



UEPA Union pour l'Etude de la Population Africaine
UAPS Union for African Population Studies
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APPROVED AMENDMENTS

TO THE

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

**UNION FOR AFRICAN POPULATION STUDIES
(UAPS)**

(Modifications indicated in bold italics)

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF
12TH DECEMBER 2003**

TUNIS, TUNISIA

PREAMBLE

Article 1(modified)

Purpose and Composition

1. *There is constituted an association of researchers and of specialists in African population issues with the following appellation: Union for African Population Studies (in abbreviation: UAPS) hereinafter referred to as the union.*
2. *It shall be a non-profit organisation, non-political and secular, consisting of individual and institutional members having as its aim the furtherance of the scientific study of population in Africa.*

Article 2 (modified)

Objectives:

The Union shall:

1. *develop and promote scientific capacities for undertaking research and studies dealing with population issues in Africa and disseminate the results;*
2. foster collaboration among persons engaged in the study of population issues in all African countries.
3. stimulate interest in population matters among governments, national and international organizations, scientific bodies and the general public in African countries.
4. shall organize *research activities and scientific meetings*, conferences and publish scientific information dealing with population matters.

Article 3

Headquarters

The Union's headquarters is located in Dakar, Senegal P.O. Box 21 007 Dakar-Ponty. The Union's headquarters may be transferred by the majority decision of the general assembly or by postal ballot of all registered members to another city in an African country.

Article 4

Membership

The Union shall be composed of ordinary, associate, honorary and institutional members whose applications shall be accepted according to the rules laid down in article 17.

Ordinary members

Ordinary members elected in the manner laid down in article 17 below shall be persons who have made contributions to the scientific study of population by their researches, writing, teaching or otherwise.

Associate members

The Council may grant associate membership to graduate students and other non-professionals who have contributed to the promotion of African population issues.

Institutional members

The Union may grant institutional membership to national and international organizations involved in population related work in Africa. The Council of the Union shall submit the application of such bodies to the General Assembly of the Union for approval.

Honorary members

The General Assembly may grant honorary membership to eminent individuals who have significantly contributed to the improvement of the well being of the people of Africa.

Article 5 (new article)

Organs of the Union

1. *The elected organs of the Union are:*
 - *The General Assembly*
 - *The Council*
2. *The Union operates a Secretariat which is located at its headquarters.*

Article 6 (old article 5)

General Assembly

1. *The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Union. It comprises the members as defined in Article 4.*

2. A meeting of registered members of the union shall be convened every four years in the manner laid down in Article 8. Members of the Union attending such a meeting shall constitute a General Assembly. Should circumstances make it impossible to convene a General Assembly within four years of the previous assembly, proposals which would otherwise have been submitted to the General Assembly will be submitted for a postal ballot. A General Assembly shall be convened as soon as may be practicable thereafter.

Article 7 (new article)

Powers and obligations of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall:

1. *determine the overall direction and the general policies of the Union;*
2. *adopt the constitution and the internal regulations as well as their amendments;*
3. *approve the administrative and financial reports of the outgoing Council;*
4. *determine the rates of membership and annual dues on the advice of the Council;*
5. *elect the members of the Council in the manner laid down in Article 18;*
6. *confer the title of member upon institutions;*
7. *approve the conferment of UAPS' honorary awards;*
8. *establish an ad hoc committee to deal with other specific issues of Council*

Article 8 (old article 11)

Meetings of the General Assembly

1. Meetings of the General Assembly shall be convened on the authority of the Council at intervals laid down in Article 6
2. The Secretary General shall give notice in writing to each member of the Union at his/her registered address of the date and place of the General Assembly not less than four calendar months before the beginning date.
3. The accidental omission of notification under shall not invalidate the actions of the General Assembly.

Article 9 (new article)

Council

1. The Council of the Union shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary General, a Treasurer and Editor in-Chief of the Union's journal and five other elected members each *representing Northern, Western, Central, Eastern and Southern Africa*.
2. Members who have held office as President may be elected Honorary President of the Union and remain such whilst they remain members of the Union. Honorary Presidents shall be members of Council in a consultative capacity.
3. The Bureau of the Council shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer and Editor in Chief of the Union's journal.
4. *The President and the Vice-President shall not be of the same linguistic community and sub-region, to ensure regional representation.*
5. *The Regional Representatives shall ensure the communication and co-ordination of the activities of the Union within their respective geographic jurisdiction.*

Article 10 (old article 8)

Duties and obligations of the Council

1. *The Council is the supervisory organ of the Union. It shall supervise the activities of the Secretariat, subject to the directives of the General Assembly. It shall approve and adopt a Manual of Financial and Administrative Procedures under which the Secretariat will operate.*
2. *The Council shall mobilise resources for the activities of the Union.*
3. *The Council shall develop annual programmes of activities and their provisional budgets which will be implemented by the Executive Secretary;*
4. *the policies defined by the General Assembly. As such, it approves the activity reports and accounts submitted as determined by Council; approves and adopts The Council shall confer the title of member.*
5. *The Council shall prepare the agenda for the meeting of the General Assembly.*
6. *The Council shall hold its ordinary meeting at least once annually, which will be convened by its President, at his/her initiative or at the request of two thirds of the Council members.*

7. *The Council shall appoint auditors annually who shall examine the books, vouchers and accounts of the Union. Their report shall be submitted to the General Assembly.*
8. *The Council shall appoint and dismiss all staff at the Secretariat according to the labour laws of the host country.*

Article 11 (old article 8)

Powers and obligations of the Council

1. The President may in case of urgency act on behalf of the Council, but shall report his/her actions to the Council immediately. Should the President be prevented by reason of disability or otherwise from acting, his/her power shall devolve on the Vice-President during such period of disability
2. The Secretary General shall keep minutes of the General Assembly and of the Council. He/she shall assist the President in carrying out the decisions of the Council and the General Assembly. He/she shall prepare reports on the activities of the Union.
3. The Treasurer shall supervise the accounts and the finances of the Union. He/she shall prepare financial reports to the General Assembly on the finance of the Union since the last General Assembly.
4. The President, the Secretary General and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the administrative committees appointed by the council or the General Assembly except the Committee on Nominations

Article 12 (old article 14)

Committees of the Union

1. *The Council shall appoint committees to deal with internal matters concerning the Union or its external relations.*
2. *The Council shall also appoint committees to study specific problems in the field of population studies.*
3. *All Union committees shall take office immediately upon appointment.*
4. *The Chairman of each committee shall make a technical and financial report on the Committee's work to the Council.*
5. *The Council shall extend the mandate of a committee or revise its terms of reference after receiving the committee's report.*

Article 13 (old article 15)

Meetings and Conferences of the Union

1. The Council shall arrange scientific meetings on specific subjects dealing with African population issues.
2. Meetings organized by the Union shall be open to all members of the Union. Other persons may be invited or upon their request, permitted to participate on conditions laid down by the Council
3. The Council shall appoint an Organising Committee for each conference or seminar and delegate powers to this committee. *The committee must report to Council.*
4. The Council may make rules governing the preparation and presentation of communications to conferences by members. Such rules shall regulate the selection papers for each conference.
5. The Council shall circulate submitted contributions selected for each conference to all persons attending the conference. It shall not be under any obligation to publish submitted papers.

Article 14 (new article)

The Secretariat

1. *The Secretariat shall be the implementing organ of the Union under the general guidance and supervision of the Council*
2. *The Secretariat shall be managed by an Executive Secretary*
3. *The Executive Secretary shall attend meetings of the Council and its bureau with no voting right.*

Article 15 (old article 7)

Period of Office

1. The council shall be elected by registered members in the manner described in Article 18
2. The President shall serve for a period of four years and shall not be re-eligible for any office
3. The Vice-president shall be elected to serve for a period of four years and shall succeed to the office of President when the latter's term of office expires.
4. *All other members of the Council shall be elected to office for a period of four years and shall be eligible for re-election only once.*

5. Casual vacancies through death, resignation or otherwise shall be filled in the following manner:
 - i. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the Vice-President. Provided that he/she does not serve more than half the former President's term, he/she shall be allowed to serve a further term;
 - ii. A vacancy in the office of the Vice-President shall not be filled until the election of officers during the next General Assembly;
 - iii. Vacancies in both offices of President and Vice-President shall be filled by the members of Council until the election of officers during the next General Assembly;
 - iv. A vacancy in the office of Secretary General and Treasurer shall be filled by an appointment of a member of the Union by the Council until the next election of officers;
 - v. A vacancy of the Editor-in-Chief shall be filled by appointment of one of the Associate editors;
 - vi. A casual vacancy on the Council may be filled by co-option. A co-opted member shall serve until the next following election of Council members and shall be eligible for election as Council member.

Article 16 (old article 9)

Voting rights

1. All members of the Union shall have equal voting rights.
2. Votes at a General Assembly may, in the first instance, be taken by a show of hands. Any five members may demand after the results have been announced that a ballot be taken.
3. The Council may use postal ballots to obtain the Union's decision on specific issues.
4. When postal ballots are used, the Council will be required to mail ballots six weeks before the final date of return of ballots. The results of such ballots shall be communicated by mail to all Union members.

Article 17 (old article 10)

Election and suspension of members

1. Election of new members shall take place in each calendar year, unless the Council shall otherwise determine.
2. A candidate for election to membership of the Union shall be proposed and seconded by two members of the Union. The proposed shall submit a statement of 100-200 words length, giving reasons for supporting the candidate.
3. All nominations for membership shall be presented to the Council, which shall either approve or reject them. Candidates whose nominations are approved by the Council become members as from January 1 of the year for election. Candidates whose nominations are rejected shall be notified and the reasons for rejection given.

4. All candidates admitted to membership of the Union shall become registered members upon payment of annual membership dues.
5. The Council may for good and serious reasons and by a two-thirds majority suspend a member from the privileges of membership. Such suspension shall become effective immediately but shall be reported to the next General Assembly. The suspended member shall have the right to address the General Assembly either in person or by correspondence. The General Assembly shall uphold or reverse the action of Council and its decision shall be final.

Article 18 (old article 12)

Election of the Council

1. The following procedure shall govern the frequency of election:
 - (a) Election of the Council shall take place during the General Assembly of the Union
 - (b) If no General Assembly takes place within four years and Council anticipates further delay in convening a General Assembly, elections shall be conducted by postal or electronic ballot under the same conditions laid down in Article 16, section 4.
2. At such General Assembly there shall be elected a Nominations Committee consisting of five members of the Union all belonging to different *sub-regions*. The Committee shall choose its own chairman and the Secretary General shall act as its Secretary. Individual union members shall make recommendations on nominations, in writing to the Committee.
3. Alternative nominations may be submitted to the General Assembly by any five members of the Union six hours before the Assembly meets.
9. If ballot is by post the Chairman of the Nomination Committee shall consult the members of this Committee.
10. Persons receiving the largest number of voting rights shall be declared elected. In the case of an equality of votes the *Chairman of the Nominations Committee* shall have a casting vote in addition to his/her own vote.

Article 19 (old article 13 modified)

Finance

1. *The resources of the Union are derived from the:*
 - a) *Membership and annual dues paid by the members*
 - b) *subsidies, gifts, awards and bequests*
 - c) *proceeds generated from the sale of publications*
 - d) *conference registration fees*
2. Members of the Union shall pay annual dues except if they are excused by a resolution of the General Assembly.
3. *At each Council meeting, the latest statement of accounts, shall be examined and approved.*

4. *The most recent audit report shall be discussed by Council at its annual meetings.*
5. *The financial year of the Union corresponds to the civil year*
6. *The Council shall be responsible to the General Assembly for the finances of the Union.*
7. The Council shall be empowered, if necessary, to charge a registration fee to members attending a conference organized by the Union. The Union may accept donations, gifts or subsidies negotiated by the Council.
8. *As a non-profit organisation, no UAPS funds can be used to the benefit of any founder, council member, official, member or other person associated with the organisation subject however to the proviso that this would not preclude the payment to these persons of compensation for services rendered to or in the name of the organisation within the scope of one of its objectives and as stipulated in the Manual of Administrative and Financial Procedures.*
9. *No member of the Council or Secretariat shall benefit personally by using his/her position at UAPS.*

Article 20 (old article 16)

Publications

1. The Union shall publish the proceedings of General Assembly; the statutes and a current list of members.
2. The Union shall publish as a regular publication a Journal on African **Population Studies**.
3. The Union shall also publish or collaborate with other organizations in the publication of matters appropriate to the objectives set out in Article 2. Such publications shall be regarded as special publications.
4. Members of the Union who have paid the appropriate dues shall receive all regular publications of the Union. The Council shall decide conditions under which special publications shall be made available to members.

Article 21 (old article 17)

Amendments

1. Any proposals for amendment of these statutes may be submitted in writing by not less than five members belonging to at least three different countries.
2. Proposals for amendment shall be circulated to members at least 90 days before the date fixed for the General Assembly.
3. The General Assembly shall appoint a committee of five members to examine and modify proposed amendment for submission to the general Assembly.

4. The General Assembly shall vote on the amendment and it shall be approved if at least two thirds of the members present and voting favour the amendment.
5. After approval by the General Assembly the amendment shall be submitted to all members by postal ballot. The Secretary General shall invite members to return ballot forms within a period of six weeks. The amendment shall become operative if a majority of votes have been cast in its favour.

Article 22 (old article 18)

The working languages of the Union shall be English and French.

Article 23 (old article 19)

Dissolution

1. The Union may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly or by a postal ballot for reasons of expediency.
2. In that event, the property, funds and records of the Union shall be assigned to any other continental scientific organization involved in population work in Africa. Such assignment must be made within three months following dissolution of the Union.