

**Statute of the  
Federation of African Chambers of  
Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, and  
Professions**

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Agriculture and Professions**

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**Preamble**

We, the Heads of the National Federations, National Unions and Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions in the African States:

- 1 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Democratic Republic of Algeria
- 2 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Angola
- 3 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Benin
- 4 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Botswana
- 5 – Head of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Burkina Faso
- 6 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Traditional Industries in Burundi
- 7 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mines & Crafts in the Republic of Cameroon
- 8 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Cap Verde
- 9 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Crafts in the Republic of Central Africa
- 10 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chamber in the Republic of Chad
- 11- Head of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in the United Republic of Comoros
- 12 – Head of the Permanent Conference of the Chambers of Commerce, Agriculture, Industry and Professions in the Republic of Congo Brazzaville
- 13 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
- 14 – Head of the Federation of Enterprises of Congo in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- 15 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce in the Republic of Djibouti
- 16 – Head of the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce in the Arab Republic of Egypt

- 17 – Head of the Eritrean National Chamber of Commerce in the State of Eritrea
- 18 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- 19 – Head of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association in the Democratic Federation of Ethiopia
- 20 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Gabon
- 21 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Gambia
- 22 – Head of the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Ghana
- 23 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Guinea
- 24 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Guinea Bissau
- 25 – Head of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 26 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the State of Lesotho
- 27 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Liberia
- 28 – Head of the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in the Arab Peoples Republic of Libya
- 29 – Head of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Crafts in the Republic of Madagascar
- 30 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Malawi
- 31 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Mali
- 32 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- 33 – Head of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Mauritius
- 34 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce in the Republic of Mozambique
- 35 – Head of Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Namibia
- 36 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture, Industry and Crafts, of Niger
- 37 – Head of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Agriculture in the Republic of Nigeria
- 38 – Head of the Rwanda Private Sector Federation in the Republic of Rwanda
- 39 – Head of the Moroccan Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Services.

- 40 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce, , Agriculture and Services in Sao Tome and Principe
- 41 – Head of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture of Senegal
- 42 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Seychelles
- 43 – Head of the Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture.
- 44 – Head of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture in the Republic of Somalia
- 45 – Head of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of South Africa
- 46 – Head of the Sudanese Businessmen & Employee Federation in the. Republic of Sudan
- 47 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Kingdom of Swaziland
- 48 – Head of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
- 49 – Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Togo
- 50 – Head of the Tunisian Federation of Industry, Commerce in the Republic of Tunisia
- 51 – Head of the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 52 – Head of the Zambia Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- 53 – Head of the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce

Determined to provide an appropriate atmosphere for the economic and social development in Africa and to deal with the requirements of globalization as well as to proceed towards market economy and to eliminate obstacles impeding investment in the African continent;

- and within the framework of concerted efforts to draw maximum benefit from the immense economic capabilities available in different countries of the continent, in particular, natural resources in agriculture, raw materials, energy and tourism;
- with reference to what was agreed upon in 1983 regarding the establishment of a Federation of African Chambers of Commerce and Industry and recognizing the need to encourage all chambers of commerce, industry, agriculture, and professions to join in the activities and programmes of this entity,

- realizing the importance of energizing the role of the chambers and their federations and supporting the private sector in accelerating the process of comprehensive and sustainable development in Africa and the importance of the role of specific federations in this endeavour;
- and underscoring the recommendations in the Lagos plan of action and others subsequently adopted by African Summit conferences as well as recommendations of the African Union summit, the last of which was held in Abuja, Nigeria in January 2005 as well as the NEPAD initiative;
- and being convinced of the importance of the chambers and their federations to achieve social and economic growth based on self-reliance by means of promoting and liberalizing trade between chamber federations and African chambers, and in accordance with reactivating what was agreed upon concerning the establishment of the Federation of African chambers of commerce, industry, agriculture and professions whose membership will be open to all national chambers, namely of commerce, industry, agriculture and professions. This in addition to any other organization that engages in similar activities according to the decision of each African country.
- to draw maximum benefit from the immense potential of human resources that stands at nearly 860 million inhabitants with diverse experience and expertise;
- to encourage international and African initiatives in conformity with development prerequisites in African markets and the need to extend support to least developing countries;
- and within the context of achieving stability and peace in the countries of the Continent since current conflicts hinder any economic or social development;
- pursuant to the Alexandria Declaration issued by the Federations of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions Conference held in Alexandria, Egypt on 6-9 December 2004, article 2: “ to reactivate what was agreed upon in terms of establishing the federation of African chambers of commerce, industry, agriculture and professions with membership open to all national chambers of chambers of commerce, industry, agriculture and professions or to any other organization to give other similar activities as each African country decide”

this, in order to contribute to achieving economic and social development in Africa.

Convinced that this can best be achieved by the establishment of the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions;

We have hereby adopted the Statute of the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions.

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## Article 1 Definitions

In this Statute:

- *Federation*: shall mean the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions that shall be established by this Statute,
- *Statute* : shall refer to the basic Statute of the Federation
- *General Assembly*: shall mean the members of the Federation.
- *Executive Council*: shall mean the executive organ of the Federation representing five African regional blocs.
- *President*: shall mean the President of the General Assembly and Executive Council of the Federation.
- General Secretariat*: shall mean the General Secretariat of the Federation
- Committee*: shall mean the functional committees formed by the Federation.

## Article 2 Establishment

1/2 There is hereby established an organization to be known as the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions. (Herein referred to as the " Federation") which will operate in accordance with the Statute.

2/2 Headquarters of the Federation shall be determined by the decision of the General Assembly and may be transferred to any other location in Africa if deemed necessary by the Assembly.

2/3 Regional offices of the Federation may be established in different geographic areas in the African continent and by the approval of the General Assembly.

2/4 The Federation shall not be political.

### Article 3 Objectives and Functions

1 - The objectives and functions of the Federation are to dynamize the role of the private sector in enhancing the economic development of Africa and to support integration among countries in the African continent. Furthermore:

1-1 To assist in upgrading and promoting African chambers of commerce or national federations of chambers of commerce, industry, agriculture and professions as well as other similar organizations concerned with boosting trade among African countries.

1-2 To act as a bridge between its members and regional African organizations and non-regional organizations in order to consolidate economic integration in the African continent.

1-3 To represent the African private sector in the Economic and Social Council of the African Union and United Nations with a view to forging strong partnerships between governments and civil society categories.

1-4 To assist African governments in the elimination of obstacles that hinder the freedom of movement for people and flow of goods and services in order to promote exchange between African countries.

1-5 To act as a liaison between its members and foreign federations of chambers of commerce.

1-6 To stimulate and reinforce establishment and development of joint projects and African trade partnerships to ensure economic growth for Africa especially by the appropriate utilization of African resources and potential.

2 – For the purpose enumerated in Paragraph 1 of this article, the Federation shall through its organs seek:

2-1 – To assist and support the creation of small and medium enterprises.

2-2 To assist in developing and strengthening African economic groups that can contribute in the creation of an African common market.

2-3 To hold and organize African trade fairs and coordinate participation of members and African businessmen in such fairs and events.

2-4 To gather information related to trade, production and technology and to analyze and disseminate them in Africa and to encourage exchange of trade delegations between African countries.

2-5 To assist in training the concerned African sectors in particular businessmen and administration in African chambers of commerce, industry, agriculture and professions.

2-6 To act as a meeting for exchanging information and expertise between members.

2-7 To settle any trade disputes presented by members by setting up a mechanism for trade arbitration..

2-8 To coordinate the activities of members in order to guarantee their interests in international circles and other parties.

2-9 To extend consultation services to member chambers and to undertake research pertaining to its objectives.

2-10 To remain in close contact with African Union organizations, the United Nations, the Association of African Organizations for Trade Development as well as the Federation of Chambers in countries and other regions in the world.

2-11 To encourage transfer of technology to Africa and to focus on cooperation between South/South countries.

2-12 To facilitate the establishment of partnerships between the public and private sectors in the field of African internal trade in accordance with the principles of NEPAD.

2-13 To undertake any other activity deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of the Federation.

#### Article 4 Membership

1 – Membership in the Federation shall be open to every African national federation of chambers of commerce, industry, agriculture and professions, according to what each African country determines and that there shall only be one vote from each African country.

2 – Membership in the Federation by association is open to:



A –Persons, associations or organizations, natural or corporate, who although not included in any of the categories mentioned above in this article, their particular specializations and activities are considered by the General Assembly as related to the Federation’s objectives.

B – African institutions for economic integration or international organizations as determined by the General Assembly.

#### Article 5 Obligations of Members

All members of the Federation shall cooperate by all possible means to help the Federation achieve its objectives and shall be responsible as such:

A – To adhere to this Statute.

B – To take all steps necessary to implement the decisions of the Federation’s General Assembly and its Executive Council.

C – To settle membership dues regularly and promptly.

D – To take part in statutory meetings of the Federation’s organs as required.

#### Article 6 Organs of the Federation

A – General Assembly

B – Executive Council

C –General Secretariat

#### Article 7 General Assembly –Composition, Functions and Meetings

1 – The General Assembly, the highest organ in the Federation shall consist of representatives designated by all members of the Federation as indicated in paragraph 1 of Article 4 of the Statute.

2 – (a) The General Assembly shall elect a President from among its members for two years non renewable. It shall also elect four Vice-Presidents and five additional members representing the five regional blocs. The term of office for members of the Executive Council shall be two years.

(b) Upon election of members of the Executive Council indicated in sub-paragraph (a), geographical distribution of these positions among members of the Federation shall be taken into account as representative of this Executive Council elected by the General Assembly.

(c) a member of the Federation elected to one of the positions indicated in sub-paragraph(a) shall appoint a representative for this position.

(d) If the President of the General Assembly is absent when the General Assembly meeting is held, one of the Vice-Presidents shall chair the meeting.. Should they all be absent, the General Assembly shall elect one of its members to chair the meeting.

3 – The General Assembly shall be responsible for guiding the executive functions of the Federation, in particular to:-

a – elaborate policies that govern the activities of the Federation

b – examine and adopt the activities of the Federation, its budget, accounts, and reports.

c - determine the amount of annual subscriptions and other subscriptions to be paid by members or associate members of the Federation.

d – elect members of the Executive Council in accordance with the provisions of the Statute.

e – form sub-committees or organs as required for executing its functions.

f – appoint an independent certified legal auditor to audit the accounts of the Federation.

g – undertake any other functions as stipulated with regard to other issues mentioned in the Statute.

h – select the Headquarters of the Federation.

i – The General Assembly shall prescribe its rules of procedure including those pertaining to convening meetings, running of activities during these meetings as well as at other times and sets rules on quorum and voting.

4 – The General Assembly shall meet at least once a year for a period set by it and on date and venue called for by the President of the General Assembly. The General Assembly may convene extraordinary meetings upon a request of any member of the Federation and approval of two-thirds of members.

5– Each member country of the Federation shall have one vote in the General Assembly.

6 – The associate members of the Federation, African Union Commission in the African Union, UN Economic Committee for Africa and the Association of African Organizations for Trade Development may participate as observers in meetings without the right to vote.

7- The Secretary General shall attend meetings of the General Assembly without the right to vote.

8 – The President of the General Assembly may invite knowledgeable personalities and specialized experts to attend meetings of the General Assembly who shall not have the right to vote.

9 – The President of the Federation shall represent the Federation before official, legal and other parties..

10 – The President shall present annual reports on the activities of the Federation to the General Assembly.

11 – The President shall submit projects and programmes of the Federation as well as the fiscal budget and budget to the General Assembly.

12 – The President shall present the policies of the Federation that govern financial and administrative activities of the Federation to the General Assembly.

13 – The General Assembly shall have the right to terminate the term of office for the President and Executive Council members on the grounds of misconduct, insolvency or any other reason deemed appropriate by the General Assembly.

## Article 8

### Executive Council, Composition and Functions

1 – The Executive Council shall be composed of:

- a – President of the Federation.
- b – Four Vice-Presidents elected from four geographic regions other than the President.
- c- Five additional members representing the different geographic regions in the African Continent.

2 – Subject to the directives of the General Assembly, the Executive Council shall:

- a) Direct, review, control and coordinate the financial, technical organs of the Federation.
- b) – Submit for the approval of the General Assembly a report on the activities of the Federation.
- c) – Identify the rules governing the financial, administrative and other activities of the Federation.
- d) – Perform such other functions as may be delegated by the General Assembly.

3 – The Secretary General of the Federation shall attend the meetings of the Executive Council without having the right to vote.

4 – The Executive Council may delegate the President of the Federation or other Executive Council members, as they deem appropriate, to carry out their mandated tasks stipulated in paragraph 5 of this article.

5 – The Executive Council shall meet at least once every four months or whenever necessary in order to perform its tasks efficiently.

6 – Bearing in mind the provisions of the Statute, the Executive Council shall elaborate its rules of procedure as well as those related to, *inter alia*, its meetings, conduct of work during sessions and others, quorum and voting and to submit this to the General Assembly for approval

## Article 9 General Secretariat

1 – The General Secretariat shall consist of the Secretary General assisted by a sufficient number of staff for whom a decision by the Executive Council shall be issued. The responsibilities of the General Secretary shall include the preparation of the financial and administrative structure which he shall submit to the Executive Council for approval.

2 – The Secretary General shall be appointed for a term of three years and may be reappointed for a second term. He shall be responsible for managing the General Secretariat and its budget pursuant to rules stipulated in the Statute and decisions of the General Assembly and Executive Council of Directors.

3 –Functions of the General Secretariat shall be:

- a – To prepare annual reports on the activities of the Federation and to submit them to the Executive Council .
- b – To prepare the annual budget to be reviewed quarterly.
- c – To undertake studies and researches related to the objectives of the Federation and to inform Federation members of such developments.
- d – To prepare draft programmes of the Federation and its budget and to present them to the Executive Council.
- e – To submit audited financial statements of the Federation to the Executive Council.
- f- To prepare annual reports on activities of the Federation and to submit them to the Executive Council.
- g – To present to the Executive Council draft regulations that govern the financial, administrative and other activities of the Federation.
- h – To act as secretary to the Federation organs and to provide required services of the Secretariat in this regard.
- i – To engage in any other task as determined by the Executive Council.

#### Article 10 Financial Resources

The financial resources of the Federation shall be composed of subscriptions of Federation members, associate members, interest, credit, gifts, grants, and bequests as well as fees collected from activities carried out by the Federation. Gifts, bequests and grants shall only be accepted upon approval of the Executive Council and in accordance with relevant provisions in regulations governing the financial department of the Federation.

#### Article 11 Legal status

1 – The African country hosting the headquarters of the Federation and its institutions, when required, shall accord the Federation a legal status of a corporate body, to sue and be sued, and the permanent right to acquire, possess and manage property and other finances and dispose of them and shall be party in contracts, institute legal proceedings or be the subject thereof, under its own name.

2 – The Federation shall be granted necessary exemptions, privileges and immunity so that it may discharge its mandated task in compliance with the Statute in its competence as an international organization. For this purpose, the Secretary General shall conclude agreements in this regard with governments of concerned countries and shall seek to obtain the best possible advantages for the Federation.

## Article 12

### Termination and withdrawal of membership

1 – The General Assembly may suspend or terminate, by two-thirds of its attending members who have the right to vote, the membership of a member or associate member in the Federation who fails, despite a written notification, to fulfill his financial obligations to the Federation for three successive years or refrains from performing other obligations stipulated in the Statute, or refuses to comply with General Assembly decisions.

2 – Termination of membership of a member or associated member in the Federation shall not exempt them from settling past financial obligations unless the General Assembly rules otherwise.

3 – Upon termination of membership of a member or associated member in the Federation, the President of the Federation shall notify all members, the Head of the African Union Commission and other parties concerned about the actions taken by the Federation.

4 – Any member of the Federation has the right to withdraw from it at any time after the expiration of one year from the date it became a member by submitting a letter of resignation four months before the termination of its membership.

## Article 13

### Certificates of appreciation and/or prizes

The General Assembly shall have the right, upon the proposal of the Executive Council or a specific committee formed by the General Assembly for this purpose, to grant certificates of appreciation and/or prizes to any person, Federation member or institution who has performed notable services towards achieving the objectives of the Federation. Pursuant to this article, the Executive Council shall submit reasons for granting certificates and/or prizes to the General Assembly for approval.

Article 14  
Amendment

1 – Amendments to this Statute shall enter into force by a vote of two-thirds majority of the members of the General Assembly.

2 – The General Assembly shall not consider any proposal for amendment unless all Federation members have been notified at least four months prior to its examination.

Article 15  
Settlement of disputes

Any dispute arising between Federation members regarding the interpretation and implementation of provisions in the Statute shall be settled peacefully by means of direct agreement between the parties concerned. Should such attempts to settle the dispute fail, one of the parties may bring it to the General Assembly whose decision shall be final.

Article 16  
Extending and dissolving the Federation

The Federation shall exist for an indefinite duration, however, it may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly which shall then appoint a committee to liquidate the Federation according to standards.

Article 17  
Entry into Force

1 – This Statute shall enter into force upon signature by a simple majority (50%+1) of the Federation members.

2 – Until this Statute enters into force, it shall remain open for signature at the African Union Commission if it does not obtain the percentage fixed in paragraph (1) of this article.

Article 18  
Deposit of the instruments of the Federation

1 – The text of this Statute shall be deposited in Arabic, English and French languages, all of which shall have equal authenticity. Instruments of accession to the Federation shall be deposited at the African Union Commission

2 – The African Union Commission shall:

a – Inform all members of the Federation of the date of entry into force of this Statute

b – Circulate original authentic texts of this Statute to all members of the Federation

c – Notify all members of the Federation of the date of deposit of accession instruments.

Article 19  
Provisional Rules

1 – The provisional committee constituted by the Alexandria Declaration in December 2004, shall coordinate with the African Union Commission, following entry into force of this Statute shall convene the meeting of the first General Assembly.

In Witness Whereof, the undersigned, duly authorized by their Federations and Chambers, have signed the present Statute on the date indicated below their signatures.

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