



CHARTER FOR THE UNION OF AFRICAN STATES

And

**A joint communique issued later
after a summit conference between
the leaders of the Union**

3d.

Accra IX / 164
Bank of Ghana
J. S. B. M.

CHARTER FOR THE UNION OF AFRICAN STATES

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALI**

**MEETING IN ACCRA ON THE 27TH, 28TH AND 29TH
APRIL, 1961**

HAVING REGARD TO:

- (a) The Joint Communique issued in Accra on the 23rd of November, 1958, which brought into being the Ghana-Guinea Union.
- (b) The Joint Communique issued in Conakry on the 1st of May, 1959, laying down the practical basis for the achievement of such a Union, and setting out the basic principles for a wider African Community owing no allegiance to any foreign power.
- (c) The Joint Communique of the Heads of State of the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of Mali, issued in Bamako in November, 1960, regarding the achievement of African Unity.
- (d) The Joint Communique by the Heads of State of the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Mali issued at Siguiri on the 5th of December, 1960, recommending a Union of the two States, and deciding that the friendly relations and the ties of co-operation binding them to the Republic of Ghana should be intensified.
- (e) The Joint Communique that emerged from a meeting between Presidents Kwame Nkrumah, Sekou Toure and Modibo Keita, at Conakry on the 24th December, 1960, re-affirming their joint determination to create a Union between Guinea, Mali and Ghana, giving a mandate to a Special Committee to formulate concrete proposals for implementing such a Union;

HAVING REGARD TO

The conclusions reached by this Special Committee meeting in Accra from the 13th to the 18th January, 1960, and subject to approval by their respective Parliaments DECIDE that:—

Section 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1.—There shall be established between the Republics of Ghana, Guinea and Mali a Union to be known as “THE UNION OF AFRICAN STATES (UAS)”.

Article 2.—THE UNION OF AFRICAN STATES (UAS) shall be regarded as the nucleus of the United States of Africa. It is open to every State or Federation of African States which accepts its aims and objectives. It re-affirms the complete adherence of its members to the African Charter and the Casablanca Resolutions.

Article 3.—The aims of the UNION OF AFRICAN STATES (UAS) are as follows:

to strengthen and develop ties of friendship and fraternal co-operation between the Member States politically, diplomatically, economically and culturally;

to pool their resources in order to consolidate their independence and safeguard their territorial integrity;

to work jointly to achieve the complete liquidation of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism in Africa and the building up of African Unity;

to harmonise the domestic and foreign policy of its Members, so that their activities may prove more effective and contribute more worthily to safeguarding the peace of the world.

Article 4.—The Union's activities shall be exercised mainly in the following fields:

- (a) Domestic Policy.—The working out of a common orientation of the States.
- (b) Foreign Policy.—the strict observance of a concerted diplomacy, calculated to achieve closer co-operation.
- (c) Defence.—The organisation of a system of Joint Defence, which will make it possible to mobilise

all the means of defence at the disposal of the State, in favour of any State of the Union which may become a victim of aggression.

(d) Economy.—Defining a common set of directives relating to Economic Planning, aiming at the complete decolonisation of the set-ups inherited from the colonial system, and organising the development of the wealth of their countries in the interest of their peoples.

(e) Culture.—The rehabilitation and development of African culture, and frequent and diversified cultural exchange.

Section 2

POLITICAL

Article 5.—The Supreme Executive Organ of the UNION OF AFRICAN STATES shall be the CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE UNION.

1. The Union Conference.—This shall meet once a quarter in Accra, Bamako and Conakry respectively. It shall be presided over by the Head of State in the host country, who shall fix the date of the Conference.

The Draft Agenda shall be drawn up by him, on the basis of items forwarded by Heads of State.

The Union Conference shall pass resolutions, which shall become effective immediately.

2. Preparatory Committee.—The Union Conference shall always be preceded by a meeting of a Committee entrusted with the task of preparing the ground for it. This Preparatory Committee may be convened at any time by the Head of State of the host country. He shall determine the number of delegates per State having regard to the items on the Draft Agenda.

The Preparatory Committee shall make recommendations for the consideration of the Union Conference.

3. Co-ordinating Committees of the Mass Organisations of the Union.—There shall be established among political organisations, Trade Union Organisations, Women's Movements and Youth Movements

of the Union States, a Co-ordinating Committee for organisational purposes, to impart to the said bodies a common ideological orientation, which is absolutely necessary for the development of the Union.

These Committees shall be established within three months after the publication of the present Document.

Each of the Co-ordinating Committees here envisaged, at its first Constituent Meeting shall draw up standing rules and shall determine the practical methods to be employed for the attainment of the objectives jointly agreed upon.

4. National Days.—Before any Union Day is decided upon, the National Days of the Union States shall be marked by celebrations in all the States, in the form of ceremonies and public meetings.

Such occasions may be declared Public Holidays in whole or in part, according to the needs of the countries concerned.

Section 3

DIPLOMACY

Article 6.—The principle of harmonising of the foreign policy of the Union States shall be based upon a concerted diplomacy.

To achieve such harmonisation, the following steps should be taken:

- (a) at each Union Conference an analysis shall be made by the Heads of State, of the international political situation, and the Union shall decide upon directives to be sent to all the diplomatic Missions of the Member States.
- (b) Ambassadors, Chargés d'Affaires, Consuls and other Heads of Missions of the three States, serving abroad shall co-ordinate their activities by way of frequent consultation.
- (c) Every latitude shall be given to each State to be represented by the Embassy of another Member State of the Union. Where there is no representation of any of the three States of the Union, the Member

State desirous of entrusting its affairs to the Diplomatic Mission of another State which is not a member of the Union, shall consult the Union Conference before proceeding.

- (d) At international gatherings, Conferences or Meetings, the delegations of the Union States must as in duty bound consult one another, and arrive at a common stand which no one shall be allowed to ignore, and all are expected to support.

Section 4

JOINT DEFENCE

Article 7.—In order to safeguard their sovereignty, the Member States shall oppose any installation of foreign military bases on their soil.

They shall jointly ensure the defence of their territorial integrity. Any aggression against one of the States shall be considered as an act of aggression against other States of the Union.

A common system of defence shall be organised in order to make it possible to secure the permanent defence of the Union States.

Section 5

ECONOMY

Economic Committee of the Union

Article 8.—The Economic Committee of the Union shall have the task of co-ordinating and harmonising the Economic and Financial Policy of the Union States in accordance with directives jointly agreed upon.

Article 9.—The Economic Committee shall consist of a delegation of five members per State chosen from among the officials responsible for economy and finance in each State.

Article 10.—It shall hold two sessions every year, in the months of March and September. Each State shall serve as the Headquarters of the Economic Committee of the Union for one year, and shall preside over its meetings during that year.

The Economic Committee of the Union shall draw up its standing rules at its first session. The Sessions of the Economic Committee of the Union may not exceed a fortnight.

During its sessions it shall make recommendations to be submitted to the Heads of State.

Section 6

CULTURE

Article 11.—The Union States shall relentlessly pursue the rehabilitation of African Culture and the development of African civilisation.

Teaching in two languages, exchanges of staff, rediffusion programmes, the establishment of joint Research Institutes shall be intensified in the Union States.

Section 7

MISCELLANEOUS

Article 12.—The Institutions shall become effective from the date when this Charter is proclaimed simultaneously in the Union States.

Article 13.—Modifications may be made to the present provisions at a meeting of Heads of State, in the event of the admission of a new State or at the request of a Head of State, with the view to giving greater cohesion to the Union.

Modifications shall be passed unanimously by the Conference of Heads of State.

Article 14.—Every African State whose Government accepts the aims and objectives of this Charter, shall be eligible for consideration for membership of the Union of African States, from the date following a clear statement by the Head of the State. This statement shall be transmitted to the Heads of Member States of the Union.

MODIBO KEITA

*President of the Republic
of Mali*

SEKOU TOURE

*President of the Republic
of Guinea*

KWAME NKRUMAH.

*President of the Republic
of Ghana*

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF THE UNION OF AFRICAN STATES

THE second summit conference of the Union of African States (Ghana, Guinea, Mali) was held at Bamako on the 26th June, 1961.

The three heads of state of Ghana, Guinea, and Mali, in an atmosphere of fraternal co-operation, examined the extent to which the decisions taken at their meeting in Accra in April, 1961, were implemented. They considered new measures to be taken, in order fully to attain the objectives set out in the Charter of the union of African states. The three heads of state also exchanged views on a number of problems, including the political situation in Algeria, the Congo, Angola, the forthcoming conference of heads of state of the non-aligned countries, assistance to the various national liberation movements in Africa, and the attitude of the union towards the European Common Market. They reaffirmed their belief in the justice of their mission, whose aim is to achieve a union, which will hasten the process of complete decolonisation in Africa. They believe that it is necessary to do everything in their power to strengthen the union, and to this end have agreed as follows:—

1. To hold a meeting on the 12th August, 1961, at Labe in the Republic of Guinea, of the co-ordination committees of the political parties of the three states, which will draw up a schedule of meetings for mass organisations, namely, youth movements, trade unions and women's organisations.
2. To give firm instructions to the Ministers of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications, for the immediate implementation of the recommendations made in the course of their meeting in Conakry on the 5th May, 1961.

The three heads of state reaffirmed their determination to continue to support the African peoples in their struggle for national liberation, in particular Algeria, the Congo and Angola. Consequently, they agreed to co-ordinate action in order to give effective help to all national liberation movements in Africa. The three heads of state decided to take part in the forthcoming conference of Heads of States of non-aligned countries, due to take place in Yugoslavia on the 1st September,

1961. They are of opinion that this conference will not really achieve its objectives, unless those taking part are heads of state of countries that are in actual fact really non-aligned. Consequently, they have invited the preparatory committee to adhere strictly to the criteria for participation in the Conference, as laid down by the preliminary conference of Foreign Ministers held in Cairo on the 5th June, 1961.

On the problem of the European Common Market, the three heads of state reaffirmed their attitude in regard to that institution, and decided to continue to take joint action in order to establish a real African Common Market.

The three heads of state recorded with satisfaction their identity of view on all problems examined, and expressed their appreciation on the atmosphere of perfect understanding which prevailed throughout the conference.

Given at Bamako this 26th day of June, 1961.

PUBLISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING DEPARTMENT, ACCRA, GHANA

1543
AB-01-C5