



ORGANIZATION OF
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ORGANIZATION DE L'UNITE
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Secretariat
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Addis Ababa

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
THIRTY SECOND, ORDINARY SESSION
NAIROBI, KENYA
FEBRUARY 26 - 2 MARCH 1979

CM/948(XXXII)

APPLICATION FOR OAU OBSERVER STATUS
SUBMITTED BY
THE UNION OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS (U.A.P.)



APPLICATION FOR OAU OBSERVER STATUS

SUBMITTED BY U A P

The Union of African Parliaments (UAP) with its Headquarters in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, wishes to apply for OAU Observer Status.

On 27 January 1975, the Presidents of the National Assemblies of Ivory-Coast, Senegal, Cameroon, Gabon and Mauritania and the Chairman of the Zaire Legislative Council, the Minister of Agriculture of Mauritius and the Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Congo signed the Abidjan Declaration on the establishment of a Union of African Parliaments. A Planning and Working Committee was set up comprising Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Mauritania, Senegal and Zaire. Burundi, Central African Empire, Upper Volta, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda and Togo were co-opted members of this committee.

In November 1975, the Planning Committee met in Luxembourg. This meeting decided to further co-opt to the Committee, representatives of Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Swaziland and Tunisia.

From 11 to 13 February 1976, the Committee met in Abidjan to draw up the Statutes of the Union of African Parliaments.

In view of the progress made at this meeting, the Committee turned itself into a Constituent Assembly and adopted the Statutes of the AUP.

The following nine countries immediately became the founding members of the Union: Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Gabon, Mauritania, Mauritius, Senegal, Tunisia and Zaire, thus giving birth to the Union of African Parliaments (UAP).

Aims and Objectives

UAP's aims and objectives shall be as follows:

- Contribute to the strengthening of the role and prestige of the parliamentary institution by drawing inspiration from African fundamental values;
- Contribute to the maintenance of freedom and justice and ensuring the effective democratic representation in Africa. To this end, UAP shall encourage contacts amongst African Parliamentarians on the one hand, and between African Parliamentarians and those of other parts of the world, on the other.

It shall further work towards the gradual establishment of a truly juridical African Community and contribute within the limits of its means to the realisation of the aims and objectives of African Unity.

Composition

The Union of African Parliaments shall comprise Parliaments of Member States of the Organization of African Unity which adhere to UAP's Statutes. Each Parliament shall constitute a National Group.

UAP's present membership is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| - CAMEROON | - MOROCCO |
| - IVORY COAST | - MAURITANIA |
| - EGYPT | - SENEGAL |
| - GABON | - SIERRA LEONE |
| - GAMBIA | - SUDAN |
| - MAURITIUS | - TUNISIA |
| - LESOTHO | - ZAIRE |
| - LIBERIA | |

Djibouti, Kenya, Zambia and Upper Volta have expressed the desire to become members during the Third Conference of the UAP to be held in Rabat in February 1979.

Funding Sources

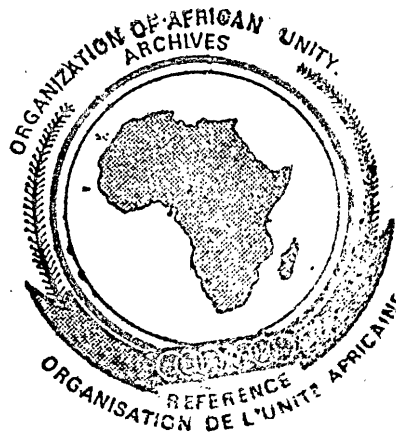
The financial resources of the Union of African Parliaments shall be derived from.

- annual dues and voluntary contributions of the National Groups;
- donations and legacies.

The scale of contributions in respect of the National Groups and the budget implementation conditions shall be established in accordance with UAP's Financial Regulations.

The Union of African Parliaments shall be a statal organization and its aims and objectives shall conform with those of the Organization of African Unity. The UAP is essentially a Pan-African Organization and no other similar organization has so far obtained OAU Observer Status.

The OAU General Secretariat wishes to recommend that the application submitted by the Union of African Parliaments be favourably considered.



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