

**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**
SECRETARIAT
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ADDIS ABABA

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAINNE**
SECRETARIAT
B. P. 3243

CM/249
Annex

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Twelfth Ordinary Session
Addis Ababa, February 1969

ANNEX TO DOCUMENT CM/249

ORGANIZATION OF THE SENEGAL RIPARIAN STATES
(Organisation des Etats Riveranis du
Senegal
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

CM/240
Annex
Appendix I
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From THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
to
THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
ADDIS ABABA

Mr. Secretary-General,

With reference to your telegram of 11 February 1969 and document CM/162/Rev.1, I have the honour to request that the Organization of the Senegal Riparian States be accorded Observer Status at the OAU, in accordance with Article 15-A (iii) of the above-mentioned document.

This request is based on the identity of views and objectives of our two Organizations. This identity is embodied in the Constitution of the Organization of Senegal Riparian States which specifically refers to the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, both in the third pre-ambular paragraph and in Article I, paragraph 4.

I hope, therefore, that our request will meet with the agreement of the next Council of Ministers of your Organization.

In accordance with the admission procedure and particularly with Article 2 of the provisions relating to OAU Observer Status, I attach hereto the following documents:

- The Constitution of the Organization of Senegal Riparian States as ratified by all the Member States;
- A memorandum describing the activities and programme of the OERS, and indicating its functional structure and the number of its Member States.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Ould DADDAH
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ANNEX TO DOCUMENT CM/249

After the preparation of documents ORG/100/2 and CM/249 the Administrative Secretary General received a request from the Executive Secretary of the Senegal River States Organization (OERS) for O.A.U. observer Status.

The Constitution of this organization explicitly referred to in the O.A.U. Charter, is in pursuance of objectives similar to those of our Organization. Furthermore this request fulfills the conditions stipulated under the provisions governing the O.A.U. observer Status. The Administrative Secretary General would therefore like to recommend to the Council of Ministers the favourable consideration of the OERS request with a view to granting this African Inter-Governmental Organization the O.A.U. observer status in Category B. The Council shall find attached hereto:

Copy of the Constitution of the Senegal River States Organization (OERS)

Copy of the memorandum on the activities and programme of OERS including its structure and functioning.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SENEGAL RIPARIAN STATES

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

MEMORANDUM

The aim of this memorandum is to present the Organization of Senegal Riparian States by indicating its functional structure and its main activities. In order to understand the Organization and its objectives, we shall give a brief outline of its background history:

1. Historical background

The Bamako Conference held on 25 and 26 July 1963 and attended by representatives of Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, decided to establish an Inter-State Committee for the Development of the Senegal River Basin.

This Committee operated for more than four years and started a number of studies designed to ensure integrated activities in the Senegal River basin.

At the extended inter-ministerial Conference held in Dakar in February 1968, it was decided, in principle, to establish a broader organization which should provide not only for development of the Senegal River basin but also for overall activities in the sub-region.

The Labé Meeting held in the Republic of Guinea in ~~March~~ 1968 laid the foundations of the Organization of Senegal Riparian States.

2. Composition and Operation of the Organization of Senegal Riparian States (OERS)

The Labé Meeting which was attended by the four States of Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, decided to establish the Organization of Senegal Riparian States.

The Organization comprises institutions and organs.

A. The Institutions are:

- (a) The Conference of Heads of State which meets in ordinary session once a year and in extraordinary session whenever necessary.

The Conference is chaired by each State in turn, generally in alphabetical order. The chairman currently in office is President Ahmed Sekou TOURE, President of the Republic of Guinea. The Conference of Heads of State lays down ^{the} organization's main guidelines and its policy.

- (b) The Council of Ministers is made up of three Ministers from each Member State. It meets at least twice a year in ordinary session and may meet in extraordinary session. The Chairman of the Council is elected for a period of two years. Each Member State in turn, is appointed in alphabetical order.

The present Chairman of the Council of Ministers is Mr. Ould HAIBA, Minister of Planning and Rural Development of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

The task of the Council of Ministers is to promote any action for the implementation of the general policies decided upon by the Heads of State.

- (c) The Inter-Parliamentary Commission is composed of five deputies from each Member State. It meets twice a year. It follows the activities of the Organization and informs the national assemblies of Member States of those activities.

B. Organs of the Organization

The main organ is the Executive Secretariat of the Organization.

The administrative activities of the Organization of Senegal Riparian States are directed by an Executive Secretary who is responsible to the Council of Ministers. The Executive Secretariat comprises:

- An Executive Secretariat proper;
- A General Secretariat for the Development of the Senegal River basin;
- A General Secretariat for Planning and Economic Development;
- A General Secretariat for Educational, Cultural and Social Affairs;

The present Executive Secretary is Mr. Ahmed Ould DADDAH, who is of Mauritanian nationality.

The three Secretaries-General are:

- Mr. Robert N'DAW, in charge of the Development of the River Senegal basin;
- Mr. BALDE Oumar, in charge of Planning and Economic Development;
- Mr. Massamba DIOUF, in charge of Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs.

3. Objectives and activities of the Organization of Senegal Riparian States

- A. The objectives of the Organization of Senegal Riparian States are clearly defined in Article 1 of the Organization's Constitution:
 - (a) ... "to promote mutual understanding and solidarity among member States, in order to create an atmosphere which would be favourable at all times to co-operation and to the maintenance of peaceful and friendly relations among the States;
 - (b) to promote the development, economic independence and social progress of Member States through close co-operation, especially by harmonizing the development plans and co-ordinating their efforts with a view to ensuring concerted achievements in the following fields :
 - Agriculture and stock-breeding;
 - Education, training and information;
 - Public health;
 - Industrial development;
 - Transport and telecommunications;
 - Trade;
 - Legal co-operation and the harmonization of civil and commercial legislation.

- (c) to promote and increase trade, and the free movement of people and goods between the Member States;
- (d) to encourage, in conformity with the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, the establishment of the West African Regional Grouping with a view to achieving African Unity."

These are the objectives that govern and guide the activities of the Organization.

B. These activities are now developing in three directions.

- (a) First, by continuing the work undertaken by the former Inter-State Committee, the OERS is now carrying out advanced studies in the context of development of the Senegal River basin.

Thus five pre-investment studies are now being carried out and others are being undertaken.

The five advanced studies form an integrated plan for the development of the Senegal River basin. They are:

The study on the upper basin for the rational use of the waters of the River in the upper valley. This project was launched several months ago. Headquarters of the scheme is at Conakry.

The study on regulating the flow of the river by constructing a large dam in the middle valley. This project, which is based on Bamako, has already made it possible to explore several possible sites for dams. At the moment, the two most promising sites are Gouina and Gaoig, in Mali.

The study on the navigability of the river and the port, It is a matter of determining obstructions in the river bed and removing them. The construction of a fluvio-maritime port at Saint-Louis is also being considered. The project is based at Saint-Louis, but it is shortly to be transferred to Nouakchott.

Lastly, two agricultural studies are advancing well. These are the hydro-agricultural study and the study on agronomic research. They are based in Saint-Louis.

Further studies are to be undertaken shortly. ~~Industrial studies,~~ studies on geological and mining research and a study on the setting up of central archives, the financing of which is already ensured.

(b) The Secretariat for Planning and Economic Development also has several projects:

It has already made it possible to inter-connect the telex networks of the four capitals of the Organization of Senegal Riparian States, and this arrangement dates from 2 January 1969;

A joint campaign against bovine peripneumonia is to be launched during the next two or three months;

A project for an inter-State coastal shipping line;

A well-advanced project for a multilateral compensation office, which should lead to a Bank for Settlements;

The harmonizing of customs procedures and legislation as well as of procedures relating to the transit and re-export of goods;

The establishment of a coastal radio relay link between Port-Etienne and Conakry, with a spur to Bamako;

Increased possibilities of trade exchanges between States through the establishment of four industrial projects which would have stood the test of making their full contribution to stimulating economic growth in the sub-region.

(c) Lastly, the General Secretariat for Educational, Cultural and Social Affairs also has an ambitious programme which it has undertaken to carry out:

In the realm of education, the General Secretariat for Educational, Cultural and Social Affairs must ensure:

- (1) that an inventory is made of the training needs and facilities of all States and that the best possible use is made of such facilities;
- (2) Publication of a general educational yearbook of the four States;

- (3) Promotion and co-ordination in training staff at all levels, as well as the organization of joint competitive examinations for the recruitment of secondary school teachers;
- (4) Organization of co-operation among teachers in our different States;
- (5) Organization of inter-State conferences and seminars for the benefit of our teachers;
- (6) The holding of general competitive examinations and the provision of inter-State prizes for certain disciplines;
- (7) The institution of an artistic and sporting fortnight to be held every year in one of the OERS States;
- (8) Publication of an OERS review;
- (9) Education and literacy courses for the masses, etc...

This implies the setting up of all kinds of institutes and schools, such as:

- A Scientific Research Centre;
- A centre for Research and Educational Documentation;
- An advanced Teacher Training School for Technical Education;
- A school for advanced Statistical Training;
- A school for advanced Woods and Forestry Training;
- Integrated Tourist itineraries;
- An inter-State Film Institute;
- Facilities for publishing textbooks and for the joint production of school equipment;
- An OERS Library, etc...

In the field of public health, the General Secretariat is studying ways and means of ensuring effective co-operation in:

- (1) Control of certain major endemic diseases, where the centres of infection lie on both sides of our frontiers (onchocercosis, endemic syphilis, trypanosomiasis, etc., etc.);
- (2) Negotiating co-operation agreements with international organizations (WHO, UNICEF, FAO, OCCGE⁺ etc.);

+ Organization for co-ordination and co-operation in the Control of Major Endemic Diseases in Central Africa.

- (3) Training medical and para-medical personnel;
- (4) Providing pharmaceuticals;
- (5) Ensuring pharmacological research in an Institute of Pharmacopoeia and traditional medicine, etc.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SENEGAL
RIPARIAN STATES

CONSTITUTION

The Heads of State and Government of the Senegal Riparian States,

CONSIDERING the brotherly bounds, common culture and civilization that unite the peoples of the Senegal Riparian States, and their common aspirations to peace, progress and democracy,

DESIROUS of expressing their common will to maintain and develop close co-operation and friendly relations between their States, based on complete equality and respect for their sovereignty and for their respective basic interests,

IN CONFORMITY with the principles embodied in the United Nations Charter, and faithful to the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,

DETERMINED to promote and intensify economic co-operation and trade, and ^{to} persevere in their common efforts to achieve economic, cultural and social development in order to bring about a harmonized regional development and the strengthening of their countries' independence,

RESOLVED to establish and maintain between their States conditions favourable to the achievement of these objectives and, to this end, to overcome all obstacles,

AWARE of the need to co-ordinate and harmonize, with this objective, their development policies in the economic, social and cultural fields and to direct them to the fullest possible extent towards common achievements,

CONVINCED of the need to establish initially sub-regional and then regional, economic groupings as an objective and basically realistic approach to African Unity,

CONSIDERING the resolution adopted by the Conference of Heads of the Senegal Riparian States, held at Nouakchott from 12 to 13 November, 1965, concerning the setting up of a Regional sub-group, the Heads of State and Government,

HAVE AGREED to establish an inter-state body called "The Organization of Senegal Riparian States", whose constitution is governed by the following provisions:-

CHAPTER I

OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF SENEGAL RIPARIAN STATES (OERS)

ARTICLE I:

The Organization of Senegal Riparian States shall comprise:

- The Republic of Guinea;
- The Republic of Mali;
- The Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
- The Republic of Senegal;

and its aims shall include:

- Encouraging the development, economic independence and social progress of Member States through far-reaching co-operation, especially through the harmonization of their development plans and co-ordination of their efforts to achieve successful and concerted results in the following fields:
 - Agriculture and stock-breeding;
 - Education, training and information;
 - Public health;
 - Industrial development;
 - Transport and telecommunications;
 - Trade and commerce;

- Legal co-operation and harmonization of civil and commercial legislation;
- Promoting and increasing trade and commerce and the movement of persons and goods between the Member States;
- Encouraging in conformity with the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, the establishment of the West African Regional Grouping of States, with a view to achieving African Unity.

ARTICLE 2:

In order to achieve the afore-mentioned objectives, the governments of the Member States of the OERS shall solemnly bind themselves to undertake joint appropriate action to solve the problems posed by present systems of trade, education, the movement of goods and settlement of persons in the Member States.

ARTICLE 3:

In the absence of a common monetary area and of free convertibility of their currencies, the governments of the Member States shall undertake to facilitate inter-State payments as a means to develop trade and commerce between Member States.

ARTICLE 4:

The Governments of the Member States of the O.E.R.S. shall pledge themselves to harmonize and bring closer together their systems of education, with a view to standardizing disciplines, programmes, and levels of recruitment, and to establish equivalence between the degrees and diplomas awarded by the Institutions of members of the Regional Sub-group.

ARTICLE 5:

The Governments of the Member States of the Regional Sub-group shall pledge themselves to conclude a multi-national convention on settlement.

CHAPTER IIORGANS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SENEGAL RIPARIAN
STATES:Article 6:

The organs of the OERS shall be:

- The Conference of Heads of State and Government;
- The Council of Ministers;
- The Inter-Parliamentary Commission.

The OERS organs subordinate to the Council of Ministers are:

- Executive Secretariat of the OERS;
- The General Secretariat for the Development of the Senegal River Basin;
- The General Secretariat for Planning and Development;
- The General Secretariat for Education and Cultural and Social Affairs;

and all other organs the establishment of which may be deemed necessary for attaining the objectives of the OERS.

SECTION I: THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTArticle 7:

The Conference of Heads of State and Government shall be the supreme authority of the Organization of Senegal Riparian States.

Article 8:

The Conference shall define the policy of co-operation and development of the OERS. It shall make decisions concerning the general economic policy of the OERS and all decisions appropriate to that level.

It shall examine and approve the recommendations of the Council of Ministers in accordance with the provisions of its Rules of Procedure.

Article 9:

The Conference shall meet in an Ordinary Session once a year, and in Extraordinary Session whenever this is necessary. It shall be convened by the President of the OERS currently holding office.

Article 10:

Each Member State shall have one vote.

Article 11:

The Conference shall reach its decisions by the unanimous vote of its members.

Article 12:

The decisions reached by the Conference shall be binding on all the Member States which shall undertake to ensure their implementation.

Article 13:

The Conference shall establish and adopt its Rules of Procedure and shall approve those of the other institutions.

SECTION 2: THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS:

The OERS Council of Ministers shall be composed of members of the governments of Member States, or of Plenipotentiaries appointed by the Governments of Member States, having the rank and prerogatives of Ministers on the basis of three members for each State.

The Council shall meet in ordinary session twice a year. One of these sessions shall precede the ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government.

Should all the OERS Members give their agreement, the Council shall meet in Extraordinary Session at the request of a Member State. It shall be convened by the chairman currently holding office.

The agenda of an extraordinary session shall, in principle, include only those questions for which it shall have been convened.

Article 15:

The main role of the Council shall be to formulate recommendations and supervise their implementation.

In accordance with the general policy defined by the Conference of Heads of State and Government, the Council shall be responsible for promoting all actions taken to attain the objectives set forth in articles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this Constitution.

In the accomplishment of its tasks, it shall be assisted by the technical and economic organs mentioned in Article 6.

Article 16:

The Council shall draft and propose general policy measures to promote the development and co-operation of OERS Member States.

Article 17:

The Council of Ministers shall be responsible to the Conference of Heads of State and Government.

It shall prepare the sessions of the Conference of Heads of State and Government. It shall take cognizance of any matter referred to it by the Conference, and shall implement policies to promote co-operation in the economic, financial, educational, cultural and social fields in accordance with the general policy laid down by the Conference of Heads of State and Government, in the spirit of the fundamental objectives set out in chapter I, Articles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this Constitution.

Article 18:

The Council shall take decisions unanimously.

SESSION 3: INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONArticle 19:

The OERS Inter-Parliamentary Commission shall comprise five deputies from each Member State. It shall follow up and report on OERS activities to the National Assemblies of Member States. It shall enjoy an advisory capacity vis-a-vis the OERS Council of Ministers.

It shall be convened twice a year by its current chairman.

SESSION 4: ORGANS OF THE OERSArticle 20:

OERS shall have an Executive Secretariat with headquarters in Dakar (Republic of Senegal).

Article 21:

The Organs of the OERS shall be responsible to an Executive Secretary.

Article 22:

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the administrative operation of the OERS, subject to the authority of the OERS President in office. He shall follow up the activities of the General Secretariats and co-ordinate their work. He shall be responsible for the general budget of the Organization.

Article 23:

The General Secretariat of the Senegal River basin development scheme shall be directed by a Secretary-General responsible for promoting and co-ordinating studies on the development of the Senegal River basin, and work in connexion with that development, in conformity with International Convention of 26 July, 1963, on the development of the Senegal River basin and with the International Convention of 6 February, 1964 on the Senegal River Statute.

In accordance with Amendments to the above-mentioned international conventions, the OERS Council of Ministers shall replace the Inter-States Committee for the Development of the Senegal River basin.

Article 24:

The General Secretariat for Planning and Development shall be headed by a Secretary-General responsible for studies on the harmonization and co-ordination of national development of appropriate programmes of co-operation and for the implementation of such programmes.

Article 25:

The General Secretariat for Educational, Social and Cultural affairs shall be headed by a Secretary-General in charge of studies on the harmonization and co-ordination of educational, cultural and social affairs, the preparation of appropriate co-operation programmes and their implementation.

Article 26:

The Executive Secretary, the Secretaries-General shall be appointed for a period of three years by the Council of Ministers. The same conditions shall apply when their terms of office expire.

Article 27:

The Secretaries-General shall be subordinate to the Executive Secretary, who shall be responsible to the Council of Ministers. Each Secretary-General shall be responsible for the implementation of his part of the programmes assigned to the Executive Secretariat by the Council of Ministers. Each Secretary-General shall be accountable as holding the secondary responsibility, for that part of the budget which relates to his field of activities.

CHAPTER III - THE BUDGETArticle 28:

The budgets of the institutions and organs of the OERS shall be prepared by the Executive Secretary and the Secretaries-General of the OERS. They shall be approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article 29:

The budgets shall be financed through contributions from Member States assessed by the Conference of Heads of State and Government on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.

Member States shall undertake to pay their contributions within the time-limits specified.

CHAPTER IV - STAFFArticle 30:

The staff of the organs belonging to the organization shall be recruited without distinction whatsoever of sex, religion or nationality. Preference shall be given to African nationals from the Senegal Riparian States.

Article 31:

Special Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers shall define in detail the rights and duties of the staff serving in the OERS organs.

CHAPTER V - MISCELLANEOUSPROVISIONSArticle 32:

The present Constitution shall be ratified or approved by the Signatory States in conformity with their constitutional procedure.

Article 33:

The instruments of ratification or approval shall be deposited with the Government of the Republic of Senegal, which shall notify the other signatory States that these have been deposited.

ENTRY INTO FORCE

Article 34:

This Constitution shall enter into force after ratification or approval by all the signatory States.

INTERPRETATION

Article 35:

Any dispute arising between Member States as a result of the interpretation or the implementation of the present Constitution shall be settled through negotiation. Should this fail, the dispute shall be brought before the Commission of Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration of the Organization of African Unity.

AMENDMENTS AND REVISION

Article 36

This Constitution may be amended or revised by the Conference of Heads of State and Government on the written request of a Member State through the President in office of the OERS.

Article 37:

Amendments and revision shall take effect only after ratification or approval by all Member States.

WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

Article 38:

Any Member State wishing to withdraw from the Organization shall inform the Conference of Heads of State and Government in writing through the President, who shall immediately notify the other Member States.

The present Constitution shall cease to apply to such Member States one year after the date of notification, without prejudice to its prior obligations.

In witness whereof, We, the Heads of State and Government of the Senegal Riparian States, have signed this Agreement.

Made in Labe on 24 March, 1968.

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

AHMED SEKOU TOURE

MODIBO KEITA

FOR THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
MAURITANIA

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

MOKTAR OULD DADDAH

LEOPOLD SEDAR SENGHOR

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