

Constitution of The Afro - Asian Council

Adopted by the
Executive Committee of the
Council at its Second Meeting
held on August 26, 27, 28, 1961
at New Delhi.

1961

The Afro - Asian Council
30 Ferozshah Road, New Delhi, India.

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The Central Electric Press
80-D, Kamla Nagar, Delhi
Telephone : 22 01 23

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Constitution of The Afro-Asian Council

I. Name

The name of the Council shall be the Afro-Asian Council, hereinafter described as the Council.

II. The Council shall be a non-governmental organization, and shall work independently of the policies of any government or group of governments, including power blocs.

III. Headquarters

The Headquarters and the Bureau of the Council shall be in New Delhi till such time as the Council may otherwise decide.

IV. Aims and Objectives

The Council shall work for :

- (i) the promotion of social, economic, cultural, and political co-operation among the countries forming the Council ;
- (ii) the eradication of colonialism, in whatever form it might exist and for the self-determination of all people under colonial or foreign domination ;
- (iii) upholding and promoting the Fundamental Human Rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and for the eradication of discrimination based on race, colour, vocation, belief, religion or sex ;
- (iv) such things in furtherance of the above objectives as may be considered desirable including :
 - (a) receiving subscriptions, donations, grants, gifts, devises, bequests and trusts and raising loans from members or other individuals or organisations ;

- (b) acquiring, constructing, maintaining or transferring of properties or otherwise dealing with the same for the purposes of the Council ;
- (c) holding seminars, conferences, conventions or public meetings ;
- (d) co-operating with organisations having similar aims and objectives ;
- (e) sending or inviting delegations or observers to and from international organisations or to member and other countries ;
- (f) owning and running of printing presses ;
- (g) publishing bulletins, journals or other literature and selling or otherwise distributing such publications ;
- (h) establishing regional Bureaus ;
- (i) establishing or co-operating with organisations conducting research ;
- (j) employing the staff necessary ;
- (k) granting stipends or scholarships to research and other students from member countries ;
- (l) promoting generally economic, social, cultural and political understanding between the member countries as well as other countries ;
- (m) establishing agencies or offices in any country for the purposes aforesaid ;
- (n) opening and operating of banking account or accounts.

V. Membership

1. (a) The membership of the Council shall be open to the National Organisations in African or Asian countries that apply and are willing to subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Council.

Explanation t

Australia and New Zeland shall be deemed to belong to the Afro-Asian region.

Associate Members

(b) Any National Organisation outside the Afro-Asian region which has been associated with activities which further the aims and objectives of the Council and which is willing to subscribe to its aims and objectives shall on application be eligible to be an Associate Member.

(c) In case of more than one National Organisation applying for membership or associate membership, the Executive Committee shall decide which organisation should be admitted to membership.

Explanation :

For the purpose of membership an organisation in any country though not independent would be eligible to become a Member.

(d) The National Organisations in the following countries shall be the founder members.

Burma, Ceylon, Eastern Turkistan, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaya, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), South Vietnam, Tibet, Thailand, Turkey and U.A.R.

Subscription

2. (a) Each Member and Associate Member shall have to pay respectively the sum of \$100 (U. S.) and \$200 (U. S.) or its equivalent as an annual subscription subject to any alteration in the amount decided upon from time to time by the Council or the Executive Committee. The subscription shall be payable from May 1 to April 31.

(b) The Council, if it thinks fit, may decide to impose an additional levy upon the Members.

3. A Member or an Associate Member shall cease to be such on :

- (a) resignation ;
- (b) failure to pay its subscriptions one year after the end of the year for which it is due, unless the period of such payment is extended by the Bureau ;
- (c) expulsion.

4. Any Member or Associate Member who is in arrears of subscription shall not be entitled to exercise its vote at the meetings of the Council, the Executive Committee or the Bureau, unless the time for payment has been extended by the Bureau.

VI. The Council by a 3/4th votes may expel any Member or Associate Member if in the opinion of the Council its activities are detrimental to the aims and objectives of the Council.

Note 1—No Member or Associate Member shall be expelled unless it has been afforded an opportunity to be heard by the Council in such manner as the Council may decide.

VII. Meetings of the Council

(a) The Council shall meet as far as possible once in every two years in a Convention.

(b) The Convention shall consider such matters as may be appropriate.

(c) The Executive Committee may also convene a Special Session of Council if it considers it necessary.

(d) Each Member shall be represented at such Convention by a delegation of not more than seven of its members.

(e) Each delegation shall have one vote excepting that the delegations of Associate Members shall not be entitled to vote.

(f) The Convention shall elect its own Chairman and such other office-bearers as may be necessary.

(g) The Chairman shall be the President of the Executive Committee till a new Chairman has been elected.

(h) Associate Members may send delegations to the Convention. Representatives of Associate Members may participate in the proceedings only if so permitted by the President.

(i) Decisions of the Council may also be taken a Circular Vote.

(j) The decisions of the Council shall be taken by a majority of those voting, excepting where otherwise provided in this Constitution.

VIII. Executive Committee

(a) The Executive Committee shall be composed of two representatives of each Member nominated from time to time by the Member.

(b) The first Executive Committee shall be the following:—

President : Jayaprakash Narayan.

Burma	U Law Yone.
Ceylon	Rev. Malewana G. Thero, Edward D. Cosme.
Eastern Turkistan	Isa Yusuf Alptekin, Mehmet Emin Bugra.
Hongkong	Chang Kuo-Sin, Lee Chiu-Sheng.
India	Asoka Mehta, M.P., M. R. Masani, M.P.
Indonesia	Imron Rosjadi, Mohammad Roem,
Japan	Masao Makiuchi, Yoji Hirota.
Jordan	Anwar Z. Nusseibeh.
Lebanon	Alfred Naccache, Beshara Ghorayeb.
Malaya	T. H. Tan, M.P., R. Sathiah.
Nepal	Damodar Prasad Ghimire, D.P. Kumai.
Pakistan	Mohd. Samin Khan, Mohd. Ali Kasuri.
Philippines	Amelito R. Mutuc, Jeremias U. Montemayor.
Republic of Congo	Patrice Lhoni.
South Vietnam	Co-Van-Hai, M.P., Nguyen-Thieu, M.P.
Thailand	Manoj Vudha.
Tibet	N. Taring, Mrs. Taring.
Turkey	Bulent Yazici, Emin Yumer.
U.A.R.	Abdel Raouf Ali.

Honorary Secretary General : Leela P. Trikamdas.

(c) Except when the Council is in session, the Executive Committee shall exercise all the powers of the Council.

(d) The Chairman of the preceding Convention shall be the President of the Executive Committee.

(e) The President may nominate any person to be the Executive Chairman of the Bureau and also three members of the Bureau.

(f) The Executive Committee shall elect a Vice-Chairman or Chairmen as it may decide from time to time, a Treasurer, a Secretary General and Zonal Representatives, who shall hold office for a period of two years. The office-bearers shall continue to function till new office-bearers are elected.

(g) The Executive shall meet as far as possible annually or more often if considered necessary.

(h) The meeting of the Executive Committee shall be convened by the President or in his absence or inability to act by the Executive Chairman of the Bureau or the Secretary General.

(i) The audited accounts, budget and the Secretary's Report shall be submitted to the meeting of the Executive Committee.

(j) The decisions of the Executive Committee shall be by majority of those present and voting—each Member organisation having one vote.

(k) When the Executive Committee is not in session, decisions may be taken by circular resolutions. The decisions on a circular resolution shall be by a majority of those voting, each member organisation having one vote.

(l) In the case of urgency, decisions may be taken by the Bureau subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee.

(m) Applications for Membership or Associate Membership shall be considered by the Executive Committee whose decision in the matter shall be final.

(n) The Executive Committee shall be entitled to delegate such of its powers and functions as it considers necessary to the Bureau.

IX. Bureau

(a) The Bureau shall consist of

(i) The President and the Executive Chairman ;

(ii) The Treasurer ;

(iii) The Secretary General ;

(iv) Not more than 3 members coopted by the President. The Treasurer and the Secretary General shall be elected/nominated by the Executive Committee.

(b) The Bureau shall be responsible for carrying out the policies and programmes laid down from time to time by the Convention, the Council, or the Executive Committee.

(c) The Bureau shall also be responsible for doing such other things as may be necessary for the furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Council.

X. Secretary General

(a) The Secretary General shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the Council, the Executive Committee and the Bureau and for the general supervision of the work of the Bureau including supervision of the Zonal or other offices and of the staff.

(b) The Secretary General shall have the power to suspend any member of the staff subject to the final decision by the Bureau.

(c) The Secretary General shall also have the power to dismiss any member of the staff for reasons considered adequate by the Secretary General. Such dismissals, along with its reasons, shall be reported to the Bureau. A member of the staff aggrieved by such dismissal shall have the right to appeal to the Bureau whose decision in the matter shall be final. A member of the staff desiring to prefer an appeal shall be furnished with the ground for such dismissal excepting such grounds which in the opinion of the Secretary General would be against the interest of the Council to disclose.

(d) The Secretary General shall prepare the annual or other reports from time to time for presentation to the Bureau, the Executive Committee or the Council, as also the Budget.

XI. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and making payments, for maintaining the accounts and preparing the balance sheets and having the accounts audited.

XII. Amendment of the Constitution

The Constitution may be amended by the vote of two-thirds of the Members, either at a meeting of the Council or by circular resolution.

XIII. Dissolution

The Council may be dissolved on a decision of not less than $\frac{3}{5}$ th of the Members of the Council. At the time when such dissolution is decided upon, the Council shall take all necessary steps for the disposal and settlement of the property of the Council after providing for the discharge of its liabilities.

The property of the Council may be distributed among its Members or shall be utilised by handing over all or any portion of the property to some other International Organisation or Organisations with objectives similar to those of the Council.

In case there is no agreement of $\frac{3}{5}$ th of the Members regarding the disposal of the property, the question shall be referred for final decision to the President and four other persons nominated by the Council.

XIV. Rules and bye-laws

The Executive Committee or the Bureau, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, may make rules and bye-laws not inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Constitution.