



Pan African Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

PACCI/ADM/15/ST

Statute of the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI)

Amended:
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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Statute of the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI)

Preamble

We, the Chambers of Commerce, and Industry across African States:

Dedicate ourselves to creating a conducive environment for the economic and social advancement of Africa, addressing the challenges posed by globalization, embracing the transition toward market economies, and dismantling trade and investment barriers that hinder progress on the African continent.

1. As part of a collaborative endeavor, we aim to leverage the abundant economic opportunities inherent in various countries across the continent. We particularly seek to harness the potential of natural resources in sectors such as agriculture, raw materials, energy, and tourism.
2. Reflecting upon the commitments made in 1983 regarding the establishment of a Federation of African Chambers of Commerce and Industry, we recognize the importance of rallying all chambers and other business associations representing commerce, industry, agriculture, and professions to actively participate in the initiatives and endeavors of this collective entity.
3. Recognize the critical role that chambers of commerce play in driving the private sector's role in catalyzing holistic and sustainable development across Africa. We underscore the significance of specialized organizations in advancing this objective.
4. Affirm the significance of the recommendations outlined in the Lagos Plan of Action and subsequent resolutions adopted by the African Union summit, as well as the guiding principles of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative.
5. Acknowledge the pivotal role of chambers and similar business organizations in fostering social and economic growth based on self-reliance, promoting open trade between African chambers. We reaffirm our commitment to the establishment of the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI), extending membership to all national and regional chambers and other business organizations encompassing commerce, industry, agriculture, and professions. Membership in PACCI is also open to other organizations pursuing similar endeavors.
6. Recognize the potential inherent in our diverse human resources, encompassing nearly one billion individuals with a wide range of experiences and expertise.
7. Encourage international and African initiatives that align with the prerequisites for

development in African markets, providing support to less developed nations.

8. Advocate for stability and peace within African countries, understanding that ongoing conflicts hinder both economic and social progress.
9. Building upon the Alexandria Declaration formulated during the Federations of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture conference held in Alexandria, Egypt, from 6 to 9 December 2004, we resolve to reaffirm our commitment to establishing the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, welcoming the participation of all National and Regional Chambers, as well as other organizations engaged in similar activities, as deemed appropriate by each African nation.

We are resolute in our belief that the most effective means of achieving these objectives is through the establishment of the Pan African Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PACCI).

Article 1

Definitions

In this Statute:

- 1.1 **PACCI:** refers to the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, an assembly comprised of All National Chambers of Commerce and Industry and similar business organizations. The term "National Chamber of Commerce and Industry" is used generically to encompass all legally established chambers of commerce or similar business organizations based in Africa.
- 1.2 **Statute:** pertains to the Statute of PACCI.
- 1.3 **Organs of PACCI:** include the General Assembly, Executive Council, and General Secretariat.
- 1.4 **General Assembly:** signifies the collective body of members within PACCI.
- 1.5 **Executive Council:** signifies the executive body of PACCI, representing the Five regions of Africa as outlined below:
 - a) **Central Region:** (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon)
 - b) **Eastern Region:** (Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda)
 - c) **Northern Region:** (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia)
 - d) **Southern Region:** (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

e) **Western Region:** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo)

- 1.6 **President:** designates the leader of the General Assembly and the Executive Council of PACCI.
- 1.7 **General Secretariat:** signifies the administrative body responsible for managing the affairs of PACCI.
- 1.8 **Committee:** signifies the specialized committees formed by PACCI to address specific functional areas.

Article 2

Establishment

- 2.1 An organization named the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (referred to as "PACCI") is hereby established. PACCI shall conduct its operations in alignment with the principles set forth in this Statute.
- 2.2 The headquarters of PACCI shall be situated in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the flexibility to be relocated to any other African location as determined by the Executive Council and endorsed by the General Assembly.
- 2.3 PACCI reserves the right to establish regional offices as required to effectively fulfill its mission.
- 2.4 PACCI is committed to a non-political stance, focusing solely on its mission and objectives to promote commerce and industry across Africa.

Article 3

Objectives and Functions

- 3.1 The primary objectives and functions of PACCI are designed to expand the influence of the private sector in propelling the economic advancement of African countries and the continent as a whole. Additionally:
 - a. PACCI is committed to elevating and advancing African Chambers of Commerce and Industry and analogous entities that share the goal of fostering trade among African

nations.

- b. Serving as a conduit between its members and regional, as well as non-regional African organizations, PACCI aims to bolster economic, trade, and investment integration across the African continent.
- c. PACCI assumes the role of representing the African private sector at platforms such as the African Union, the United Nations and other regional and international organizations, fostering robust partnerships between governments and civil society organizations.
- d. PACCI strives to assist African governments in overcoming hindrances that obstruct the smooth flow of goods and services, ultimately fostering intra-African trade.
- e. Acting as a connecting link between its members and international chambers of commerce and other business organizations, PACCI facilitates cross-border collaboration and partnership.
- f. PACCI endeavors to invigorate the initiation and expansion of collaborative projects and trade partnerships within Africa, optimizing the utilization of the continent's resources and potential for sustainable economic growth.
- g. PACCI undertakes to safeguard the interests of its members, presenting beneficial measures to relevant authorities for approval.
- h. PACCI aligns with and supports initiatives that contribute to the achievement of its core objectives.

3.2 In alignment with the objectives outlined in the previous section, PACCI, through its various organs, shall:

- a. Actively foster the creation and growth of small and medium enterprises.
- b. Lend support to the development and fortification of African economic entities that contribute to the realization of a unified African market.
- c. Orchestrate and host African trade fairs, facilitating member participation and networking opportunities within these pivotal events.
- d. Collect and disseminate relevant trade, finance, production, and technology information, while fostering the exchange of trade delegations among African nations.
- e. Engage in capacity-building endeavors, particularly targeting business professionals and administrative personnel within African chambers of commerce and industry.
- f. Serve as a platform for the exchange of valuable information and expertise among its

members.

- g. Establish a mechanism for trade arbitration, aimed at resolving trade disputes brought forth by its members.
- h. Coordinate member activities to ensure their interests are well-represented on international platforms.
- i. Extend consultation services to its member chambers and undertakes research relevant to its overarching objectives.
- j. Maintain close ties with the African Union, the United Nations, the Association of African Organizations for Trade Development, as well as chamber federations in other regions globally.
- k. Actively promote technology transfer to Africa, focusing on collaboration between South-South countries.
- l. Facilitate partnerships between the public and private sectors in the realm of intra-African trade, in line with the principles of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
- m. Take proactive measures against discriminatory practices that hinder fair participation in trade and industry.
- n. Undertake studies, research, and promotions pertinent to trade and industry, ensuring their wide dissemination through diverse means.
- o. Arrange congresses, seminars, conferences, and training programs, both for its members and the broader community.
- p. Be committed to executing any necessary action to fulfill its objectives effectively.

By embracing these goals and functions and future actions in alignment with its vision, PACCI endeavors to contribute significantly to the economic growth and sustainable development of Africa.

Article 4

Membership

PACCI membership shall encompass three distinct categories, comprising:

4.1 Full Members: This category includes National Chambers of Commerce, local and regional

associations specialized in trade and industry. These entities are legally constituted to promote the interests of the private sector within a specific country. Each member organization shall formally designate a representative, as outlined in this statute.

- a. To avoid duplicative voting, regional and subregional private sector organizations represented by designated representatives shall not hold voting rights within the General Assembly.

4.2 **Associate Membership:** This designation applies to business firms actively and substantially participating in business, trade and investment operations across Africa.

4.3 **Honorary Membership:** This category recognizes individuals of distinction in public affairs. Eligibility for Honorary Membership extends to Chief Executive Officers of prominent companies operating across Africa and beyond, former presidents of National Chambers, and other individuals endorsed by the Executive Council. Honorary members enjoy all member privileges except voting and board membership rights. Moreover, they are exempt from payment of dues. The conferment or withdrawal of Honorary Membership shall be determined by the Secretariat based on the above listed conditions.

Article 5

Internal Rules

5.1 The Internal Rules include all the procedures concerning the functioning of PACCI and the relations with the members. Prepared by the Secretariat and approved by the Executive Council, they determine the details governing the execution of these Articles of Association.

5.2 **Amendment:** Any amendment to the Internal Rules shall be made by the Executive Council.

5.3 **Minutes:** The minutes of the Assemblies and Executive Council are transcribed and signed by the Executive Director and the President.

Article 6

Organs of PACCI

6.1 General Assembly

6.2 Executive Council

6.3 General Secretariat

Article 7

General Assembly – Composition, Functions, and meetings

- 7.1 The General Assembly, serving as the apex body within PACCI, shall be comprised of representatives designated by all member entities in accordance with the provisions detailed in paragraph 1.1 of Article 4 of the Statute.
- a. The General Assembly shall engage in the election of a President from among its members, for a nonrenewable term of two years. Additionally, the Assembly shall elect four Vice Presidents and an additional five members, each representing the five distinct regional blocs. The tenure of the Executive Council members shall span two years.
 - b. In the election process detailed in subparagraph (a), due consideration shall be accorded to the geographical representation of positions within the Executive Council. This ensures a balanced representation reflective of the General Assembly's choices.
 - c. In instances where the President of the General Assembly is absent during Assembly meetings, one of the Vice-Presidents (by order of hierarchy) shall preside over the session. In the event of all Vice-Presidents being unavailable, the General Assembly shall elect one of its members to officiate.
 - d. The Presidency shall rotate to the succeeding region every two years, following the hierarchy of Vice Presidents. e. The region from which the outgoing President hails shall subsequently be represented by the fifth Vice President.
- 7.2 The General Assembly assumes responsibility for guiding PACCI's executive functions, notably:
- a. The Assembly oversees the election of the Executive Council in accordance with the stipulations within the Statute.
 - b. It exercises authority in the approval and modification of the articles of association.
 - c. The General Assembly ratifies the appointment of an independent certified legal auditor tasked with auditing PACCI's accounts, annual reports, and the auditor's findings.
 - d. It reviews and endorses PACCI's activities, annual budget, accounts, and reports.
 - e. The Assembly has the authority to terminate the terms of the President and Executive Council members due to misconduct, insolvency, or other justifiable grounds. It holds the power of dissolution of the association.

- f. The General Assembly endorses the appointment of the Executive Director of PACCI and takes actions necessary for the efficient operations of PACCI.
- g. It establishes its rules of procedure, encompassing the arrangement of meetings, conduct during these sessions, and stipulations for quorum and voting.
- h. Members are formally invited in writing, a minimum of four weeks prior to the scheduled General Assembly meeting. The invitation must be accompanied by the agenda.
- i. The Annual General Meeting of PACCI shall be convened at dates, times, and locations determined by the Executive Council. At least four weeks' prior notice of the Annual Meeting shall be communicated to all members.
- j. Each national chamber or entity within PACCI shall exercise a single vote in the General Assembly. Members are permitted to exercise proxy voting, with each proxy carrying one vote.
- k. The Executive Director shall participate in General Assembly meetings in an advisory capacity, without voting rights.
- l. The President of PACCI shall act as the official representative of PACCI in interactions with official, legal, and other external entities.
- m. The President shall present comprehensive annual reports detailing PACCI's activities to the General Assembly.

Article 8

Executive Council, Composition, and Functions

The administration of PACCI is overseen by an Executive Council comprised of 11 individuals who must hold full membership status.

- 8.1 The Executive Council, elected by the General Assembly, comprises the following members:
 - a. The President.
 - b. Five Vice Presidents, each selected from distinct geographic regions (excluding the region of the incumbent President).
 - c. Four additional members representing diverse sectors of business and industry across various geographical regions in Africa.
 - d. The Executive Director, as a non-voting member.
- 8.2 The Executive Council, guided by the directives of the General Assembly, assumes key functions and responsibilities, including:

- a. Appointment of the Executive Director of PACCI.
- b. Submission of an activity report to the General Assembly for approval.
- c. Establishment and modification of Internal Rules, encompassing financial, administrative, and other PACCI activities.
- d. Execution of functions delegated by the General Assembly.
- e. Determination of annual membership fees.
- f. Establishment of minimum subscription and other relevant fees payable by members.
- g. Supervision of PACCI's management.
- h. Approval of annual operating budgets.
- i. Delegation of authority on specific matters.
- j. Convening of ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies.
- k. Appointment of Committees as required by the General Assembly.

8.3 Vice Presidents' Responsibilities

The five Vice Presidents, elected from distinct regional blocs other than the President's region, shall undertake the following responsibilities, among others:

- a. Representing the President in his/her absence.
- b. Coordinating activities with regional chambers in connection to PACCI
- c. Chairing committees within PACCI.
- d. Ensuring timely submission of periodic regional reports to the PACCI Secretariat.
- e. Fulfilling other responsibilities as directed by the President.

8.4 A quorum of the Executive Council shall be not less than 5 members of the Executive Council Members

8.5 General Meetings

8.5.1 Regular General Meetings of the Executive Council shall occur at least bi-annually, as designated by the Executive Council. All PACCI meetings shall be convened by Executive Director by giving not less than twenty-one days' notice in writing to all Members.

8.5.2 The business of the Annual General Meeting, as amended in March 26th 2015 shall be to:

- a. Confirm the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
- b. Receive and consider the financial statement of income and expenditure of the preceding year and the report of the Executive Council
- c. Appoint an auditor on terms recommended by the Executive Council
- d. Transact any other business which may be brought before it of which due notice has been given by the Executive Director in writing to all Members at least twenty one (21) days prior to the meeting or which may be introduced at the meeting with the unanimous consent of Members present.

- 8.5.3 Special General Meetings may be convened by the Executive Director by giving not less than twenty-one days' notice in writing to all Members.
- a. A Special General Meeting shall also be convened by the Executive Director and/or the President of the Executive Council at the written request of ten or more Members specifying the nature of the special business.
 - b. Upon receipt of such request the Executive Director shall give written notice to all Members specifying the general nature of the special business and such Special General Meeting shall be held not less than twenty-one days after the receipt of such request.
 - c. The only business to be dealt with shall be that of which notice shall have been given.

8.6 No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Chamber unless a quorum of Members is present at the time the meeting proceeds to business.

- a. Save as herein otherwise provided a quorum shall consist of not less than ten (10) Members duly represented.
- b. If within thirty (30) minutes from the time appointed for a meeting of the Chamber a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such other day and at such other time and place as the President shall determine.

ARTICLE 9

General Secretariat

- 9.1 The General Secretariat shall encompass the Secretary General/Executive Director supported by an adequate staff. It holds responsibility for coordinating all administrative facets of PACCI's operations, ensuring the optimal and judicious deployment of its resources.
- 9.2 The Executive Director of PACCI is nominated by the Executive Council and endorsed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the President. The term of service will be stipulated within the employment contract or mandate.
- 9.3 The Executive Director's shall be empowered to make operational decisions and implement policies that align with PACCI's strategic goals, ensuring efficient resource utilization and timely execution of activities.
- 9.4 The Executive Director shall raise funds by means of subscriptions, grants, appeals, social functions, charging of fees and any other means. He shall formulate and present annual budgets, activity plans, and reports to the Executive Council for review and endorsement.

- 9.5 In matters of daily management, including financial transactions, human resources, and administrative functions, the Secretariat and Executive Director shall wield decisive authority, and shall ensure that the day-to-day functioning of PACCI remains uninterrupted and efficient, without constant recourse to the General Assembly or Executive Council for minor operational matters.
- 9.6 The Secretariat is also responsible to collect classify and publish information which might be of interest to Members and others; and to secure the aid of public opinion to influence government policy in the development advancement and popularizing of enterprises engaged in industry trade and commerce across Africa.
- 9.7 The Executive Director may delegate specific operational responsibilities within PACCI, as necessary, to efficiently accomplish its goals.
- 9.8 Decisions requiring immediate attention or concerning routine operational matters shall be taken by the Secretariat and Executive Director without the necessity of General Assembly or Executive Council approval.
- 9.9 The Executive Director shall provide regular updates and reports to the Executive Council and General Assembly on the status of PACCI's activities, financial performance, and resource utilization. The General Assembly and Executive Council shall exercise oversight on significant matters, including policy changes, budget approvals, and amendments to these Articles of Association.
- 9.10 The Executive Director shall enter into any arrangements with any governments or authorities UN and International organizations that may seem conducive to PACCI's objectives and to obtain from any such government or authority any rights privileges and concessions which PACCI may think it desirable.

ARTICLE 10

Financial Resources

- 10.1 The Fiscal Year will be January 1 to December 31 or such other date as the Executive Council may, by resolution, determine.
- 10.2 The dues of the PACCI shall be determined on an annual basis by the Executive Council and presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting for a vote of approval.
- 10.3 Delinquent dues will be followed-up by the Executive Director and reported to the Executive Council for discussion and direction.
- 10.4 The financial records of the PACCI must be reviewed or audited annually by a qualified professional accountant. The annual statements must be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Article 11

Legal Status

- 11.1 The African country hosting the headquarters of PACCI and its institutions, when required, shall accord PACCI a legal status of a corporate body, to sue and be sued, and the permanent right to acquire, possess and manage property and other finances and dispose of them to be party in contracts, institute legal proceedings or be the subject thereof, under its own name.
- 11.2 PACCI shall be granted necessary exemptions, privileges, and immunity so that it may discharge its mandated tasks in compliance with the Statute in its competences as an international organization. For this purpose, the Executive Director shall conclude agreements in this regard with the governments of concerned countries and shall seek to obtain the best possible advantages for PACCI.

Article 12

Termination and Withdrawal of Membership

- 12.1 The General Assembly may suspend or terminate, by two-thirds of its attending members who have the right to vote, the membership of a member or associate member of PACCI who fails, despite a written notification, to fulfill his financial obligations.
- a. **Temporary suspension of a member:** In certain specific circumstances, the Executive Council may decide on the temporary suspension of a member rather than their exclusion. The EC informs the member of the condition(s) of reinstatement. The suspended member is then regarded as an observer with no entitlements and no voting rights. The suspended member may recover their full rights at the decision of the Executive Committee.
 - b. **Termination of membership:** The Executive Council may terminate the PACCI membership if the member has not paid its subscription after three reminders.
- 12.2 Any member of PACCI has the right to withdraw from it at any time after the expiration of one year from the date it became a member by submitting a letter of termination three months before the termination of its membership.

Article 13

Certificates of Appreciation and/or Prizes

- 13.1 The General Assembly shall have the right, upon the proposal of the Executive Council or a specific committee formed by the General Assembly for this purpose, to grant certificates of appreciation and/or prizes to any person, PACCI member or institution that has performed

notable services towards achieving the objectives of PACCI. Pursuant to this article, the Executive Council shall submit reasons for granting certificates and/or prizes to the General Assembly for approval.

Article 14

Amendment

- 14.1 The General Assembly shall not consider any proposal for amendment unless all PACCI members have been notified at least four months prior to its consideration.
- 14.2 Any proposed amendments or alterations shall be submitted to the President of the Executive Council with copy to the Executive Director in writing, at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting at which they are to be acted upon.
- 14.3 The amended Statute shall enter into force upon signature by a simple majority of PACCI members present at the General Assembly.

Article 15

Settlement of Disputes

- 15.1 Any dispute arising between PACCI members regarding the interpretation and implementation of provisions in the Statute shall be settled peacefully by means of direct agreement between the parties concerned. Should such an attempt to settle the dispute fails, one of the parties may bring it to a committee established by the President to review the dispute and recommend a decision. If attempts to settle the dispute still fails, one of the parties may bring it to the General Assembly whose decision shall be final.

Article 16

Duration of Association

- 16.1 The duration of the Association is unlimited.

Article 17

Extending and Dissolving PACCI

- 17.1 The dissolution of PACCI shall be determined by the General Assembly by a three-quarters majority vote.
- 17.2 In the event of dissolution, the Secretariat and Executive Director shall oversee the orderly liquidation of PACCI's assets and liabilities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and report to the Executive Council.

Article 18

Interpretation or Silence of the Articles of the Association

- 18.1 In the case of difficulty of interpretation of the present Articles of Association of PACCI the interpretation by the Executive Council will prevail.
- 18.2 Similarly, when the Articles of Association are silent regarding a given situation, the Executive Council may make all urgent decisions required before proposing an amendment to the Articles of Association to the General Assembly for ratification.

Article 19

Deposit of the Instruments of PACCI

- 19.1 The text of this Statute shall be deposited in Arabic, English and French, all of which shall have equal authenticity.
- 19.2 The Executive Director of PACCI shall: circulate this Statute to all members of PACCI.

Signature of the President of Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Dr. Seth Adjei Baah
Date:- March 26th 2015

Signature of the Executive Director Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mr. Kebour Ghenna
Date:- March 26th 2015