

AFRICAN UNION  
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UNION AFRICAINE  
UNIÃO AFRICANA

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**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE AU MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE  
ON CANDIDATURES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE AU MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON  
CANDIDATURES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

**Rule 1  
ESTABLISHMENT**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and of Resolution AHG/Res.144 (XXI), there shall be established a “Standing Nominating Committee” of the Executive Council to be known as the “AU Ministerial Committee on Candidatures within the International System” (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”)

**Rule 2  
COMPOSITION**

1. The Committee shall be composed of fifteen (15) members in conformity with the geographical distribution of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, namely, West (4), East (3), Southern (3), Central (3) and Northern (2).
2. Each region shall designate its representatives after consultations among the Member States of the respective regions.

**Rule 3  
FUNCTIONS**

1. The Committee shall consider only candidatures for elective posts within the United Nations System as well as other International Intergovernmental Organisations.
2. Candidatures shall, where applicable, be considered taking into account the recommendations, if any, of the relevant African group(s). The Committee shall endorse the recommendations of the African Groups except, where in its opinion the recommendations have not been made in conformity with the relevant rules or established practice. The Committee shall make appropriate recommendations thereon to the Executive Council.
3. Where applicable, candidatures for non-elective posts within the United Nations System or other International Intergovernmental Organisations shall be considered by the relevant African Groups in conformity with their Rules of Procedure or established practice.

**Rule 4**  
**REPRESENTATION**

Each Member of the Committee shall be represented by a delegation led by its Minister of Foreign/External Affairs or any other representative designated by its Government.

**Rule 5**  
**TERMS OF OFFICE**

Members of the Committee shall hold office for a period of two (2) years. Their terms of office shall be renewable once.

**Rule 6**  
**SESSIONS**

1. The Committee shall meet in ordinary session twice a year, concurrently with the ordinary sessions of the Executive Council.
2. The Committee shall, upon approval by the two-thirds majority of its members, meet in extraordinary session.

**Rule 7**  
**VENUE OF MEETINGS**

The Committee shall hold its sessions at the same venue as the ordinary sessions of the Executive Council except when meeting in extraordinary session.

**Rule 8**  
**MEETINGS**

1. All the Meetings of the Committee shall be held in closed Session.
2. Any Member State which has a candidate may present the same before the Committee but shall be required to leave the meeting during the deliberations of the Committee.

3. A Member of the Committee which has a candidate may present the same, but shall not participate in the deliberations of the Committee and shall be required to leave the meeting during the deliberations on such candidature.

**Rule 9**

**ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE OF THE BUREAU**

1. The Bureau shall be composed of a Chairperson, three (3) Vice Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, who shall be elected for a term of office of one (1) year. The Members of the Bureau shall be eligible for re-election once.
2. Each region shall designate its Members of the Bureau after consultations within the respective regions.
3. The Chairperson shall open and close the meetings, direct the debates/proceedings and submit for approval the records of the meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson or in case of a vacancy, the first Vice-Chairperson shall act as the Chairperson.

**Rule 10**  
**QUORUM**

Two-thirds of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum at any of its meetings.

**Rule 11**

**SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATURES**

1. All candidatures shall be submitted to the Committee, through the AU Commission.
2. Candidatures shall be submitted to the Commission at least two (2) months prior to the Sessions of the Executive Council, which shall consider them.
3. Member States shall submit the names of their Candidates with accompanying CVs of at most three (3) pages, in at least two (2) working languages of the AU and where applicable a personal statement outlining the vision and programme of the candidate. The official communication shall also indicate the actual date, as well as place of the election for the post for which candidatures are being submitted.

4. Upon receipt of the nominations and accompanying CV, the Commission shall circulate them to all Member States for information..
5. The Commission shall circulate all candidatures and accompanying CVs to the Members of the Committee at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Sessions of the Executive Council, which shall consider them.
6. The Commission shall also prepare background notes on each post being considered for support, which shall include information such as: which countries have held the post before, which countries are being considered for the first time, names of previous supported unsuccessful candidates.

**Rule 12**

**ADMISSIBILITY OF CANDIDATURES**

In accordance with decision CM/Dec.650 (LXXV) of the Seventy-Fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in March 2002, candidatures that are not submitted in accordance with Rule 11 (1), (2), (3) and (4) above shall not be included on the Agenda of the Committee.

**Rule 13**

**RECOMMENDATIONS ON CANDIDATURES**

1. The Committee shall take into consideration the pertinent Decisions of the Union as well as the following criteria in considering the candidatures:
  - a) Candidates qualifications, intellectual qualities and experience;
  - b) Candidates international repute and recognition;
  - c) Equitable geographical representation;
  - d) Collective interest of the African Union.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this rule, the Committee shall have the right to recommend the withholding of support for any candidature, if in its opinion it would be in the best interest of the Union.

**Rule 14**

**DECISION-MAKING**

1. The Committee shall be answerable to the Executive Council of the African Union. Its recommendations shall be binding after endorsement by the Executive Council.

2. The Committee shall take its decisions by consensus or, failing which by a simple majority of the members of the Committee eligible to vote.
3. Decisions of the Executive Council on the recommendations of the Committee on a particular candidature shall be binding on all Member States.
4. Member States that fail to comply with the decisions of the Executive Council on candidatures may be subjected to sanctions in accordance with Article 23 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

**Rule 15**  
**REPORT**

The Committee shall adopt its report before submission to the Executive Council for consideration.

**Rule 16**  
**WORKING LANGUAGES**

The Working languages of the Committee shall be those of the African Union.

**Rule 17**  
**AMENDMENTS**

The present Rules of Procedure may be amended by the Committee by a simple majority of its members, subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

**Rule 18**  
**ENTRY INTO FORCE**

The present Rules of Procedure shall enter into force upon approval by the Executive Council.

***Adopted by the Eight Ordinary Session of the Executive Council  
held in Khartoum, the Sudan on 21 January 2006.***

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EX.CL/213 (VIII)

Annex

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF  
PROCEDURE OF THE AU MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON  
CANDIDATURES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE AU MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON CANDIDATURES  
WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

c. ESTABLISHMENT

Rule 1

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and of Resolution AHG/Res.144 (XXI), there shall be established a “Standing Nominating Committee” of the Executive Council to be known as the “AU Ministerial Committee on Candidatures within the International System” (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”)

d. COMPOSITION

Rule 2

1. The Committee shall be composed of fifteen (15) members in conformity with the geographical distribution of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, namely, West (4), East (3), Southern (3), Central (3) and Northern (2).
2. Each region shall designate its representatives after consultations among the Member States of the respective regions.

e. FUNCTIONS

Rule 3

1. The Committee shall consider only candidatures for elective posts within the United Nations System as well as other International Intergovernmental Organisations.
2. Candidatures shall, where applicable, be considered taking into account the recommendations, if any, of the relevant African group(s). The Committee shall consider the recommendations of the African Groups except, where in its opinion the recommendations have not been made in conformity with the relevant rules or established practice. The Committee shall make appropriate recommendations thereon to the Executive Council.
3. Where applicable, candidatures for non-elective posts within the United Nations System or other International Intergovernmental Organisations shall be considered by the relevant African Groups in conformity with their Rules of Procedure or established practice.



f. REPRESENTATION

Rule 4

Each Member of the Committee shall be represented by a delegation led by its Minister of Foreign/External Affairs or any other representative designated by its Government.

g. TERMS OF OFFICE

Rule 5

Members of the Committee shall hold office for a period of two (2) years. Their terms of office shall be renewable once.

h. SESSIONS

Rule 6

1. The Committee shall meet in ordinary session twice a year, concurrently with the ordinary sessions of the Executive Council.

2. The Committee shall, upon approval by two-thirds majority of its members, meet in extraordinary session.

i. VENUE OF MEETINGS

Rule 7

The Committee shall hold its sessions at the same venue as the Ordinary Sessions of the Executive Council except when meeting in Extraordinary Session.

8. MEETINGS

Rule 8

4. All the Meetings of the Committee shall be held in closed Session.

5. Any Member State which has a candidate may present the same before the Committee but shall be required to leave the meeting during the deliberations of the Committee. However, a Member of the Committee which has a candidate may present the same, but shall not participate in the deliberations of the Committee and shall be required to leave the meeting during the deliberations on such candidature.

9. ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE OF THE BUREAU

Rule 9

1. The Bureau shall be composed of a Chairperson, three (3) Vice Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, who shall be elected for a term of office of one (1) year. The Members of the Bureau shall be eligible for re-election once.
2. Each region shall designate its Members of the Bureau after consultations within the respective regions.
3. The Chairperson shall open and close the meetings, direct the debates/proceedings and submit for approval the records of the meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson or in case of a vacancy, the next Vice-Chairperson shall act as the Chairperson.

10. QUORUM

Rule 10

Two-thirds of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum at any of its meetings.

11. SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATURES

Rule 11

1. All candidatures shall be submitted to the Committee, through the AU Commission.
2. Candidatures shall be submitted to the Commission at least two (2) months prior to the Sessions of the Executive Council, which shall consider them.
3. Member States shall submit the names of their Candidates with accompanying CVs of at most three (3) pages, in at least two (2) working languages of the AU and where applicable a personal statement outlining the vision and programme of the candidate. The official communication shall also indicate the actual date, as well as place of the election for the post for which candidatures are being submitted.
4. Upon receipt of the nominations and accompanying CV, the Commission shall circulate them to all Member States for information..
5. The Commission shall circulate all candidatures and accompanying CVs to the Members of the Committee at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Sessions of the Executive Council, which shall consider them.
6. The Commission shall also prepare background notes on each post being considered for support, which shall include information such as: which countries have held the post before, which countries are being considered for the first time, names of previous

supported unsuccessful candidates, and reasons why, if any, their candidatures were unsuccessful.

12. ADMISSIBILITY OF CANDIDATURES

## **Rule 12**

In accordance with decision CM/Dec.650 (LXXV) of the Seventy-Fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in March 2002, candidatures that are not submitted in accordance with Rule 12 (1), (2) and (3) above shall not be included on the Agenda of the Committee.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS ON CANDIDATURES

### **Rule 13**

1. The Committee shall take into consideration the pertinent Decisions of the Union as well as the following criteria in considering the candidatures:
  - e) Candidates qualifications, intellectual qualities and experience;
  - f) Candidates international repute and recognition;
  - g) Equitable geographical representation;
  - h) Collective interest of the African Union.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this rule, the Committee shall have the right to recommend the withholding of support for any candidature, if in its opinion it would be in the best interest of the Union.

14. DECISION-MAKING

### **Rule 14**

1. The Committee shall be answerable to the Executive Council of the African Union. Its recommendations shall be binding after endorsement by the Executive Council.
2. The Committee shall take its decisions by consensus or, failing which by a simple majority of the members of the Committee eligible to vote.
3. Decisions of the Executive Council as endorsed by the Assembly, on the recommendations of the Committee on a particular candidature shall be binding on all Member States.

4. Member States that fail to comply with the decisions of the Executive Council on candidatures may be subjected to sanctions in accordance with Article 23 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

15. REPORT

Rule 15

The Committee shall adopt its report before submission to the Executive Council for consideration.

16. WORKING LANGUAGES

Rule 16

The Working languages of the Committee shall be those of the African Union.

17. AMENDMENTS

Rule 17

The present Rules of Procedure may be amended by the Committee by a simple majority of its members, subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

18. ENTRY INTO FORCE

Rule 18

The present Rules of Procedure shall enter into force upon approval by the Executive Council.

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# Rules of Procedure of the AU Ministerial Committee on Candidatures Within the International System

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