

African Union, African Regional Bodies

## Constitutive Act of the African Union

Legislation as at 11 July 2003

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African Union

# Constitutive Act of the African Union

Published

**Commenced on 26 May 2001**

*[This is the version of this document from 11 July 2003.]*

*[Amended by Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union on 11 July 2003]*

We, Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU):

1. The President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
2. The President of the Republic of Angola
3. The President of the Republic of Benin
4. The President of the Republic of Botswana
5. The President of Burkina Faso
6. The President of the Republic of Burundi
7. The President of the Republic of Cameroon
8. The President of the Republic of Cape Verde
9. The President of the Central African Republic
10. The President of the Republic of Chad
11. The President of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros
12. The President of the Republic of the Congo
13. The President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
14. The President of the Democratic Republic of Congo
15. The President of the Republic of Djibouti
16. The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
17. The President of the State of Eritrea
18. The Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
19. The President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
20. The President of the Gabonese Republic
21. The President of the Republic of The Gambia
22. The President of the Republic of Ghana
23. The President of the Republic of Guinea
24. The President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau
25. The President of the Republic of Kenya
26. The Prime Minister of Lesotho
27. The President of the Republic of Liberia

28. The Leader of the 1<sup>st</sup> of September Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
29. The President of the Republic of Madagascar
30. The President of the Republic of Malawi
31. The President of the Republic of Mali
32. The President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
33. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius
34. The President of the Republic of Mozambique
35. The President of the Republic of Namibia
36. The President of the Republic of Niger
37. The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
38. The President of the Republic of Rwanda
39. The President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
40. The President of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe
41. The President of the Republic of Senegal
42. The President of the Republic of Seychelles
43. The President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
44. The President of the Republic of Somalia
45. The President of the Republic of South Africa
46. The President of the Republic of Sudan
47. The King of Swaziland
48. The President of the United Republic of Tanzania
49. The President of the Togolese Republic
50. The President of the Republic of Tunisia
51. The President of the Republic of Uganda
52. The President of the Republic of Zambia
53. The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

**INSPIRED** by the noble ideals which guided the founders of our Continental Organization and generations of Pan-Africanists in their determination to promote unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States;

**CONSIDERING** the principles and objectives stated in the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;

**RECALLING** the heroic struggles waged by our peoples and our countries for political independence, human dignity and economic emancipation;

**CONSIDERING** that since its inception, the Organization of African Unity has played a determining and invaluable role in the liberation of the continent, the affirmation of a common identity and the process of attainment of the unity of our continent and has provided a unique framework for our collective action in Africa and in our relations with the rest of the world.

**DETERMINED** to take up the multifaceted challenges that confront our continent and peoples in the light of the social, economic and political changes taking place in the world;

**CONVINCED** of the need to accelerate the process of implementing the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community in order to promote the socio-economic development of Africa and to face more effectively the challenges posed by globalization;

**GUIDED** by our common vision of a united and strong Africa and by the need to build a partnership between governments and all segments of civil society, in particular women, youth and the private sector, in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion among our peoples;

**CONSCIOUS** of the fact that the scourge of conflicts in Africa constitutes a major impediment to the socio-economic development of the continent and of the need to promote peace, security and stability as a prerequisite for the implementation of our development and integration agenda;

**DETERMINED** to promote and protect human and peoples' rights, consolidate democratic institutions and culture, and to ensure good governance and the rule of law;

**FURTHER DETERMINED** to take all necessary measures to strengthen our common institutions and provide them with the necessary powers and resources to enable them discharge their respective mandates effectively;

**RECALLING** the Declaration which we adopted at the Fourth Extraordinary Session of our Assembly in Sirte, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 9.9. 99, in which we decided to establish an African Union, in conformity with the ultimate objectives of the Charter of our Continental Organization and the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;

**HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

*[Preamble amended by article 2 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

*["Chairman" wherever it occurs, substituted with "Chairperson" by article 6 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

## Article 1 – Definitions

In this Constitutive Act:

"**Act**" means the present Constitutive Act;

"**AEC**" means the African Economic Community;

"**Assembly**" means the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Union;

"**Charter**" means the Charter of the OAU;

"**Commission**" means the Secretariat of the Union;

"**Committee**" means a Specialized Technical Committee of the Union;

"**Council**" means the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the Union;

"**Court**" means the Court of Justice of the Union;

"**Executive Council**" means the Executive Council of Ministers of the Union;

"**Member State**" means a Member State of the Union;

"**OAU**" means the Organization of African Unity;

"**Parliament**" means the Pan-African Parliament of the Union;

"**Union**" means the African Union established by the present Constitutive Act.

## Article 2 – Establishment

The African Union is hereby established in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

## Article 3 – Objectives

The objectives of the Union shall be to:

- (a) achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples of Africa;
- (b) defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States;
- (c) accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent;
- (d) promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples;
- (e) encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- (f) promote peace, security, and stability on the continent;
- (g) promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance;
- (h) promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments;
- (i) ensure the effective participation of women in decision-making, particularly in the political, economic and socio-cultural areas;

*[subparagraph (i) inserted by article 3 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (j) establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations;

*[subparagraph (j), previously subparagraph (i), renumbered by inserted by article 3 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (k) promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies;

*[subparagraph (k), previously subparagraph (j), renumbered by inserted by article 3 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (l) promote co-operation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of African peoples;

*[subparagraph (l), previously subparagraph (k), renumbered by inserted by article 3 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (m) coordinate and harmonize the policies between the existing and future Regional Economic Communities for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Union;

*[subparagraph (m), previously subparagraph (l), renumbered by inserted by article 3 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (n) advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields, in particular in science and technology;

*[subparagraph (n), previously subparagraph (m), renumbered by inserted by article 3 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (o) work with relevant international partners in the eradication of preventable diseases and the promotion of good health on the continent.

*[subparagraph (o), previously subparagraph (n), renumbered by inserted by article 3 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (p) develop and promote common policies on trade, defence and foreign relations to ensure the defence of the Continent and the strengthening of its negotiating positions;

*[subparagraph (p) added by article 3 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (q) invite and encourage the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of our Continent, in the building of the African Union.

*[subparagraph (q) added by article 3 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

### Article 4 – Principles

The Union shall function in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) sovereign equality and interdependence among Member States of the Union;
- (b) respect of borders existing on achievement of independence;
- (c) participation of the African peoples in the activities of the Union;
- (d) establishment of a common defence policy for the African Continent;
- (e) peaceful resolution of conflicts among Member States of the Union through such appropriate means as may be decided upon by the Assembly;
- (f) prohibition of the use of force or threat to use force among Member States of the Union;
- (g) non-interference by any Member State in the internal affairs of another;
- (h) the right of the Union to intervene in a Member State pursuant to a decision of the Assembly in respect of grave circumstances, namely: war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity as well as a serious threat to legitimate order to restore peace and stability to the Member State of the Union upon the recommendation of the Peace and Security Council;  
*[subparagraph (h) amended by article 4 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*
- (i) peaceful co-existence of Member States and their right to live in peace and security;
- (j) the right of Member States to request intervention from the Union in order to restore peace and security;
- (k) promotion of self-reliance within the framework of the Union;
- (l) promotion of gender equality;
- (m) respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance;
- (n) promotion of social justice to ensure balanced economic development;
- (o) respect for the sanctity of human life, condemnation and rejection of impunity and political assassination, acts of terrorism and subversive activities;
- (p) condemnation and rejection of unconstitutional changes of governments.

- (q) restraint by any Member State from entering into any treaty or alliance that is incompatible with the principles and objectives of the Union;

*[subparagraph (q) added by article 4 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (r) prohibition of any Member State from allowing the use of its territory as a base for subversion against another Member State.

*[subparagraph (r) added by article 4 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

## Article 5 – Organs of the Union

1. The organs of the Union shall be:

- (a) The Assembly of the Union;
- (b) The Executive Council;
- (c) The Pan-African Parliament;
- (d) The Court of Justice;
- (e) The Commission;
- (f) The Peace and Security Council;

*[subparagraph (f) inserted by article 5 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (g) The Permanent Representatives Committee;

*[subparagraph (g), previously subparagraph (f), renumbered by article 5 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (h) The Specialized Technical Committees;

*[subparagraph (h), previously subparagraph (g), renumbered by article 5 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (i) The Economic, Social and Cultural Council;

*[subparagraph (i), previously subparagraph (h), renumbered by article 5 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

- (j) The Financial Institutions;

*[subparagraph (j), previously subparagraph (i), renumbered by article 5 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

2. Other organs that the Assembly may decide to establish.

## Article 6 – The Assembly

1. The Assembly shall be composed of Heads of States and Government or their duly accredited representatives.
2. The Assembly shall be the supreme organ of the Union.

3. The Assembly shall meet at least once a year in ordinary session.

*[paragraph 3 amended by article 6 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

4. At the initiative of the Chairperson after due consultation with all Member States, or at the request of any Member State and upon approval by two-thirds majority of Member States, the Assembly shall meet in Extraordinary Session.

*[paragraph 4 inserted by article 6 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

5. The Assembly shall elect its Chairperson from among the Heads of State or Government at the beginning of each ordinary session and on the basis of rotation for a period of one year renewable.

*[paragraph 5 inserted by article 6 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

6. The Chairperson shall be assisted by a Bureau chosen by the Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

*[paragraph 6 inserted by article 6 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

7. Where the Assembly meets at the Headquarters, an election of the Chairperson shall be held taking into account the principle of rotation.

*[paragraph 7 inserted by article 6 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

8. The Office of the Chairperson of the Assembly shall be held for a period of one year by a Head of State or Government elected after consultations among the Member States.

*[paragraph 8, previously paragraph 4, renumbered and amended by article 6 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

### **Article 7 – Decisions of the Assembly**

1. The Assembly shall take its decisions by consensus or, failing which, by a two-thirds majority of the Member States of the Union. However, procedural matters, including the question of whether a matter is one of procedure or not, shall be decided by a simple majority.
2. Two-thirds of the total membership of the Union shall form a quorum at any meeting of the Assembly.

### **Article 7(bis) – Functions of the Chairperson of the Assembly**

1. The Chairperson shall represent the Union, during his/her tenure with a view to promoting the objectives and principles of the African Union as stipulated in Articles 3 and 4 of the Act. He/She shall also, with the collaboration of the Chairperson of the Commission, carry out the functions of the Assembly set out in Article 9(e) and (g) of the Act.
2. The Chairperson may convene the meeting of the other organs through their Chairpersons or Chief Executives and in accordance with their respective Rules of Procedure.

*[article 7(bis) inserted by article 7 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

### **Article 8 – Rules of Procedure of the Assembly**

The Assembly shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

## Article 9 – Powers and functions of the Assembly

1. The functions of the Assembly shall be to:
  - (a) determine the common policies of the Union;
  - (b) receive, consider and take decisions on reports and recommendations from the other organs of the Union;
  - (c) consider requests for Membership of the Union;
  - (d) establish any organ of the Union;
  - (e) monitor the implementation of policies and decisions of the Union as well ensure compliance by all Member States;
  - (f) adopt the budget of the Union;
  - (g) give directives to the Executive Council on the management of conflicts, war and other emergency situations and the restoration of peace;
  - (h) appoint and terminate the appointment of the judges of the Court of Justice;
  - (i) appoint the Chairperson of the Commission and his or her deputy or deputies and Commissioners of the Commission and determine their functions and terms of office.
2. The Assembly may delegate any of its powers and functions to any organ of the Union.

## Article 10 – The Executive Council

1. The Executive Council shall be composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs or such other Ministers or Authorities as are designated by the Governments of Member States.
2. The Executive Council shall meet at least twice a year in ordinary session. It shall also meet in an extraordinary session at the request of any Member State and upon approval by two-thirds of all Member States.
3. The Chairperson of the Executive Council shall be assisted by a Bureau chosen by the Executive Council on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

*[paragraph 3 added by article 8 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

## Article 11 – Decisions of the Executive Council

1. The Executive Council shall take its decisions by consensus or, failing which, by a two-thirds majority of the Member States. However, procedural matters, including the question of whether a matter is one of procedure or not, shall be decided by a simple majority.
2. Two-thirds of the total membership of the Union shall form a quorum at any meeting of the Executive Council.

## Article 12 – Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council

The Executive Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 13 – Functions of the Executive Council**

1. The Executive Council shall coordinate and take decisions on policies in areas of common interest to the Member States, including the following:
  - (a) foreign trade;
  - (b) energy, industry and mineral resources;
  - (c) food, agricultural and animal resources, livestock production and forestry;
  - (d) water resources and irrigation;
  - (e) environmental protection, humanitarian action and disaster response and relief;
  - (f) transport and communications;
  - (g) insurance;
  - (h) education, culture, health and human resources development;
  - (i) science and technology;
  - (j) nationality, residency and immigration matters;
  - (k) social security, including the formulation of mother and child care policies, as well as policies relating to the disabled and the handicapped;
  - (l) establishment of a system of African awards, medals and prizes.
2. The Executive Council shall be responsible to the Assembly. It shall consider issues referred to it and monitor the implementation of policies formulated by the Assembly.
3. The Executive Council may delegate any of its powers and functions mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article to the Specialized Technical Committees established under Article 14 of this Act.

### **Article 14 – The Specialized Technical Committees establishment and composition**

1. There is hereby established the following Specialized Technical Committees, which shall be responsible to the Executive Council:
  - (a) The Committee on Rural Economy and Agricultural Matters;
  - (b) The Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs;
  - (c) The Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters;
  - (d) The Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, Energy, Natural Resources and Environment;
  - (e) The Committee on Transport, Communications and Tourism;
  - (f) The Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs; and
  - (g) The Committee on Education, Culture and Human Resources.
2. The Assembly shall, whenever it deems appropriate, restructure the existing Committees or establish other Committees.
3. The Specialized Technical Committees shall be composed of Ministers or senior officials responsible for sectors falling within their respective areas of competence.

## **Article 15 – Functions of the Specialized Technical Committees**

Each Committee shall within its field of competence:

- (a) prepare projects and programmes of the Union and submit it to the Executive Council;
- (b) ensure the supervision, follow-up and the evaluation of the implementation of decisions taken by the organs of the Union;
- (c) ensure the coordination and harmonization of projects and programmes of the Union;
- (d) submit to the Executive Council either on its own initiative or at the request of the Executive Council, reports and recommendations on the implementation of the provisions of this Act; and
- (e) carry out any other functions assigned to it for the purpose of ensuring the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

## **Article 16 – Meetings**

Subject to any directives given by the Executive Council, each Committee shall meet as often as necessary and shall prepare its Rules of Procedure and submit them to the Executive Council for approval.

## **Article 17 – The Pan-African Parliament**

1. In order to ensure the full participation of African peoples in the development and economic integration of the continent, a Pan-African Parliament shall be established.
2. The composition, powers, functions and organization of the Pan-African Parliament shall be defined in a protocol relating thereto.

## **Article 18 – The Court of Justice**

1. A Court of Justice of the Union shall be established;
2. The statute, composition and functions of the Court of Justice shall be defined in a protocol relating thereto.

## **Article 19 – The financial institutions**

The Union shall have the following financial institutions whose rules and regulations shall be defined in protocols relating thereto:

- (a) The African Central Bank;
- (b) The African Monetary Fund;
- (c) The African Investment Bank.

## **Article 20 – The Commission**

1. There shall be established a Commission of the Union, which shall be the Secretariat of the Union.
2. The Commission shall be composed of the Chairperson, his or her deputy or deputies and the Commissioners. They shall be assisted by the necessary staff for the smooth functioning of the Commission.

3. The structure, functions and regulations of the Commission shall be determined by the Assembly.

### **Article 20(bis) – Peace and Security Council**

1. There is hereby established, a Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the Union, which shall be the standing decision-making organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.
2. The functions, powers, composition and organization of the PSC shall be determined by the Assembly and set out in a protocol relating thereto.

*[article 20(bis) inserted by article 9 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

### **Article 21 – The Permanent Representatives Committee**

1. There shall be established a Permanent Representatives Committee. It shall be composed of Permanent Representatives to the Union and other Plenipotentiaries of Member States.
2. The Permanent Representatives Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of preparing the work of the Executive Council and acting on the Executive Council's instructions. It may set up such sub-committees or working groups as it may deem necessary.
3. The Chairperson of the Permanent Representatives Committee shall be assisted by a Bureau chosen on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

*[paragraph 3 added by article 10 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

### **Article 22 – The Economic, Social and Cultural Council**

1. The Economic, Social and Cultural Council shall be an advisory organ composed of different social and professional groups of the Member States of the Union.
2. The functions, powers, composition and organization of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council shall be determined by the Assembly.

### **Article 23 – Imposition of sanctions**

1. The Assembly shall determine the appropriate sanctions to be imposed on any Member State that defaults in the payment of its contributions to the budget of the Union in the following manner: denial of the right to speak at meetings, to vote, to present candidates for any position or post within the Union or to benefit from any activity or commitments, therefrom;
2. Furthermore, any Member State that fails to comply with the decisions and policies of the Union may be subjected to other sanctions, such as the denial of transport and communications links with other Member States, and other measures of a political and economic nature to be determined by the Assembly.

### **Article 24 – The Headquarters of the Union**

1. The Headquarters of the Union shall be in Addis Ababa in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
2. There may be established such other offices of the Union as the Assembly may, on the recommendation of the Executive Council, determine.

## Article 25 – Official languages

*[heading amended by article 11 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

1. The official languages of the Union and all its institutions shall be Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Kiswahili and any other African language.

*[paragraph 1 renumbered and substituted by article 11 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

2. The Executive Council shall determine the process and practical modalities for the use of official languages as working languages.

*[paragraph 2 added by article 11 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

## Article 26 – Interpretation

The Court shall be seized with matters of interpretation arising from the application or implementation of this Act. Pending its establishment, such matters shall be submitted to the Assembly of the Union, which shall decide by a two-thirds majority.

## Article 27 – Signature, ratification and accession

1. This Act shall be open to signature, ratification and accession by the Member States of the OAU in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.
2. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the OAU.
3. Any Member State of the OAU acceding to this Act after its entry into force shall deposit the instrument of accession with the Chairperson of the Commission.

## Article 28 – Entry into force

This Act shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification by two-thirds of the Member States of the OAU.

## Article 29 – Admission to membership

1. Any African State may, at any time after the entry into force of this Act, notify the Chairperson of the Commission of its intention to accede to this Act and to be admitted as a member of the Union.
2. The Chairperson of the Commission shall, upon receipt of such notification, transmit copies thereof to all Member States. Admission shall be decided by a simple majority of the Member States. The decision of each Member State shall be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Commission who shall, upon receipt of the required number of votes, communicate the decision to the State concerned.

## Article 30 – Suspension

Governments which shall come to power through unconstitutional means shall not be allowed to participate in the activities of the Union.

## Article 31 – \*\*\*

*[article 31 repealed by article 12 of [the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union](#)]*

### **Article 32 – Amendment and revision**

1. Any Member State may submit proposals for the amendment or revision of this Act.
2. Proposals for amendment or revision shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the Commission who shall transmit same to Member States within thirty (30) days of receipt thereof.
3. The Assembly, upon the advice of the Executive Council, shall examine these proposals within a period of one year following notification of Member States, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article;
4. Amendments or revisions shall be adopted by the Assembly by consensus or, failing which, by a two-thirds majority and submitted for ratification by all Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures. They shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification with the Chairperson of the Commission by a two-thirds majority of the Member States.

### **Article 33 – Transitional arrangements and final provisions**

1. This Act shall replace the Charter of the Organization of African Unity. However, the Charter shall remain operative for a transitional period of one year or such further period as may be determined by the Assembly, following the entry into force of the Act, for the purpose of enabling the OAU/AEC to undertake the necessary measures regarding the devolution of its assets and liabilities to the Union and all matters relating thereto.
2. The provisions of this Act shall take precedence over and supersede any inconsistent or contrary provisions of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.
3. Upon the entry into force of this Act, all necessary measures shall be undertaken to implement its provisions and to ensure the establishment of the organs provided for under the Act in accordance with any directives or decisions which may be adopted in this regard by the Parties thereto within the transitional period stipulated above.
4. Pending the establishment of the Commission, the OAU General Secretariat shall be the interim Secretariat of the Union.
5. This Act, drawn up in four (4) original texts in the Arabic, English, French and Portuguese languages, all four (4) being equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the OAU and, after its entry into force, with the Chairperson of the Commission who shall transmit a certified true copy of the Act to the Government of each signatory State. The Secretary-General of the OAU and the Chairperson of the Commission shall notify all signatory States instruments of ratification of the dates of the deposit of the or accession and shall upon entry into force of this Act register the same with the Secretariat of the United Nations.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE** have adopted this Act.

Done at Lomé, Togo, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2000.