

No. 6947

**ALGERIA, BURUNDI, CAMEROON,
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, etc.**

**Charter of the Organization of African Unity. Done at
Addis Ababa, on 25 May 1963**

Official texts: Amharic, Arabic, English and French.

Registered by Ethiopia on 4 October 1963.

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RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE, TCHAD, etc.**

**Charte de l'Organisation de l'Unité africaine. Faite à Addis-
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No. 6947. CHARTER¹ OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. DONE AT ADDIS ABABA, ON 25 MAY 1963

We, the Heads of African States and Governments assembled in the City of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

CONVINCED that it is the inalienable right of all people to control their own destiny;

CONSCIOUS of the fact that freedom, equality, justice and dignity are essential objectives for the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the African peoples;

CONSCIOUS of our responsibility to harness the natural and human resources of our continent for the total advancement of our peoples in spheres of human endeavour;

INSPIRED by a common determination to promote understanding among our peoples and co-operation among our States in response to the aspirations of our peoples for brotherhood and solidarity, in a larger unity transcending ethnic and national differences;

CONVINCED that, in order to translate this determination into a dynamic force in the cause of human progress, conditions for peace and security must be established and maintained;

DETERMINED to safeguard and consolidate the hard-won independence as well as the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our States, and to fight against neo-colonialism in all its forms ;

DEDICATED to the general progress of Africa;

¹ In accordance with article XXV, the Charter came into force on 13 September 1963, the instruments of ratification from two thirds of the signatory States having been deposited with the Government of Ethiopia as follows :

Ivory Coast	8 June	1963	Uganda	3 August	1963
Ethiopia	9 June	1963	Rwanda	5 August	1963
Guinea	24 June	1963	Chad	7 August	1963
Senegal	2 July	1963	Madagascar	10 August	1963
Gabon	6 July	1963	Cameroon	26 August	1963
Congo (Brazzaville)	12 July	1963	Mauritania	26 August	1963
Ghana	15 July	1963	Liberia	29 August	1963
Sudan	19 July	1963	Dahomey	7 September	1963
Mali	24 July	1963	Libya	11 September	1963
Niger	26 July	1963	Sierra Leone	11 September	1963
United Arab Republic	27 July	1963	Congo (Leopoldville)	13 September	1963

Subsequently, the Charter entered into force in respect of the following countries on the respective dates of deposit of instruments of ratification as shown below :

anganyika	14 September	1963	Upper Volta	29 October	1963
Tunisia	1 October	1963	Nigeria	14 November	1963

PERSUADED that the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to the principles of which we reaffirm our adherence, provide a solid foundation for peaceful and positive co-operation among states;

DESIROUS that all African States should henceforth unite so that the welfare and well-being of their peoples can be assured;

RESOLVED to reinforce the links between our states by establishing and strengthening common institutions;

HAVE agreed to the present Charter.

ESTABLISHMENT

Article I

1. The High Contracting Parties do by the present Charter establish an Organization to be known as the *Organization of African Unity*.

2. The Organization shall include the Continental African States, Madagascar and other Islands surrounding Africa.

PURPOSES

Article II

1. The Organization shall have the following purposes :

- a.* to promote the unity and solidarity of the African States;
- b.* to coordinate and intensify their co-operation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa;
- c.* to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity and independence;
- d.* to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa; and
- e.* to promote international co-operation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

2. To these ends, the Member States shall coordinate and harmonise their general policies, especially in the following fields :

- a.* political and diplomatic co-operation;
- b.* economic co-operation, including transport and communications;
- c.* educational and cultural co-operation;
- d.* health, sanitation, and nutritional co-operation;
- e.* scientific and technical co-operation; and
- f.* co-operation for defence and security.

PRINCIPLES

Article III

The Member States, in pursuit of the purposes stated in Article II, solemnly affirm and declare their adherence to the following principles:

1. the sovereign equality of all Member States;
2. non-interference in the internal affairs of States;
3. respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State and for its inalienable right to independent existence;
4. peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation or arbitration;
5. unreserved condemnation, in all its forms, of political assassination as well as of subversive activities on the part of neighbouring States or any other State;
6. absolute dedication to the total emancipation of the African territories which are still dependent;
7. affirmation of a policy of non-alignment with regard to all blocs.

MEMBERSHIP

Article IV

Each independent sovereign African State shall be entitled to become a Member of the Organization.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBER STATES

Article V

All Member States shall enjoy equal rights and have equal duties.

Article VI

The Member States pledge themselves to observe scrupulously the principles enumerated in Article III of the present Charter.

INSTITUTIONS

Article VII

The Organization shall accomplish its purposes through the following principal institutions:

1. the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;
2. the Council of Ministers;
3. the General Secretariat;
4. the Commission of Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration.

THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Article VIII

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government shall be the supreme organ of the Organization. It shall, subject to the provisions of this Charter, discuss matters of common concern to Africa with a view to co-ordinating and harmonising the general policy of the Organization. It may in addition review the structure, functions and acts of all the organs and any specialized agencies which may be created in accordance with the present Charter.

Article IX

The Assembly shall be composed of the Heads of State and Government or their duly accredited representatives and it shall meet at least once a year. At the request of any Member State and on approval by a two-thirds majority of the Member States, the Assembly shall meet in extraordinary session.

Article X

1. Each Member State shall have one vote.
2. All resolutions shall be determined by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Organization.
3. Questions of procedure shall require a simple majority. Whether or not a question is one of procedure shall be determined by a simple majority of all Member States of the Organization.
4. Two thirds of the total membership of the Organization shall form a quorum at any meeting of the Assembly.

Article XI

The Assembly shall have the power to determine its own rules of procedure.