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GUINEA, MALI, MAURITANIA AND SENEGAL

**Statute of the Organization of the Senegal Riparian States—
OERS. Signed at Labé on 24 March 1968**

Authentic text: French.

Registered by Senegal on 19 May 1969.

GUINÉE, MALI, MAURITANIE ET SÉNÉGAL

**Statut de l'Organisation des États Riverains du Sénégal —
O.E.R.S. Signé à Labé le 24 mars 1968**

Texte authentique: français.

Enregistré par le Sénégal le 19 mai 1969.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

STATUTE¹ OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SENEGAL RIPARIAN STATES—OERS

The Heads of State and Government of the countries bordering on the Senegal River,

Considering the fraternal ties and the common culture and civilization which unite the peoples of the Senegal riparian States, and their common aspirations for peace, progress and democracy,

Desiring to express their common determination to maintain and develop among their countries a strong system of co-operation and friendly relations based on complete equality and respect for their sovereignty and their respective fundamental options,

In conformity with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and faithful to the Charter of the Organization of African Unity²;

Determined to promote and to intensify mutual co-operation and trade and to pursue their joint efforts towards economic, cultural and social development with a view to attaining harmonized regional development and strengthening the independence of their countries,

Resolved to establish and maintain among their States favourable conditions for the achievement of those goals and to overcome all obstacles to that end,

Conscious of the need to co-ordinate and harmonize for that purpose their development policies in the economic, social and cultural fields and to guide those policies as far as possible towards joint project,

Convinced of the need to establish initially sub-regional and subsequently regional economic units, as an objective approach to, and a realistic foundation for, African unity,

Considering the resolution of the Conference of Heads of the Senegal Riparian States held on 12 and 13 November 1965 at Nouakchott concerning the setting up of a regional sub-group, the said Heads of State and Government

¹ Came into force on 1 March 1969, date of notification to the signatory States of the deposit of the last instrument of ratification with the Government of Senegal, in accordance with articles 33 and 34.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 479, p. 39.

Have agreed to establish an inter-governmental organization entitled “Organization of the Senegal Riparian States”, the Statute of which consists of the following provisions:

CHAPTER I

PURPOSES OF THE OERS

Article 1

The Organization of the Senegal Riparian States, consisting of:

The Republic of Guinea,
The Republic of Mali,
The Islamic Republic of Mauritania,
The Republic of Senegal,

has as its purpose:

1. to promote mutual understanding and solidarity among the member States so as to create a permanently favourable climate for co-operation and for the maintenance of peaceful and friendly relations among the States;

2. to promote the development, economic independence and social progress of the member States by far-reaching co-operation, including the harmonization of their development plans and the co-ordination of their efforts to achieve concerted projects in the following fields:

- agriculture and animal husbandry,
- education, training and information,
- public health,
- industrial development,
- transport and telecommunications,
- trade,
- judicial co-operation and harmonization of civil and commercial legislation;

3. to promote and intensify trade and the movement of persons and goods among the member States;

4. to promote, in accordance with the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, the establishment of the West African Regional Group of States, with a view to implementing African unity.

Article 2

To attain the above-mentioned purposes, the Governments of the States members of the OERS solemnly undertake to seek joint and appropriate solutions to the problems raised by the present systems of trade, education, movement of goods and establishment of persons in the member States.

Article 3

The Governments of the member States undertake, in the absence of a common monetary zone or a free convertibility zone for their currency, to facilitate inter-State payments in order to develop trade among the member States.

Article 4

The Governments of the member States of OERS undertake to harmonize and bring more closely together their educational systems, with a view to standardizing the academic disciplines, the curricula, and the levels of recruitment and to establishing an equivalence between the diplomas awarded by the establishments of the member States of the regional sub-group.

Article 5

The Governments of the member States of the regional sub-group undertake to conclude a multinational convention on establishment.

CHAPTER II

ORGANS OF THE OERS

Article 6

The institutions of the OERS shall be:

- the Conference of Heads of State and Government;
- the Council of Ministers;
- the Inter-Parliamentary Commission.

The organs of the OERS under the jurisdiction of the Council of Ministers shall be:

- the Executive Secretariat of the OERS;
- the General Secretariat for the Development of the Senegal River Basin;
- the General Secretariat for Planning and Development;
- the General Secretariat for Educational, Cultural and Social Affairs;

and any other organs whose establishment may be deemed necessary to attain the purposes of the OERS.

Section I

THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Article 7

The Conference of Heads of State and Government shall be the supreme authority of the Organization of the Senegal Riparian States.

Article 8

The Conference shall define the co-operation and development policy of the OERS. It shall take decisions concerning the general economic policy of the OERS and any other decision within its purview.

It shall consider and approve the recommendations of the Council of Ministers in accordance with the provisions of its rules of procedure.

Article 9

The Conference shall meet in regular session once a year, and in extraordinary session as required. It shall be convened by the current President of the OERS.

Article 10

Each member State shall have one vote.

Article 11

The Conference shall take its decisions by the unanimous vote of its members.