

No. 9121

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**MULTILATERAL**

**Charter of the African and Malagasy Common Organization. Signed at Tananarive, on 27 June 1966**

*Official text : French.*

*Registered by Cameroon on 29 May 1968.*

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**MULTILATÉRAL**

**Charte de l'Organisation commune africaine et malgache.  
Signée à Tananarive, le 27 juin 1966**

*Texte officiel français.*

*Enregistrée par le Cameroun le 29 mai 1968.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 9121. CHARTER<sup>1</sup> OF THE AFRICAN AND MALAGASY COMMON ORGANIZATION. SIGNED AT TANANARIVE, ON 27 JUNE 1966

The Heads of African and Malagasy States and Governments, assembled at Tananarive from 25 to 28 June 1966,

DESIRING to provide solid foundations for African unity,

TRUE to the spirit, principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,<sup>2</sup>

CONSIDERING the decision of the Conference of the Heads of African and Malagasy States, held at Nouakchott in February 1965,

CONSIDERING the historical, economic, social and cultural bonds existing between their respective countries,

CONSIDERING the need to harmonize their economic, social and cultural policies for the purpose of maintaining conditions for progress and security,

Have agreed as follows :

*Article 1*

The High Contracting Parties do by this Charter establish an organization to be known as the "African and Malagasy Common Organization" (OCAM). This Organization shall be open to any independent and sovereign African State that requests admission and accepts the provisions of this Charter.

The admission of a new member to the OCAM shall require a unanimous decision of the members of the Organization.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 28 December 1967, upon receipt by the Government of Cameroon of the instruments of ratification or approval from two-thirds of the Signatory States, in accordance with article 23.

The instruments of ratification or approval were deposited by the following States on the dates indicated :

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of Deposit</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Date of Deposit</i>
Central African Republic	27 October 1966	Ivory Coast . . . . .	21 April 1967
Upper Volta . . . . .	19 December 1966	Senegal . . . . .	18 May 1967
Gabon . . . . .	10 January 1967	Chad . . . . .	10 June 1967
Niger . . . . .	11 January 1967	Cameroon . . . . .	28 December 1967
Dahomey . . . . .	24 January 1967	Congo (Republic of) . . .	1 March 1968
Madagascar . . . . .	10 February 1967	Togo . . . . .	7 March 1968

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 479, p. 39.

*Article 2*

The OCAM is based on the solidarity which unites its members.

In the spirit of the Organization of African Unity, its purpose is to strengthen co-operation and solidarity between the African and Malagasy States in order to accelerate their economic, social, technical and cultural development.

*Article 3*

For this purpose, the Organization shall seek to harmonize the action of Member States in the economic, social, technical and cultural fields, to co-ordinate their development programmes, and to facilitate foreign policy consultations between them, with due respect for the sovereignty and fundamental options of each Member State.

## INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANS

*Article 4*

The institutions and organs of the Organization shall be :

- the Conference of Heads of State and Government;
- the Council of Ministers;
- the Administrative General Secretariat.

## I. CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

*Article 5*

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

It shall consist of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States or their duly authorized representatives.

*Article 6*

The Conference shall consider questions of common interest and take its decisions in accordance with the provisions of this Charter and the rules of procedure of the Conference.

*Article 7*

The Conference of Heads of State and Government shall meet once a year in regular session.

The Conference shall meet in special session at the request of a Member State and subject to the formal approval of two thirds of the members of the Organization.

The agenda of a special session shall contain, in principle, only the questions for which the Conference has been convened.

*Article 8*

The Conference shall formulate and adopt its own rules of procedure.

*Article 9*

Each Member State shall have one vote. Any Member State may be represented by another Member State, which shall have the right to vote at the place specified in the proxy. A Member State may be represented by only one other Member State. Two thirds of the Member States of the Organization shall constitute a quorum.

Any decision taken under the conditions of a quorum or required majority shall be binding on all Member States.

II. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

*Article 10*

The Council of Ministers shall consist of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States, or of such other Ministers as may be designated by the Governments of the Member States.

It shall meet once a year in regular session.

The regular session shall be held a few days before the annual regular session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government and in the same place.

*Article 11*

The Council shall meet in special session at the request of a Member State and subject to the formal approval of two thirds of the Members of the Organization.

The agenda of a special session of the Council shall contain only the questions for which the Council has been convened.

*Article 12*

The Council of Ministers shall be responsible to the Conference of Heads of State and Government.

It shall be responsible for preparing for that Conference, shall take cognizance of any matter referred to it by the Conference, and shall ensure that the decisions of the Conference are implemented.

It shall ensure that the Member States co-operate with each other in accordance with the instructions of the Conference of Heads of State and Government, in conformity with this Charter.

*Article 13*

Each Member State shall have one vote.  
Any Member State may be represented by another Member State.  
Two thirds of the Member States shall constitute a quorum.

*Article 14*

The Council shall formulate and adopt its own rules of procedure.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

*Article 15*

The African and Malagasy Common Organization shall have an Administrative General Secretariat, with its headquarters at Yaoundé, Federal Republic of Cameroon.

The Administrative General Secretariat shall be appointed for two years by the Conference of Heads of State and Government on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers. His term of office may be renewed.

*Article 16*

Under the authority of the President of the Conference, the Administrative Secretary-General shall be responsible for the administrative functioning of the various organs of the Organization.

The rules of procedure of the Conference of Heads of State shall specify the conditions in which another person may replace the Administrative Secretary-General if he is incapacitated, or if a vacancy occurs.

*Article 17*

The Administrative General Secretariat shall be divided into departments corresponding to the main fields of activity of the Organization.

It shall supervise the activities of joint enterprises, particularly the multinational airline, Air-Afrique, and the African and Malagasy Postal and Telecommunications Union.

*Article 18*

The Conference may dismiss the Administrative Secretary-General in the same manner as it appoints him, when the proper functioning of the Organization warrants it.

*Article 19*

The conditions governing the employment of the staff of the Administrative General Secretariat shall be defined in a Convention to be concluded between the Member States of the Organization.

## BUDGET

*Article 20*

The budget of the Organization, to be prepared by the Administrative Secretary-General, shall be approved by the Conference of Heads of State and Government on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.

It shall be financed by the contributions of the Member States, to be determined on the basis of the net amount of their respective operational budgets.

However, the contribution of a Member State may not exceed 20 per cent of the annual regular budget of the Organization.

The Member States agree to pay their respective contributions regularly at the specified time.

## SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

*Article 21*

This Charter shall be ratified or approved by the signatory States in accordance with their constitutional procedures.

The original instrument shall be deposited with the Government of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, which shall notify the deposit thereof to all signatory States.

## ENTRY INTO FORCE

*Article 22*

This Charter shall enter into force upon receipt by the Government of the Federal Republic of Cameroon of the instruments of ratification or approval of two thirds of the signatory States.

## REGISTRATION

*Article 23*

After it has been duly ratified or approved, this Charter shall be registered with the United Nations Secretariat by the Government of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

## INTERPRETATION

*Article 24*

Any decision concerning the interpretation of this Charter must be taken by a two-thirds majority of the Member States of the Organization.

## MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

*Article 25*

The Administrative Secretary-General may accept, on behalf of the Organization, any gifts, contributions, or bequests to the Organization, subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers. They shall be taken over by the budget of the Organization.

*Article 26*

A convention between the Member States shall define the privileges and immunities to be granted to the staff of the Administrative General Secretariat.

## CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

*Article 27*

Any State that wishes to withdraw from the Organization shall so inform the Administrative General Secretariat in writing.

The latter shall notify the Member States.

One year after such notification, this Charter shall cease to apply to that State, which will consequently no longer be a member of the Organization.

## AMENDMENT AND REVISION

*Article 28*

This Charter may be amended or revised if a Member State sends a written request to that effect to the Administrative General Secretariat.

The draft amendment or revision shall not be submitted to the Conference until all the Member States have been duly informed and one year has elapsed since the date of submission of the amendment.

The amendment or revision shall not become effective until it has been ratified or approved by two thirds of the Member States of the Organization.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we, the Heads of African and Malagasy States and Governments, have signed this Charter.

DONE at Tananarive on 27 June 1966.

For the Federal Republic of Cameroon :

El Hadj Ahmadou AHIDJO

For the Central African Republic :

Jean Bedel BOKASSA

For the Republic of the Congo :

Alphonse MASSAMBA DEBAT

For the Democratic Republic of the Congo :

Pierre ILEKA

Ambassador, Minister Plenipotentiary

For the Republic of the Ivory Coast :

Félix HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY

For the Republic of Dahomey :

Christophe SOGLO

For the Republic of Gabon :

Léon MBA

For the Republic of the Upper Volta :

Sangoule LAMIZANA

For the Malagasy Republic :

Calvin TSIEBO

Vice-President of the Republic

For the Republic of Niger :

Diori HAMANI



For the Republic of Rwanda :

RUSINGIZANDEKWE

Minister of Public Works, Posts  
and Telecommunications

For the Republic of Senegal :

Léopold-Sédar SENGHOR

For the Republic of Chad :

François TOMBALBAYE

For the Republic of Togo :

Nicolas GRUNITZKY