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

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

Have agreed to the present Charter.

Purposes.

Article II

1. The Organisation shall have the following purposes:

a. to promote the unity and solidarity of the African States,

b. to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity and independence;

d. to eradicate all forms of colonialism in Africa; and

e. to promote international cooperation

Principles

Article III

The Member States solemnly affirm:

1. the sovereign equality of all Member states;

2. non-interference in internal affairs of states;

3. respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each Member state and for its inalienable right to independent existence;

4. peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation and arbitration;

5. affirmation of the policy of non-alignment with regard to all blocs.

Institutions

Article VII

The Organisation shall following principal institutions.
1. The Assembly of the 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 the Heads of State and Government.

Articles VIII - XI

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government shall be the supreme organ of the Organisation, it shall meet at least once a year, all resolutions (other than procedural) shall be determined by a two-thirds majority.

The Council of Ministers.

Articles XII - XV

The Council of Ministers shall consist of Foreign Ministers or such other Ministers as are designated by Member States, (it) shall meet twice a year, it shall be entrusted with the responsibility of preparing conferences of the Assembly, and shall coordinate inter-African cooperation.

Commission on Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration.

Article XIX

Member States pledge to settle all disputes among themselves by peaceful means and, to this and decide to establish a Commission of Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration ........

Specialised Commissions

Article XX

The Assembly shall establish .... such specialised Commissions...

1. Economic and Social Commission.
2. ....
3. ....
4. Defence Commission. ....

Amendment of the Charter

Article XXXIII

The Charter may be amended or revised if any Member State makes a written request to the Administrative Secretary-General to that effect........

Source: American Foreign Policy, Current Documents, 1963, Deptt. of State.