



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

منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية
السكتراريه
ص. ب. ٣٢٤٣

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

اديس ابابا * Addis Ababa

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
Thirty-Second Ordinary Session
Nairobi, Kenya,
23rd February - 2nd March, 1979

CM/965 (XXXII) Part I

Draft Agenda, Item: 24

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
AFRICAN TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS (A.A.T.P.O.)

Authority: Resolution CM/Res.672 (XXXI)



ASSOCIATION DES
ORGANIZATIONS
AFRICAINES DE
PROMOTION
COMMERCIALE
(A.O.A.P.C.)

ASSOCIATION OF
AFRICAN TRADE
PROMOTION
ORGANIZATIONS
(A.A.T.P.O.)

CM/965 (XXXII) Part I

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

NOVEMBER, 1978

TANGIER, MOROCCO

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE
FROM
THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

1. ORIGIN OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations was established at the initiative of the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa as a focal point institution for the promotion of intra-African Trade. It was legally in existence since January, 1974 when its Constitution was first signed but its effective operation began in July, 1977 with the assumption of office of the first Secretary General. The Association is Headquartered in Tangiers, Morocco.

2. AATPO'S ACTIVITY DURING THE FIRST YEAR

During the first year of operation, AATPO's immediate task was to get the Secretariat started. Accordingly the Association has recruited most of the key personnel. It has negotiated and signed a head-quarter's Agreement, and with the courtesy of the Royal Moroccan Government has obtained adequate office accommodation.

On the more substantial level, with the cooperation of the Economic Commission for Africa and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, the Association had organized a Seminar on intra-subregional trade for the North African Sub-region. The Seminar took place last June in Tangiers, Morocco.

For the West African sub-region, in accordance with the understanding reached between the Economic Commission for Africa and the Association, the Association has participated as a speaker and as part of the Secretariat of the ECA sponsored Seminar on sub-regional trade for West Africa. For the East and Central African sub-regions project proposals have been submitted to donor countries for financing but no reaction has yet been obtained.

The Association had also participated, on the invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, in the symposium of Afro-Arab Trade which was held conjointly with the Khartoum International Trade Fair in January, 1978. Likewise on the invitation of the Government of Senegal, the Association had taken part in the Dakar Seminar for the Secretaries General of Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for Economic Co-operation and Trade Promotion officials of ACP countries. During this meeting AITPO has been given a number of tasks in the area of intra-African trade promotion.

3. FUTURE OPERATIONS

To facilitate its future operation the Association had obtained two consultants from the International Trade Centre, on the basis of the technical assistance. The consultants have re-evaluated the organizational structure and the programme of work and have suggested the areas which the Association should stress during the coming few years. Accordingly priority consideration will be given by the Association to the following activities in the immediate future.

(a) Trade Information Service

The Association is in the process of setting up an effective trade information centre at its Headquarter. Based on this Centre the Association will carry out an extensive trade information service that will endeavour to bridge the information gap which now exists and prevents the development of intra-African Trade. It will further assist in the Organization of sub-regional and national trade information centres and will work out a system for their cooperation.

(b) Advisery Service

The Association will endeavour to assist member states in setting up or in strengthening national trade promotion institutions. It will also advise these institutions on new export promotion methods and techniques. The institutions will be integrated into network so that they can serve on the one hand, as a vehicle for the identification of problems faced by national export houses and, on the other, as an implementing arm of the decisions of the Association.

(c) Studies

The Association will endeavour to undertake studies on its own or in cooperation with other institutions on important problems relating to intra-African trade. Currently the Association is making arrangements with the ECA for its participation in the trade promotion projects for the North African and the Central African Sub-regions.

(d) Trade Fairs and Exhibitions

The Association will take special interest in fairs and exhibitions sponsored by member states. In addition to publicizing the calendar of the trade fairs and exhibitions, it will endeavour to investigate how these trade fairs and exhibitions could be used as a more effective means of promoting intra-African trade. Suggestions on the product which have potential for intra-African trade and which should be exhibited will be made.

(e) Seminars and Training Courses

The Association will endeavour to organize and take part in Seminars and training courses on subjects relating to intra-African trade. It will also advise national trade promotion institutions on how to arrange training courses on the above subjects and assist them with planning and implementation of their training courses.

4. REQUIRED ASSISTANCE FROM OAU

In order to realize the objectives for which the Association has been set up and to enable it to implement its work programme, the Association needs the support and assistance of the Organization of African Unity. For the time being, the Association requires the assistance and support of OAU in the following areas.

(a) Membership

Out of the 49 OAU member states the Association has only 25 signatories. It is evident that the Association cannot be an effective vehicle for the promotion of intra-African trade if one-half of the membership of the OAU are outside the Association. We request the OAU to use its good office to convince more OAU member states to join our Association.

(b) Contribution

Out of the 25 signatory states of the Constitution of the Association only a handful are regularly paying their contributions to the budget of the Association. We have realized that our sole effort to collect the contributions could not bring the desired result. We therefore request the OAU to join hands with us in this respect.

(c) Information

Signatory states of the Association are obliged to provide to the Association all the necessary information to enable it to discharge its responsibilities. During our first year of operation, the reaction of member states has not been very encouraging. We also require OAU's assistance in this area.

(d) OAU's Political Backing

To obtain financial and technical assistance from donor countries and international institutions for some of its intra-African trade development projects, the Association requires the political backing of the OAU. The Association will be appreciative of any assistance that could be rendered in this regard.

On the points enumerated from 4(a) - 4(d) above we feel that the OAU can in its thirty-second session of the Council of Ministers pass an appropriate resolution along the lines of Resolution CM/Res.442 (XXV).

(e) AATPO's Status With the OAU

It is recalled that the Association was established at the initiation and under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity. But the relation between them has not yet been formalized. We feel that the Association should have more intimate relations with the OAU and should deserve more consideration from the OAU than any other organization. It is therefore suggested that the Association should be given the status of specialized agency of the OAU.

ASSOCIATION DES
ORGANIZATIONS
AFRICAINES DE
PROMOTION
COMMERCIALE
(A.O.A.P.C.)

ASSOCIATION OF
AFRICAN TRADE
PROMOTION
ORGANIZATIONS
(A.A.T.P.O.)

AATPO/INF/2/78

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN TRADE PROMOTION
ORGANIZATIONS

TANGIER (MOROCCO)

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN
TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS

1. The Origin of the Association

The establishment of the Association was initiated at the fifth OAU/ECA Joint Meeting on Trade and Development held in Geneva in August, 1970, which recommended that the African Trade Centre at ECA should assist African countries in establishing an Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations.

After lengthy consultation between representatives of Member States of the OAU and ECA, and in view of the cardinal importance of African self-reliance, the recommendation was endorsed by the Council of Ministers of the OAU and the Conference of Ministers of the ECA.

During the first Symposium on Intra-African Trade held in Nairobi at the time of the OAU All Africa Trade Fair in February-March, 1972, a preparatory committee was set up, to help realize the establishment of the Association, with the following terms of reference:

- (i) To draw up a draft constitution for the Association, elaborating its aims and objectives, functions, membership, organization and financing;
- (ii) To determine the steps to be taken for setting up the Association and making it operative;
- (iii) To obtain support for the Association from national and regional organizations concerned with the development of trade;
- (iv) To report to the ministerial meetings of ECA and OAU;
- (v) To arrange for the inaugural meeting of the Association after consideration of its report by the ministerial meetings referred in (iv) above.

The Preparatory Committee met several times and presented the result of its work to the inaugural session of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations. The constitution of the Association was signed on 18 January, 1974 at the end of the inaugural session.

2. Objectives of the Association

The primary objectives of the Association are to foster contact and the regular flow of information and communication between African countries in trade matters and to assist in the harmonization of the commercial policies of African countries with a view to promoting intra-African trade. The Association is to serve as an instrument for the promotion of trade and market and marketing research and to assist Member States in identifying expert oriented investments. To this end, the Association is to perform the following functions:

- (i) Assist Member States in establishing or strengthening institutions to serve as focal points whose primary responsibility is to promote the expansion and diversification of exports;
- (ii) Foster the exchange of ideas and experience in connection with the promotion of trade in general and of intra-African trade in particular;
- (iii) Advise Member States concerning the formulation of policies conducive to increased intra-African trade;
- Make recommendations to Member States on various aspects of African trade;
- (v) Assist in the organization of sub-regional trade information documentation centres;

- (vi) Arrange contacts and organize meetings for African businessmen concerned with intra-African trade and other trade promotion activities;
- (vii) Perform such other functions as would enable the Association to achieve its objectives.

3. Membership of the Association

Membership of the Association is open to all African States which are members of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. At present the Association has 25 signatory States. As shown in Appendix I to this document, approximately half of the OAU Member States have not signed the AATPO Constitution and therefore are not effective members of AATPO. Resolution by the Heads of State and Government of the OAU on the Association is attached as Appendix II.

4. Acquisition of Membership

Membership can be acquired either by signing the Constitution of the Association at the Headquarters of the Organization of African Unity in Addis-Ababa or by depositing an instrument of accession with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

5. Rights of Member States

Membership confers on each Member State the right to be represented in the General Assembly of the Association which meets once every two years. The General Assembly, among other things, determines the policies of the Association, the contribution of Member States, the work programme, the budget, the rules and the general directions governing the activities of the Association.

More importantly, Member States have the right to benefit from the studies and advisory services of the Association.

6. Obligation of Member States

Member States are required to cooperate with the Association in the achievement of the objectives set forth in the constitution of the Association. In particular they are expected to:

- (a) facilitate the collection, exchange and dissemination of information.
- (b) submit all necessary reports and information to the competent organs of the Association.
- (c) make available training and research facilities on terms and conditions as may from time to time be agreed with the competent organs of the Association.
- (d) make available personnel on such conditions as may be agreed with the appropriate organ of the Association; and
- (e) pay their annual contribution as assessed by the General Assembly and such special contribution as may be determined by the General Assembly.

7. Contribution of Member States

As regards Member States contribution to the budget of the Association, the General Assembly of the Association during its first session in March-April, 1975 decided to use the system in force at the Organization of African Unity. Accordingly Member States of the Association are assessed proportionately to their scale of contribution to OAU.

8. The Secretariat of the Association

The African Trade Centre of ECA and the Secretariat of OAU constituted the interim Secretariat of the Association, which organized three sessions of the General Assembly. At its first session, which took place in Tangier, Morocco, the Assembly selected Tangier as its permanent headquarters. In addition, it approved the programme of work, the budget and the rules of procedure of the Association.

It also recommended that an extraordinary session of the General Assembly shall be convened to elect the Secretary-General of the Association.

The extraordinary session of the General Assembly was held from 27 to 29 October, 1976 but failed to elect a Secretary-General. The Secretary-General was elected during the second session of the General Assembly, which took place in Tangier from 25 to 30 April, 1977. The same Assembly elected the second bureau (equivalent to a board of directors) whose members are from the following countries: President (Nigeria), First Vice-President (Libyan Arab Jamahiria), Second Vice-President (Zambia), Rapporteur (Zaire). The Secretary-General assumed his duties on 1 July.

9. Work Programme and Priorities of the Association

The work programme drawn up by the interim secretariat was approved in 1975 during the first session of the General Assembly. Its contents reflect the objectives of the Association as outlined in item No. 2 above. As the Association had no substantive secretariat, nothing could be done to implement the work programme over the past two years; consequently, it was decided at the second session of the General Assembly to carry the work programme approved for the period 1975-1977 over to the period 1977-1979. (See Appendix III).

With the skeleton staff now serving at headquarters, the Secretary-General had drawn up projects designed to realize the work programme as outlined in Appendix II above but requires funds to strengthen the Secretariat and implement the projects.

LIST OF SIGNATORY STATES OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF AFRICAN TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS (AATPO)

(Compiled April 30, 1977)

N

<u>No.</u>	<u>COUNTRIES</u>	<u>PLENIPOTENTIARIES</u>	<u>DATE OF SIGNATURE</u>
1.	Egypt	Nabil Ali Sadek	18 January 1974
2.	Ethiopia	Demeke Zewolde	18 January 1974
3.	Gabon	Louis Laccruche Alibanga	18 January 1974
4.	Kenya	John Kamau Mocoki	18 January 1974
5.	Morocco	Bouchaera Tahar	18 January 1974
6.	Rwanda	I. Bakomera Edouard	18 January 1974
7.	Sudan	Mohamed Gsm El Seed	18 January 1974
8.	Swaziland	SM Kunene	18 January 1974
9.	Togo	Akakpo Alexandre	18 January 1974
10.	Uganda	Bogere K. Ssembatya	18 January 1974
11.	Upper Volta	Ouedraoge Nouhoun	18 January 1974
12.	Zaire	Lobota Mpo	18 January 1974
13.	Zambia	Winston K.C. Kamwana	18 January 1974
14.	Tunisia	Bechi Gueblaoui	18 January 1974
15.	Liberia	Charles T.O. King II	29 January 1974
16.	Ghana	Y.B. Turkson	25 February 1974
17.	Nigeria	V.A. Adegoroye	15 October 1974
18.	Algeria	Mohamed-Lamino Allouane	19 November 1976
19.	Libya	Ali Mohamed Immish	2 January 1976
20.	Burundi	F. Magenge	23 March 1976
21.	Senegal	Latyr Kamara	6 October 1976
22.	Mali	Yaya Bagayoko	26 February 1977
23.	C.A. Empire	Marie-Christiane Gbokou	28 February 1977
24.	Somalia	Abdulhamed Ali Yusuf	28 April 1977
25.	Cameroun	Hadj Mahmoudou H. Dicko	16 May 1977

RESOLUTION ON THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN TRADE
PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS

The Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in its 13th Ordinary Session held in Port-Louis, Mauritius, from 2nd to 5th July, 1976,

Recalling the resolution CM/Res. 310 (XXI) and CM/Res. 442 (XXV) of the Council of Ministers of OAU on the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations;

Having examined the report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the said Association:

1. APPROVES the creation of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations;
2. ADOPTS the constitution of the Association;
3. REQUESTS member states who have not yet signed the constitution of the Association or who have not yet deposited their instruments of ratification, to do so as soon as possible;
4. INVITES member states to pay their contribution to the biennial budget of the Association (1975-1976) as well as subsequent budgets;
5. INVITES the Administrative Secretary-General to submit a report on the above to the 28th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and to the 14th Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government.

* As the English version of the Resolution was not available to AATPO this a translation from the French text.

WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES (1977-1979) OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS

Introduction

The work programme is drawn up in accordance with the functions of the Association as prescribed under its Constitution. The Programme follows the requirements for the orderly development of intra-African trade as a main factor in Africa's economic developments. It is drawn up bearing in mind that the basic role of the Association is "to foster contact and a regular flow of information and communication between African countries in trade matters and to assist in the harmonization of the commercial policies of African countries in order to promote intra-African trade".

To this end, the activities of the Association should be closely linked with those of the African Trade Centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, and those of the Organization of African Unity.

The programme is drawn up on two-year basis which will conform with the meetings of the General Assembly. Projections have been made in some projects up to a further period of two years, i.e. 1980-1981 to provide a guideline for the future development of the Association's activities. Priorities are determined by the year as years in which the project is undertaken.

Broad Aims and Objectives

To assist member countries of the Association in the development and expansion of intra-African trade.

To assist member countries in developing an appropriate external trade policy.

Work Contact

Intra-African Trade Expansion

A. 1. - Advisory Services

- (1) To assist member countries in the establishment of national trade promotion centres (1977-1979) extended to 1981 and to provide these centres with assistance during their first years of operation.
- (2) To assist member countries in establishing trade links between them especially the establishment of bilateral trade agreements (1977-1979) extended to 1981.
- (3) To advise member countries on how best intra-African payments arrangements can serve trade between them (1977-1979) extended to 1981.
- (4) To assist members countries in the harmonization of commercial policy in intra-African trade.
- (5) To assist in the organization of and to participate in trade fairs and group export activities (especially in relation to certain commodities).
- (6) To organize businessmen's missions to the various African countries.

2. - Studies

- (1) Study of African trade policies with a view to formulating an action programme for promoting intra-African trade (1977).
- (2) Study of the establishment and working of national trade promotion centre (1977-1979) and the establishment of liaison between these centres.

- (3) Study of barriers, fiscal, monetary and communications restrictions to trade, between member countries of these Association (1978).
- (4) Complementary study on product identification for increasing intra-African trade flows (1978) extended to 1981.
- (5) Establishment of an African External Trade Guide, kept regularly up-to-date, giving all the necessary information on intra-African trade (external trade patterns, exchange and customs controls, services connected with external trade, directory of exporting firms, exportable products, etc.....).

External Trade

B. 1. - Advisory Services

- (1) To assist member countries in identifying their external needs and in diversifying external trade contacts (1977-1979) extended to 1981.
- (2) To assist member countries in establishing priorities in external trade development (1977-1979) extended to 1981.

2. - Studies

- (1) Study of external flows of member countries to provide new guidelines for trade promotion activities (1978-1980).
- (2) Study of barriers to external trade of member countries especially with a view to diversifying their external trade relations (1978-1980).

Conferences, Meetings, Seminars and Working Groups

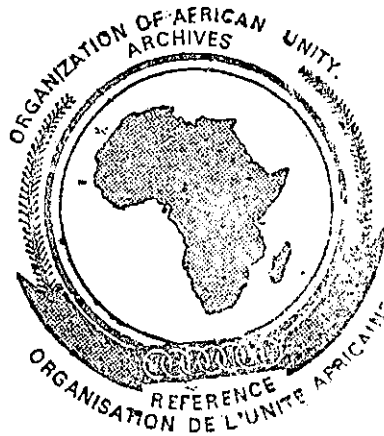
C. 1. - Conferences, Meetings

- (1) Preparation of documentation and servicing of meetings of the General Assembly.

- (2) Preparation and servicing of sub-regional conferences (1977-1979).
- (3) Participation in meetings of ECA of interest to the Association (1977-1979).

2. - Seminars and Working Committees

- (1) Ad-hoc working committee to study the establishment of national Associations (1977-1979).



ASSOCIATION DES
ORGANISATIONS AFRICAINES
DE PROMOTION COMMERCIALE
(A.O.A.P.C.)

ASSOCIATION OF
AFRICAN TRADE
PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS
(A.A.T.P.O.)

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
AFRICAN TRADE PROMOTION ORGANIZATIONS

TANGIER (Morocco)

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN
TRADE PROMOTION
ORGANIZATIONS

TABLE OF SUBJECTS

PREAMBLE

ARTICLE I	- Establishment of the Association
ARTICLE II	- Objectives and Functions
ARTICLE III	- Membership
ARTICLE IV	- Obligations of member states
ARTICLE V	- Status, structure and organization of the Association.
ARTICLE VI	- Facilities, immunities and privileges
ARTICLE VII	- The General Assembly
ARTICLE VIII	- Sub-regional Conferences
ARTICLE IX	- The Secretariat
ARTICLE X	- National associations
ARTICLE XI	- Amendments
ARTICLE XII	- Suspension, withdrawal, and cessation of membership
ARTICLE XIII	- Arbitration
ARTICLE XIV	- Dissolution of the Association
ARTICLE XV	- Final Provisions

PREAMBLE

The Governments on whose behalf this Constitution is signed:

1. Being aware of the significant role that the African trade promotion organizations have to play in the economic development of the region;
2. Having regard to the advantage for the region to be derived from the effective and continuous exchange of information and co-ordination of activities in the field of trade promotion especially as regards intra-African trade;
3. Recognizing that the creation of an Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations for the study, discussion and promotion of African trade matters would best serve these purposes;
Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

Establishment of the Association

1. The Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO) (hereinafter referred to as "the Association") is hereby established and shall operate and be governed according to the provisions of this constitution.
2. The Association shall operate under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

ARTICLE II

Objectives and Functions

1. The main objectives of the Association shall be to foster contact and regular flow of information and communication between African countries in trade matters and to assist in the harmonization of the commercial policies of African countries in order to promote intra-african trade.

2. The Association shall serve as an instrument for the promotion of trade, market research and export-oriented investments particularly within Africa.
3. For the purposes set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article the Association shall:
 - (a) provide for meetings of the Association and its organs;
 - (b) assist member States to establish national trade promotion organizations or associations;
 - (c) assist member States in the strengthening of their existing trade promotion organisations or association;
 - (d) promote the exchange of ideas and experience in trade promotion generally and intra-African trade in particular;
 - (e) advise member States in the formulation of trade policies conducive to trade exchanges and increased intra-African trade;
 - (f) make recommendations to member States on various aspects of African trade;
 - (g) assist in organizing sub-regional trade information centres for the dissemination of trade information among member States;
 - (h) arrange contacts and organize meetings for African businessmen concerned with intra-African trade and its various aspects; and
 - (i) do all such other things as would enable the Association to achieve its objectives.

ARTICLE III

Membership

1. Membership of the Association shall be open to all African States which are members of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

2. For the purposes of this Constitution, a member State may designate from within its territory, the national association or organization concerned with trade promotion by which it shall be represented, to exercise the powers of a member State prescribed in paragraph 1 of Article VII, taking into account the desirability of ensuring the development of intra-African trade.
3. Membership of the Association shall be acquired in accordance with the provisions of Article XV of this Constitution.

ARTICLE IV

Obligations of member States

1. Member States shall co-operate in every possible way to assist the Association in achieving its objectives. They shall in particular:
 - (a) facilitate the collection, exchange and dissemination of information;
 - (b) submit all necessary reports and information to the competent organs of the Association;
 - (c) make available training and research facilities on such terms and conditions as may from time to time be agreed with the appropriate organ of the Association;
 - (d) make available personnel on such conditions as may be agreed with the appropriate organ of the Association; and
 - (e) pay their annual contributions as assessed by the General Assembly and such special contributions as may be determined by the General Assembly.

ARTICLE V

Status, structure and organization of the Association

1. To enable it to achieve its purposes and to perform its functions, the Association shall in accordance with the laws of the country where its headquarters is established seek and acquire legal capacity to acquire, hold, manage and dispose of land and other property, enter into contracts, accept and make loans, grants, gifts and contributions, and to sue and be sued

2. The organs of the Association shall be:
 - (a) the General Assembly and its Bureau;
 - (b) the Sub-regional Conferences;
 - (c) the Secretariat;
 - (d) the National Associations; and
 - (e) such other bodies as are established by the General Assembly and the Sub-regional Conferences.

ARTICLE VI

Facilities, immunities and privileges

1. The Government of the State in whose territory the Headquarters of the Association shall be situated, shall grant to the Association, privileges and immunities accorded to the Organization of African Unity or the United Nations. Furthermore, it shall grant to the officials of the Secretariat the same immunities and privileges as are accorded to the Organization of African Unity or the United Nations officials of comparable rank.

ARTICLE VII

The General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall consist of the representatives of all member States; provided however that each member State shall have only one vote at the meetings of the General Assembly.
2. The General Assembly shall meet once in two years in regular session and emergency sessions may be convened in accordance with rules made by the General Assembly.
3. The General Assembly shall elect from amongst its members, a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur who shall also together form the Bureau of the General Assembly.

4. The General Assembly shall:
 - (a) determine the general policies of the Association;
 - (b) determine the contributions of member States in respect of the expenditure involved in the running of the affairs of the Association and its subsidiary bodies;
 - (c) consider and approve the annual reports on the activities of the Association and the accounts of the Association;
 - (d) consider and approve the draft programme of work and the draft budget of the Association;
 - (e) determine the conditions of admission of associate members and observers of the Association; and
 - (f) consider and adopt rules and general directions governing the activities of the Association and its subsidiary bodies.
5. The General Assembly may establish such subsidiary organs that it deems necessary and may delegate any of its functions to an organ of the Association.
6. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the General Assembly shall prescribe its own rules of procedure including those for convening its meetings, the conduct of such meetings, and the quorum and voting thereat and for the dissemination of the report of its meetings.
7. The Bureau of the General Assembly shall under the direction of the President:
 - (a) consider the annual reports on the activities of the Association and the accounts of the Association and submit them to the General Assembly for approval;
 - (b) consider the draft programme of work and the draft budget of the Association and submit them to the General Assembly for approval;

- (c) consult with the Secretariat on actions that may be undertaken by the Association or its organs in furtherance of the objectives of the Association; and
- (d) within the limits of the programme of work and the budget of the Association, review, direct and co-ordinate the activities of the organs of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII

Sub-regional Conferences

1. A sub-regional conference shall consist of the representatives of the member States within a sub-region of Africa as defined by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
2. A sub-regional conference shall among other things:
 - (a) oversee the implementation of the decisions and policies of the General Assembly concerning its sub-region;
 - (b) be responsible for the obtaining and dissemination of commercial intelligence concerning the trade of the member State of its sub-region;
 - (c) take decisions on matters concerning its sub-region and member States of its sub-region which are not inconsistent with the decisions and policies of the General Assembly;
 - (d) establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the carrying out of its functions; and
 - (e) have such other functions and responsibilities as may be determined or delegated to it by the General Assembly.
3. A sub-regional conference shall elect its officers and prescribe its own rules of procedure; provided however that each member State of a Sub-regional Conference shall have only one vote at a meeting of a Sub-regional Conference.

ARTICLE IX

The Secretariat

1. The General Assembly shall establish a permanent Secretariat of the Association within a maximum period of eighteen months from the date of its first meeting and prescribe its functions. The Secretariat of the Association, when established, shall have such other functions and responsibilities as the Bureau of the General Assembly may determine.
2. The Secretariat shall be headed by a Secretary-General assisted by such other officials as may be determined by the General Assembly. Until such a Secretariat is established, the Africa Trade Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity shall jointly constitute the Secretariat of the Association.

ARTICLE X

National associations

1. A national association shall be organized on a broad basis in each member State and shall be the organ of the Association through which the services and other activities of the Association relating to the member State shall be considered, channelled and co-ordinated.
2. A national association shall also act as the centre for information about the activities of the Association in a member State and shall have such other functions as the General Assembly may determine.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of all members of the Association. Member States who are not represented at such a meeting may signify their votes in writing or by proxy; provided however that this Constitution may not be amended unless a written notice of a proposed amendment shall have first been given to all the member States at least three months before the meeting of the General Assembly at which such a proposed amendment is to be considered.

ARTICLE XII

Suspension, withdrawal, and cessation of membership

1. Any member State which persistently fails to fulfil any of its obligations under this Constitution may be suspended from membership of the Association by the General Assembly on such terms as the General Assembly may determine. However, such State's rights and privileges may be restored upon fulfilment of its obligations.
2. Any member State may withdraw from the Association after the expiration of one year from the date on which it acquired membership of the Association by giving a written notice of its withdrawal to the President of the General Assembly who shall forthwith inform all members of the Association and the Secretariat of the receipt of such notice of withdrawal and shall transmit the originals of such notice of withdrawal to the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.
3. Withdrawal from the Association shall become effective one year from the date of receipt by the President of the General Assembly of a notice of withdrawal. Provided that during the period of such one year a member State withdrawing from the Association shall nevertheless remain liable for the discharge of its obligations incurred under the provisions of this Constitution.
4. Any member State which fails without reasonable cause to fulfil its obligations incurred under the provisions of Article IV of this Constitution within two years from the time when such obligations should have been fulfilled, shall ipso facto cease to be a member State at the end of such two years. However, such State's membership in the Association may be reconsidered by the General Assembly upon receipt of the State's application.

ARTICLE XIII

Arbitration

1. Any dispute arising between member States concerning the provisions of this Constitution shall be settled in accordance with this Article.
2. The General Assembly shall appoint an ad hoc committee to solve this problem.

ARTICLE XIV

Dissolution of the Association

1. The Association may be dissolved by a resolution to that effect adopted by a two-thirds majority of all member States of the Association.
2. The General Assembly shall appoint a Committee for the purpose of liquidating the assets and/or liabilities of the Association in a manner as may be decided by the General Assembly.

ARTICLE XV

Final Provisions

1. This Constitution shall be open for signature by all member States referred to in Article III of this Constitution until 31 December 1974, at the Headquarters of the Organization of African Unity. Two original copies in both English and French shall be deposited with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.
2. This Constitution may be subject to ratification by Governments of signatory States in accordance with the laws of such States. The Instruments of Ratification or Accession shall be deposited with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.
3. This Constitution shall provisionally come into force upon signature by twelve States and shall formally come into force upon ratification or approval by twelve States signatory to this Constitution. After the expiry of the period stipulated in paragraph 1 of this Article, any State referred to in Article III of this Constitution may accede to this Constitution upon acceptance of the provisions of this Constitution.

4. The Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity shall transmit copies of this Constitution, Instrument of Ratification of Accession to all member States and to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

In WITNESS HEREOF the undersigned being authorized by their respective Governments have signed this Constitution on the dates appearing under their signatures.

DONE at Addis Ababa this Eighteenth day of January Ninteen Hundred and Seventy-four in two original copies in the English and French languages both of which are equally authentic.



1979-03

Report of the Secretary-General of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (A.A.T.P.O.)

Organization of African Unity

African Union

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/9988>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository