

At its first meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, in March 1974, the Executive decided that the next congress will be held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in September 1975.

The Executive discussed and approved twelve research projects to be undertaken during 1974/75. Copies of research projects are available on request from: The General Secretary, University of Dar es Salaam, P.O. Box 35042, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

## Constitution of the African Association of Political Science

### *Article I—Name*

The Association shall be known as the AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (AAPS).

### *Article II—Purposes*

The purposes of the Association shall be:

1. To promote the study and application of political science throughout Africa by:
  - (a) maintaining high professional standards in teaching, research and publication;
  - (b) disseminating research findings; and
  - (c) encouraging cooperation at individual and institutional levels, e.g., by the exchange of teachers and students, and the holding of seminars and conferences.
2. To take appropriate action concerning issues of social and political justice of significance to the Association and its members.
3. To provide assistance to independent African Governments and to individuals and organizations in a manner compatible with the goals of the Association.
4. To promote and protect the professional and other concerns of the Association and its members.

### *Article III—Membership*

1. Membership of the Association shall be both corporate and individual.
2. (a) Corporate membership shall be open to all Departments or Institutions of Political Science and the study of government and public affairs in independent Africa. These would include institutions of Public Administration, Public Law and International Relations.
  - (b) Associate corporate membership shall be open to all Departments or Institutions of Political Science and the study of government and public affairs outside Africa.
3. Individual membership
  - (a) There shall be 3 categories of individual membership:
    - (i) full members, with voting rights;
    - (ii) associate members, without voting rights;
    - (iii) student members, without voting rights.
  - (b) Full membership shall be open to:
    - (i) African political scientists, working inside and outside Africa;

- (ii) Political scientists undertaking teaching and/or research in African Universities or other institutions of higher learning in Africa.
  - (c) Associate or corporate membership shall be open to other scholars and institutions at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
  - (d) Student membership shall be open to undergraduates in political science.
4. Annual membership fees shall be:
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|--|----------|
| Full membership (all Africans, all those working in Africa)  | \$15.00  |
| Associate membership (at the discretion of the Executive Committee, all interested scholars)                             | \$15.00  |
| Student membership (undergraduates only)   | \$ 5.00  |
| Institutional membership (Institutes and Departments of Public Administration, Law, Political Science, Government, etc.) | \$100.00 |
- In the spirit of self-reliance, the Association will rely primarily on funds from membership fees, African Governments, pan-African organizations, the Arab League, the OAU, and other international organizations whose interests are compatible with the objectives of the Association.

#### *Article IV—Affiliation*

The Association shall seek affiliation with the Organization of African Unity and such other organizations recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the general conference.

#### *Article V—Officers*

The officers of the Association shall be:

- (1) A President
- (2) Five regional Vice-Presidents, of whom one shall be Deputy President
- (3) A General Secretary

#### *Article VI—Organs and Institutions*

The Association shall have the following principal organs:

- (1) The General Conference
- (2) The Executive Committee
- (3) The Secretariat

#### *Article VII—The General Conference*

- 1. The General Conference shall be the supreme authority of the Association. It shall:
  - (a) determine the general policies of the Association and lay down directives for the Executive Committee;
  - (b) approve the budget of the Association; and

- (c) elect the members of the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of Article IX of this Constitution.
- 2. The General Conference shall be composed of individual and corporate members, as defined in Article III of this Constitution. It may be open to observers. Each individual full member shall be entitled to one vote. Each corporate institution shall also be entitled to one vote expressed by its authorized delegate present at the meeting. Associate and student members may speak, but shall not have the right to vote. Other persons admitted as observers may speak with the permission of the President, but shall not have the right to vote.
  - 3. (a) The General Conference shall normally meet once every two years at the time and place it shall have chosen during its preceding meeting. In case of emergency, the time and place of the meeting may be changed by the Executive Committee of the Association. The Executive Committee shall give all members at least 4 months notice of the Conference.
  - (b) The General Conference shall be convened in extraordinary session on written request addressed to the General Secretary by a majority of the corporate members of the Association, or following a decision of the Executive Committee taken by a two-thirds majority.
  - 4. All decisions of the General Conference shall be taken by a simple majority of those present and voting with at least two members from each region, except where otherwise provided for in this Constitution.

#### *Article VIII—Election and Duties of Officers*

- 1. All Officers shall be full individual members of the Association resident in Africa.
- 2. *The President*
  - (a) The President of the Association shall be elected by the General Conference by an absolute majority of members present and voting and shall remain in office until the election of a new President by the General Conference at its next ordinary session.
  - (b) The office of President shall rotate among the five regions.
  - (c) The President of the Association shall also be the Chairman of the Executive Committee.
  - (d) If the President should vacate his office for any reason, the Deputy President shall act as President until the next General Conference of the Association.
- 3. *The Deputy President*  
The Deputy President shall be a regional Vice-President elected by the General Conference.

#### 4. *Regional Vice-Presidents*

- (a) The Regional Vice-Presidents shall be elected in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 2 (a) of this Article and shall remain in office for two years.
- (b) Regional Vice-Presidents shall be eligible for re-election and shall also be eligible for election as President.
- (c) Regional Vice-Presidents shall undertake such functions as the President or the Executive Committee of the Association may assign to them.

#### 5. *The General Secretary*

- (a) The General Secretary shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 (a) of this Article.
- (b) The General Secretary shall hold office for two years, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- (c) The General Secretary shall be a member of the Executive Committee, with the right to speak and vote.
- (d) The General Secretary shall carry out the policies and resolutions of the Association and such other duties as may be assigned to the office. He shall be Secretary to the General Conference and the Executive Committee, and shall serve as the Treasurer of the Association.

#### *Article IX—The Executive Committee*

1. The Executive Committee of the Association shall consist of the officers enumerated in Article V of this Constitution and two members elected by the General Conference.
2. The Executive Committee shall have the power of co-option.
3. Any national association may, at its own expense, send an observer to meetings of the Executive Committee. Such observers may be permitted to speak, but shall not vote.
4. The Executive Committee shall give effect to the decisions of the General Conference. It shall :
  - (a) prepare the agenda of the General Conference, the budget and the working programme to be followed until the next ordinary session of the Conference;
  - (b) direct and control the activities of the Secretariat in collaboration with the General Secretary;
  - (c) appoint, in consultation with the General Secretary, members of the Secretariat.
5. The Executive Committee shall be responsible to the General Conference to which it shall report on its activities and policy recommendations.
6. (a) The Executive Committee shall meet in ordinary sessions at least once a year at a date and place to be determined by it.

- (b) It may be convened in extraordinary session by the President, provided two-thirds of the members so request in writing.
- (c) The quorum required for valid meetings shall be five members.
- (d) In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

#### *Article X—The Secretariat*

1. The Secretariat shall be the Permanent Executive Organ of the Association and in that capacity shall fulfil all tasks assigned to it by the Executive Committee.
2. The Secretariat shall operate under the supervision of the Executive Committee and under the direction of the General Secretary. It shall :
  - (a) organize a centre for documentary material on all matters of interest to the Association;
  - (b) process and disseminate the research work of individual and corporate members of the Association;
  - (c) establish machinery for facilitating the interchange of scholars (including students);
  - (d) render to member institutions such individual services as may be deemed appropriate;
  - (e) undertake such other tasks as are compatible with the aims of the Association.
3. The General Secretary shall :
  - (a) in consultation with the Executive Committee appoint the staff of the Secretariat;
  - (b) present every year to the Executive Committee a working programme and a report on the activities of the preceding year;
  - (c) submit every year a detailed draft budget to the Executive Committee and provide it with the duly certified accounts for the preceding year.
4. The Executive Committee shall appoint an external auditor to examine the accounts of the Association, and nothing in this Constitution shall be construed as preventing such an audit.

#### *Article XI—Legal Status*

The Association shall have corporate status, and be sued in its own name.

#### *Article XII—Seal of the Association*

The Association shall have the right to adopt its own Seal.

#### *Article XIII—Amendments and Revisions*

1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds ballot of the members of the Association present and voting with at least two members representing each region, at any regular meeting of the General Conference.

2. (a) Proposals for the amendment or revision of this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the General Secretary by at least 15 full individual members of the Association, of whom not more than 5 shall be from any one country. The Executive Committee shall place such proposals on the agenda of the General Conference.
- (b) Such proposals shall be submitted not less than three months before the opening date of the General Conference at which they are to be considered, and copies shall be sent by the Secretariat to all individual and corporate members well before the Conference.
- (c) In an emergency, the Executive Committee shall admit a proposal to amend the Constitution without prior submission as specified in 2 (b) of this Article, provided that such a proposal is approved by two-thirds of the Executive Committee. For adoption, such a proposal must also be accepted by two-thirds of the General Conference present and voting.

*Article XIV—Languages*

1. Texts of this Constitution in national African languages, English and French approved by the Executive Committee shall be regarded as authentic.
2. The working languages of the Association shall be Arabic, French and English.

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