks of November of each year.

2. The next place of meeting of the ordinary sessions of the Executive Board shall be determined at each ordinary session of the Board.

3. The President shall, if he considers it necessary to convene an extraordinary meeting communicate the particulars to Members, inviting each to state at the same time if he has any objection to the meeting, even he cannot attend himself. If two-thirds of the members indicate their assent within the stipulated time, the President shall assume consent and proceed with the meeting.

4. The President, in citing members to an extraordinary session of the Executive Board shall state the date, the place and the purpose of the meeting.

Art.VIII Section 12 President

1. The President shall be the Chief Officer of the Association and shall through the Secretary General, supervise and control the execution of the business and affairs of the Association, subject to the control of the Executive Board.

2. He shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and the General Conference at which he is present, and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such

other duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Executive Board or the General Conference.

Art.VIII Section 13 Vice-President

1. In the absence of the President or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the Vice-Presidents in the order of seniority, as designated by the Executive Board, shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting shall have all the powers and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President.

2. Any Vice-President shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or the Executive Board.

Art.VIII Section 14. Secretary General

1. The Secretary General of the Association shall be the Secretary of the Executive Board.

2. He shall keep and preserve the Minutes of the Meetings of the Executive Board in books; see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws and the Constitution; be custodian of the Association records; keep a record of the post office address of each member, which shall be furnished to the Secretary General by each member; and in general perform all duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Executive Board.

Art. XI Section 15 Ratification

Sec.3

These By-Laws shall be submitted to the next regular meeting of the General Conference, and shall become effective immediately upon approval by a simple majority of the members present and voting.



Section 16            Amendments

1.            Amendments to these By-Laws which are complementary to the Constitution of the Association but do not alter it, may be adopted by a two-third vote of the Executive Board at any ordinary or extraordinary session, and shall come into force immediately. Such amendments shall be submitted to the next General Conference for ratification pursuant to Section 14 of these By-Laws.
2.            These By-Laws may also be amended by two-thirds vote of the Members of the Association present and voting at any meeting of the General Conference; provided that the total number of votes cast in favour of the amendment is equal to at least a simple majority of the entire membership of the Association.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES  
1969

Historical Note

In September 1962, at Tananarive, UNESCO organized a conference devoted to the future of higher education in Africa. Heads of African institutions of higher studies taking part, decided to follow this by a private meeting outside the main framework of the Conference, which they did, and decided to meet at Khartoum to consider the practical means of developing inter-University co-operation in Africa and the measures necessary for setting up an organization which would give effect to this co-operation.

The first meeting of Heads of African Universities held at the University of Khartoum on 16 - 19 September 1963 decided that the creation of an Association of African Universities was desirable. An interim committee was appointed and charged with (1) the drafting of a constitution for the proposed association and (2) convening a conference to bring the Association into being under the Constitution.

The preparations involved three meetings of the Interim Committee; one meeting at Haile Sellassie I University on 23 - 25 July 1964 and two meetings at the University of Khartoum on 3 - 4 April 1965 and on 22 - 23 February 1967, in addition to the informal discussion which included frequent meetings between the Chairman of the Interim Committee Dr. M. El Fasi, the Executive Vice-Chairman Dr. E.N. Daffaalla, and other members of the Committee namely Dr. Davidson Nichol, Vice-Chairman, Dr. R.F. Baffour, Sir Bernard De Bunsen, Dr. C. Franck, Dr. S.A. Huzayyin, Dr. Kasa Wolde Mariam, Dr. M. Mursi Ahmed, Dr. E. Njoku, Dr. R. Weeks. Great help was rendered by Mr. D. Aitken, Executive Secretary of the I.A.U.

Unforeseen circumstances twice delayed the holding of the Founding Conference which was first arranged on invitation by the Nigerian Universities, at Ahmadu Bello University on 20 - 22 January 1966. Disruption of communications with Nigeria prevented almost all the participants from reaching Zaria and the Conference was postponed..

This set-back was followed by a series of informal consultations and enquiries which paved the way for finally accepting an invitation by the Universities of the United Arab Republic to hold the Conference in Alexandria on 12 - 14 September 1967; but due to the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli war, the timing proved not suitable.

Finally the Committee accepted an invitation by H.E. Dr. M. El Fasi to hold the Conference at Mohammed V University at Rabat, on 9 - 13 November 1967, and by the Grace of God and the excellent facilities extended by His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, the Founding Conference was held at Rabat, the draft constitution adopted and the Association of African Universities was born.

#### The First Executive Board:

President:	H.E. Dr. M. El Fasi, University Mohammed V, Rabat.
Vice-Presidents:	Dr. El Nazeer Dafaalla, University of Khartoum Dr. T. Tshibangu, University Lovanium, Kinshasa.
Members:	Dr. S.O. Biobaku, University of Lagos. Dr. A.A. Kwabong, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra. Dr. Y.K. Lule, Makerere University College, Kampala. Dr. M. Mursi Ahmed, University of Cairo. Dr. R. Paulian, University of Abidjan. Dr. R. Roblot, University of Madagascar. Dr. S. Sy, University of Dakar. Dr. Rocheforte L. Weeks, University of Liberia.
Substitutes:	Dr. Ahmed Abdesslem, University of Tunis. Dr. S. Audu Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Dr. W.K. Chagula, University College, Dar-Es-Salaam. Dr. G.H. Levesque, University Nationale du Rwanda. Dr. A.T. Porter, University College, Nairobi.

## P R E A M B L E

WE, the Heads of Universities and University Institutions in Africa, mindful of the problems and challenges facing the Institutions of Higher Education throughout the African Continent;

Aware that many of the problems encountered can be solved by developing a system under which there is effective co-operation and consultation among the institutions concerned;

Conscious of the role of African Universities to maintain adherence and loyalty to world academic standards and to evolve over the years a pattern of higher education in the service of Africa and its peoples yet promoting a bond of kinship to the larger human society;

Have resolved to establish a corporate body to achieve our aims and objectives in harmony with the spirit of the Organization of African Unity.

## ARTICLE I

### NAME

The Name of the Organization shall be the Association of African Universities.

## ARTICLE II

### PURPOSES

The purposes of the Association of African Universities shall be:

- (a) To promote interchange, contact and co-operation among University Institutions in Africa;
- (b) To collect, classify and disseminate information on higher education and research, particularly in Africa;
- (c) To promote co-operation among African Institutions in curriculum development, and in the determination of equivalence of degrees;
- (d) To encourage increased contact between its members and the international academic world;

- (e) To study, and make known the educational and related needs of African University Institutions and as far as practicable, to co-ordinate the means whereby those needs may be met;
- (f) To encourage the development and wider use of African languages;
- (g) To organize, encourage and support seminars and conferences between African University teachers, administrators, and others dealing with problems of higher education in Africa.

### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

#### SECTION 1

Only Universities and Institutions of University rank in Africa may be admitted to membership of the Association.

#### SECTION 2

The Executive Board may admit new members subject to ratification by the General Conference with a majority of two-thirds. It may exceptionally admit at least one institution of higher learning from each African country, when such institutions exist, even if on a strict interpretation of the above paragraph, no institution in that country would be eligible.

### ARTICLE IV RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERSHIP

#### SECTION 1

All member institutions of the Association of African Universities shall enjoy the same rights and privileges and have the same duties.

#### SECTION 2

The rights accorded to members of the Association by this Constitution may be suspended by decision of the Executive Board in the case of those members who do not fulfil their obligations in regard to payment of their subscription.

ARTICLE V  
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

SECTION 1

The annual subscription to be paid by each member of the Association shall be fixed in accordance with a scale determined by the General Conference of the Association.

SECTION 2

Under conditions approved by the Executive Board, subventions and donations may be accepted for purposes which are consistent with the objects of the Association.

ARTICLE VI  
ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Association of African Universities shall have the following principal organs:

- (1) The General Conference
- (2) The Executive Board
- (3) The Secretariat

ARTICLE VIII

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

SECTION 1

(1) The Executive Board shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be the President of the Association. The General Conference shall be the supreme authority of the Association. It shall:

- (a) Determine the general policies of the Association;
- (b) Approve the programmes and budget of the Association;
- (c) Lay down general policy directives to be executed by the Executive Board and the Secretariat;
- (d) Elect the President of the Association and the members of the Executive Board;
- (e) Appoint the Secretary-General; however the first Secretary-General shall be appointed by the Executive Board elected at the General Conference;
- (f) Undertake or direct the Executive Board to undertake such other tasks as are compatible with the aims and objectives of the Association.

## SECTION 2.

The General Conference shall be composed of the representatives of the member institutions. It may be opened to observers. Each member is entitled to one vote expressed by its authorized delegate present at the meeting. Any person admitted to the General Conference as an observer may speak with the consent of the President but shall not vote.

## SECTION 3

- (a) The General Conference shall meet at least once every three years at the time and place it shall have appointed during its preceding meeting. In case of emergency, the time and place of the meeting may be changed by the President of the Association after consultation with the Executive Board.
- (b) The General Conference shall be convened in extra-ordinary session on written request addressed to the Secretariat by a majority of the members of the Association, or following a decision of the Executive Board taken by a two-thirds majority.

## SECTION 4

All decisions of the General Conference shall be taken by simple majority of those present and voting except where otherwise provided for in this Constitution.

## SECTION 5

- (a) The President of the Association shall be elected by the General Conference by an absolute majority of members present and voting and shall remain in office until the election of a new President by the General Conference at its next following ordinary session.
- (b) The President shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.
- (c) Only persons present and representing members of the Association shall be eligible for election as President.
- (d) The President of the Association shall also be the Chairman of the Executive Board.
- (e) The President represents the Association on every occasion.
- (f) The President accepts subventions and donations to the Association after approval by the Executive Board.

## SECTION 6

- (a) The General Conference shall appoint a Secretary General of the Association. He shall also be the Secretary of the Executive Board and of the General Conference. He may participate in the deliberations and discussions of the General Conference and of the Executive Board but shall not have the right to vote.
- (b) The appointment of the Secretary-General shall be for an initial period of 3 years but may be extended for such further periods as the General Conference may determine, on proposal of the Executive Board. His duties shall normally be considered incompatible with the performance of any other duties, national or international.

## ARTICLE VIII

### THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

## SECTION 1

- (a) The Executive Board shall consist of the President, two Vice-Presidents and eight members, elected by the General Conference, mindful of the need of the broadest representation of the member Institutions. Members of the Board shall hold office for a period of three (3) years and shall be eligible for re-election. They may not, however, serve for more than two consecutive periods.
- (b) The General Conference shall elect, in addition to the members of the Executive Board, five (5) alternate members. Alternate members shall be called upon by the President to serve on the Board in case of death, resignation, or a vacancy occurring for any other reason which the President considers sufficient for the purpose, provided that in the case of occasional and unavoidable absence a member shall appoint a deputy to represent him at the meeting. A Board member absent from two consecutive meetings of the Board shall be replaced by an alternate member to be determined by the Rules of Procedure.



- (c) The General Conference shall elect two Vice-Presidents.
- (d) The member institutions of one state may not hold more than two seats on the Board.

## SECTION 2

The Executive Board shall give effect to the decisions of the General Conference. It shall:

- (a) Prepare the agenda of the General Conference, the budget and the working programme to be followed until the next ordinary session of the Conference;
- (b) Direct and control the activities of the Secretariat in collaboration with the Secretary-General;
- (c) Appoint, in consultation with the Secretary-General, the senior members of the secretariat.

## SECTION 3

The Executive Board shall be responsible to the General Conference to which it shall report concerning all its activities.

## SECTION 4

- (a) The Executive Board shall meet in ordinary session at least once a year at the date and place to be determined by it.
- (b) It may be convened in Extraordinary Session by the President, provided two thirds of the members so request in writing.
- (c) It may constitute commissions or working groups.
- (d) The quorum required for valid meetings shall be five persons.

## ARTICLE IX THE SECRETARIAT

### SECTION 1

The Secretariat shall be the Permanent Executive Organ of the Association and in that capacity shall fulfil all tasks assigned to it by the Executive Board.

## SECTION 2

The Secretariat of the Association shall operate under the supervision of the Executive Board and under the direction of the Secretary-General. It shall:

- (a) Organize a centre for documentary material on all matters of higher education of interest to universities in Africa;
- (b) Provide appropriate means for the resources of the documentation centre to be made accessible to member institutions and to other bodies concerned with higher education in Africa;
- (c) Establish for Africa a basis for comparative university statistics and publish statistical documents conforming to that basis;
- (d) Establish machinery for facilitating the interchange of students and teachers, notably within Africa;
- (e) Co-ordinate and develop all appropriate activities for the recruitment and training of the academic staff needed in Africa;
- (f) Facilitate all forms of co-operation between the member institutions of the Association designed to make fuller use of their human and material resources;
- (g) Subject to prior approval by the Executive Board, render, to member institutions such individual services as they may request;
- (h) Undertake such other tasks as are compatible with the aims of the Association.

## SECTION 3

The Secretary-General shall:

- (a) Make proposals to the Executive Board for the appointment of senior staff of the secretariat and recruit technical and secretarial staff to the posts provided for;
- (b) Exercise disciplinary powers over the staff of the secretariat in accordance with such regulations as may be established by the Executive Board;

- (c) Present every year to the Executive Board a working programme and a report on the activities of the preceding year;
- (d) Submit every year a detailed draft budget to the Executive Board and provide it with the duly certified accounts for the preceding year.

ARTICLE X  
AMENDMENTS, REVISIONS, REGULATIONS

SECTION 1

This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members of the Association present and voting at any regular meeting of the General Conference, provided that the total number of votes cast in favour of the amendment is equal to at least a simple majority of the entire membership of the Association.

SECTION 2

Proposals for the amendment or revision of this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General not less than four months before the opening date of the General Conference at which they are to be considered, and copies shall be sent by the Secretariat to all member institutions, by registered mail, not less than three months before such opening date.

An amendment or revision of this Constitution shall state the date of its entry into effect.

SECTION 3

Regulations which are complementary to this Constitution but do not alter it may be adopted by the Executive Board, and shall come into force immediately. Such regulations shall be submitted to the next General Conference for ratification.

ARTICLE XI  
DISSOLUTION

The Association may be dissolved by the decision of a two-thirds majority of members who have paid their subscription for the preceding year. In case of dissolution, the assets of the Association shall revert to the Organization of African Unity.

ARTICLE XII  
OFFICIAL TEXT

The Arabic, English and French texts of this Constitution shall be regarded as equally authoritative.

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

Temporary Office  
of the Secretariat  
Cable Address - C/o Gamaa

University of Khartoum  
P.O. Box 321  
Khartoum  
Sudan

Date 4th August 1969.

MEMORANDUM ABOUT THE  
ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES  
AND ITS OBJECTIVES

---

The Association of African Universities was established at the Foundation Conference held in Rabat in November 1967. This followed lengthy and elaborate preparations by an interim committee which held meetings in Addis Ababa and Khartoum, which meetings culminated in the preparation of the Constitution and the preparation for the said Founding Conference.

The objectives of the Association as embodied in Article II of the Constitution clearly aim at establishing and deepening a spirit and philosophy of cooperation between the African Universities and through them between the African Countries, which role is inspired by an awareness that many of the problems encountered can be solved by developing a system under which there is effective cooperation and consultation among the institutions concerned and, as the preamble states:

"conscious of the role of African Universities to maintain adherence and loyalty to world academic standards and to evolve over the years a pattern of higher education in the service of Africa and its peoples yet promoting a bond of kinship to the larger human society"

the Association was established to achieve its aims and objectives "in harmony with the spirit of the Organization of African Unity".

The Association is run by an Executive Board of eleven, the names of whom are included in the historical note which introduces the Constitution (page 3).

The Executive Board held four meetings, the first at Rabat (14th November 67), the second at Accra (22nd, 23rd January 1968), the third at Kampala (21st and 22nd October 1968) and the fourth at Cairo (6th and 7th April 1969). At these meetings the Board discussed and decided on a number of issues pertaining to the organization of the Association, its membership, subscriptions, its finances and its future programmes.

The future programmes of the Association deal with the following:

Equivalences

Exchange of information

Documentation Centre

Students Exchange

Language teaching.

The second General Conference of the Association will be held at Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on 19th, 20th and 21st November 1969.

The Association has a total membership of 42 Universities-Institutions (copy of list enclosed).

The Association is an Affiliated Member of Unesco and an Associate Member of the International Association of Universities.

E.N. DAFAALLA,  
Executive Vice-President,  
Association of African Universities.

AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

1969-08

# Application for observer status

Organization of African Unity

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/7423>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*