

AFRICAN UNION

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UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis-Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Téléphone : +251 115 517 700 Fax : +251 115 517844
Site Internet: www.au.int

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DRAFT STATUTE

OF THE

**AFRICAN UNION INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN AFRICA
(AU/CIEFFA)**

We, Member States of the African Union:

RECALLING the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.44 (III) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which agreed to make the International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA) an African institution under the aegis of the African Union;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Assembly, in the aforementioned Decision, welcomed the establishment and operationalization of African Union International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) under the aegis of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as an institution for the promotion of Education of girls and women in Africa;

CONSIDERING that at the 30th session of its General Conference in 1999, UNESCO included the creation of CIEFFA in the global Programme I, Action Plan 2, as part of the special project of "promotion of girl's and women's education in Africa";

ALSO CONSIDERING the agreements between UNESCO and the Government of Burkina Faso on the collaborations regarding the CIEFFA;

REAFFIRMING the Headquarters' Agreement of 05 March 2008 between the Government of Burkina Faso and the African Union on the establishment of the Headquarters of the AU/CIEFFA;

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts made by the Government of Burkina Faso and other partners, including UNESCO, to make the centre operational;

MINDFUL of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (2016-2025) adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council and considering the role of AU/CIEFFA in the implementation of this Strategy;

EMPHASIZING that the mission of AU/CIEFFA is in line with the vision of Agenda 2063, which outlines that the African woman will be fully empowered in all spheres, with equal social, political, and economic rights and opportunities and enabled to fight against all forms of violence and discrimination;

DETERMINED to provide AU/CIEFFA with a statutory and regulatory framework for its organization and functioning under the aegis of the African Union;

HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Definitions

1. In this Statute:

“AU” or “Union” means the African Union established by the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted by the Heads of States and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Lomé, Togo, in July 2000;

“Assembly” means the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the African Union;

“Centre”, “CIEFFA” or “AU/CIEFFA” means the African Union-International Centre for Girls and Women’s Education in Africa;

“Commission” means the African Union Commission;

“Coordinator” means the Coordinator of the Centre appointed under this Statute;

“General Conference”, means UNESCO General Conference;

“Member States” means Member States of the African Union;

“RECs” means Regional Economic Communities;

“Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the AU/CIEFFA;

“Statute” means this Statute of the African Union-International Centre for Girls’ and Women’s Education in Africa;

“STC” means the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology;

“Steering Committee” means the Steering Committee established by this Statute; and

“UNESCO” means the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article 2

Legal Status and Capacity of the Centre

- a) The AU/CIEFFA shall be a Specialized Technical Office of the Union and shall be governed in accordance with the provisions of this Statute.
- b) The AU/CIEFFA shall enjoy, in the territory of the Host Country, legal capacity and full juridical capacity necessary for the fulfilment of its objectives and the exercise of its functions in accordance with this Statute, including capacity to

enter into agreements, acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property and to institute legal proceedings.

Article 3

Headquarters

The Headquarters of the AU/CIEFFA shall be in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, unless otherwise decided by the Assembly.

Article 4

Objectives of the Centre

The AU/CIEFFA aims to provide necessary policies, lines of actions, strategies and guidance to all relevant stakeholders to address gender equality, equity, leadership and advocacy in a learning environment in order to create gender sensitive schools, to increase girls' access and retention in education systems in the African Continent towards sustaining Africa's development in line with the Continental Education Strategy (2016-2025) and shall:

- a) Promote girls' and women's education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels;
- b) Promote gender mainstreaming in education policies and development programmes;
- c) Build the operational capacities of Member States on girls and women's education issues;
- d) Establish networks for information and experience sharing on girls and women's education;
- e) Develop strategies and innovative approaches for advocacy and a fruitful partnership to promote and consolidate girls and women's education;
- f) Promote research on girls and women's Education issues;
- g) Conduct observatory activities on the status of education and training for girls and women in Africa;
- h) Organize training on information and data collection, management and programmatic use; and
- i) Monitor and report on decisions and programmes implementation at national, regional and continental levels.

Article 5

Framework for implementing programs

- a) The Centre shall implement its program as part of the education program of the Commission and UNESCO in collaboration with national, regional and international institutions. The Centre establishes and maintains a network with these institutions to promote the education and training of girls and women in line with AU's Agenda 2063.
- b) As a UNESCO Category II Centre, the Centre maintains specific and particular working relationships with UNESCO to develop a partnership for the implementation of its programs.

Article 6

Governance

The AU/CIEFFA shall be governed by the following bodies:

1. The STC;
2. The Steering Committee; and
3. The Secretariat.

Article 7

The Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee shall be composed of:
 - a) A representative of the Commission;
 - b) Six (6) representatives from Member-States composed of one (1) representative from each AU region and one (1) representative from the host country;
 - c) One (1) representative each from an international organization other than UNESCO and a Civil Society Organization working on issues of girls and women's education as may be nominated by the Chairperson of the Commission ;
 - d) One (1) representative of UNESCO as a permanent member; and
 - e) The Coordinator of the AU/CIEFFA who shall serve as Secretary of the Steering Committee.
2. The mandate of the Steering Committee shall be for a period of two (2) years.
3. The Steering Committee shall carry out the following tasks:

- a) Adopt the Centre's action plan and budget and allocate resources for the functioning of the Centre in accordance with the provisions of this Statute. The budget ceiling must not exceed the total amount of available resources for the fiscal year concerned, including the contributions and subsidies paid to the Centre;
 - b) Facilitate mobilization of the resources required to enable AU/CIEFFA fulfil its tasks under this Statute as appropriate;
 - c) Approve the Centre's work plan and ensure the implementation of its program; and
 - d) Adopt the Centre's annual activities report.
4. The Steering Committee shall meet once a year in ordinary session upon the invitation of the Coordinator of the AU/CIEFFA and may, subject to availability of resources, meet more than once in extraordinary sessions as required.
5. The Steering Committee shall elects from among its members, a President and a Vice-President to facilitate its meetings and activities.

Article 8

The Secretariat

1. The structure of the Secretariat shall be as proposed by the African Union Commission in consultation with the Steering Committee.
2. The Secretariat shall perform the following functions:
 - (a) Prepare the budget and financial reports of AU/CIEFFA;
 - (b) Work closely with Member States and RECs to advocate for girls' and women's education in the continent;
 - (c) Mobilize resources in the framework of the AU policy in this area;
 - (d) Establish strategic partnerships in areas of competence of AU/CIEFFA; and
 - (e) Perform any other functions that are deemed necessary in line with the objectives of AU/CIEFFA.

Article 9

Budget

1. The budget of the AU/CIEFFA shall be within the budget of the Union.
2. In addition to the regular budget of the Union, other sources of funding the AU/CIEFFA may include:

- a. Voluntary contributions from AU Member States and partners;
 - b. Contributions from Development Partners of the Union and the Commission;
 - c. Contributions from the Private Sector;
 - d. National and regional financial institutions and other financing mechanisms;
 - e. Any other source of funding in accordance with AU Rules.
6. The budget calendar of the Center shall be that of the Union.
7. Funds of AU/CIEFFA shall be managed and administered in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of the AU.

Article 10

Privileges and Immunities

The AU/CIEFFA shall enjoy in the territory of the Host Country, the privileges and immunities specified in the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Organization of African Unity adopted in Accra, Ghana on 25 October 1965.

Article 11

Amendments

1. The present Statute may be amended by the Assembly upon the recommendation of the STC.

Article 12

Languages

The working languages of the AU/CIEFFA shall be those of the Union.

Article 13

Entry into force

The present Statute shall enter into force upon its adoption by the Assembly.

Adopted by.....on