

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

WEST AFRICA PEOPLES ORGANISATION

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Preamble

We, the undersigned delegates and duly accredited members of the organizations founding the West African Peoples Organization,

- **HAVING** successfully concluded the West African Peoples Conference in Winneba in Ghana from 8th to 11th December, 2022;
- **CONSIDERING** the proud economic and cultural history of West Africa prior to its incorporation into the imperialist economy through European slavery and colonialism;
- **CONSIDERING** the largely untold story of West African resistance to slavery, colonialism, and neo-colonialism;
- **CONSIDERING** the huge potential available to West Africa to improve the well-being of its citizens and contribute to African and global prosperity if it can shake off the shackles of imperialist domination;
- **CONSIDERING** the need for a network that promotes regional unity on a Pan-African, anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist, anti-neo-colonialist, anti-racist, anti-Zionist, anti-patriarchy and peaceful basis;
- **DETERMINED** to provide such an organisation

HEREBY ADOPT AND GIVE OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION on this 11th Day of December, 2022, at Winneba in the Republic of Ghana.

1. Establishment

- 1.1. We hereby establish a West African Peoples Organisation (hereinafter “WAPO”) also known as Organisation des Peuples d’Afrique de l’Ouest (“OPAO”) and Organizaçao do Povo da Africa Ocidental (OPAO).

2. Purpose

- 2.1. We commit ourselves, as the body of WAPO, to be a popular vehicle for promoting and projecting Pan-African, anti-imperialists, anti-colonialist, anti-neo-colonialist, anti-racist, anti-Zionist, anti-patriarchy and a peaceful development of West Africa as provided in our NEW CHARTER.
- 2.2. In consonance with the foregoing, WAPO shall engage in programmes of:
 - a. awareness-creation about West Africa’s historical and current political, economic, social, and cultural struggles within West Africa and globally;
 - b. education and training of WAPO members in social and political activism of all forms; and

- c. cross-border mobilisation and solidarity of West African citizens in struggles for sovereignty, equity, sustainable prosperity, and social justice across Africa and the World.

3. Membership

3.1. Membership shall be open to all organizations in West Africa and beyond that:

- a. adhere publicly to the New Charter adopted at this Conference;
- b. subscribe to the rules and discipline set out in this Constitution;
- c. are nominated by a current member organization of WAPO; and
- d. are duly accepted by the Coordinating Council of WAPO following an evaluation by the Secretariat.

3.2. All members shall be entitled to:

- a. attend, be heard at, and vote at WAPO General Assemblies; and
- b. propose agendas for discussion by the WAPO General Assembly or Coordinating Council.

3.3. Subject to objective social and political conditions all Members shall be obliged to:

- a. participate in WAPO programmes and activities;
- b. provide the Secretary General of WAPO with periodic and ad hoc reports on developments in their theatres of struggle;
- c. disseminate statements and positions of WAPO widely within their theatres of struggle;
- d. provide cross-border solidarity to members of WAPO in their respective struggles against imperialism; and
- e. provide internationalist solidarity to people across the globe confronting imperialism.

3.4. Members may resign by letter to the Secretary General. Such resignation may however be transferred to the Coordinating Council for the appropriate action.

3.5. Members may be removed if they reject any of the New Charter positions or if they repudiate or wilfully violate the provisions of this Constitution.

4. Organs of WAPO

4.1. WAPO shall have the following organs

- a. General Assembly;
- b. Coordinating Council; and
- c. Secretariat.

4.2. The Coordinating Council may create such ad hoc organs as it deems necessary subject to approval of the General Assembly.

5. General Assembly

- 5.1. The General Assembly of WAPO shall be its highest decision-making body. It shall have exclusive power to:
 - a. amend this constitution;
 - b. amend the New Charter;
 - c. elect members of the Coordinating Council; and
 - d. designate a member or members to host the WAPO Secretariat for a 4-year period.
- 5.2. The General Assembly shall convene every four (4) years.
- 5.3. The Coordinating Council shall determine the place, time, agenda, and programme for General Assemblies.
- 5.4. The General Assembly shall be composed of:
 - a. two delegates of each member organisation one of whom must be a female or both must be female in the case of an all women organization;
 - b. all Members of the Coordinating Council; and
 - c. applicants for membership invited by the Coordinating Council as Observers.
- 5.5. The Coordinating Council may invite observers to attend General Assemblies.
- 5.6. All General Assembly decisions shall be taken by simple majority except for decisions involving the amendment of this Constitution or the Platform which shall require a minimum of 60% which is three-fifth majority.

6. Coordinating Council

- 6.1. The Coordinating Council shall be the second highest decision-making organ of WAPO and shall steer the affairs of the organisation in between General Assemblies.
- 6.2. The Coordinating Council shall have the power to:
 - a. interpret this constitution and settle disputes arising herefrom;
 - b. establish byelaws and guidelines to regulate all matters not fully provided for herein including acquisition and loss of membership and disciplinary processes;
 - c. approve all WAPO annual budgets and financial statements;
 - d. assign roles to its constituent members or permanently fill any vacancy in its membership with the approval of the General Assembly or an extraordinary General Assembly for that purpose;
 - e. raise resources for WAPO's work;
 - f. establish Sector Commissions focused on the work of different groups of members; and

- g. affiliate WAPO to other groups that share WAPO objectives and platform positions.
- 6.3. The Coordinating Council shall be composed of seven individuals selected by the General Assembly from different States in West Africa as follows:
 - a. a President who shall convene and preside at all meetings of the General Assembly or the Coordinating Council. The President shall represent the organization and may provide ideological guidance or orientation to membership in consonance with the Charter and this Constitution.
 - b. two Deputy Presidents at least one of whom shall be female who shall deputise for the President;
 - c. a Secretary General who shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Secretariat;
 - d. a Treasurer who shall have oversight of the financial affairs of WAPO; and
 - e. two other members without portfolios in order to achieve a gender balance. They, in addition to participation in the work of the Council will play such specific roles as the Coordinating Council may determine.
- 6.4. The Coordinating Council shall meet four (4) times in a year at least twice in person at a place and time of their choosing and online.
- 6.5. The Coordinating Council shall also meet in emergency sessions at the request of the President or Secretary General.
- 6.6. As far as possible, the Coordinating Council will take decisions by consensus. Where consensus is not possible then decisions shall be taken by a simple majority.

7. Secretary General

- 7.1. The Secretary General shall be the Chief Executive of WAPO and its principal spokesperson.
- 7.2. The General Assembly shall elect the Secretary General to serve in between General Assemblies.
- 7.3. The Secretary General shall:
 - a. prepare an annual work programme and budget for approval by the Coordinating Council and report on its implementation quarterly to the Coordinating Council;
 - b. prepare standing reports and ad hoc briefs for Coordinating Council and General Assembly debates;
 - c. prepare by-laws for consideration and approval by the Coordinating Council and oversee their implementation;
 - d. issue and disseminate political statements with the approval of the Coordinating Council;
 - e. generally document decisions of the Coordinating Council and oversee their implementation;

- f. liaise with members and keep them informed about developments in WAPO; and
- g. perform such other tasks as the Coordinating Council shall assign.

7.4. The Secretary General shall lead a Secretariat hosted by one or more members from the same State selected by the General Assembly which member or members will provide office accommodation and staff for the Secretariat.

8. Dissolution

- 8.1. A four-fifth majority of the General Assembly shall have the power to:
- a. merge or dissolve WAPO;
 - b. create or participate more effectively in a Pan-Africanist organisation that shares WAPO's values.

9. Resources

9.1. Financial sources of WAPO are:

- a. Contributions from parties, political movements as well as organized syndicates from public sector.
- b. Contributions from parties, political movements, sister organizations (not members of WAPO), as well as sympathizers and important personalities.
- c. Donations and gifts of all kind.

9.2. Modalities for the payment of such contributions are determined in the rules of procedures.

Founding Members

Organization	Country	Accredited Representative	Signature
PCB		Asse Andre Yaovi	Signed
CSTB		Kassa Mampo Nagnini	Signed
PCB		Kouessi Gilbert	Signed
UJCB		Salami Nidol Ishola	Signed
CSTB		SegnankaYeropa	Signed
CONAF/CSTB		Allognon Ernestine	Signed
CONAF/CSTB		Sossou Epse Holonou Françoise	Signed
PAIGC		Na Umoja Imani	Signed
UNTG-CS		Lopes Tavares	Signed
UNTG-CS		Ture Yasser	Signed
PAIGC		Da Costa Soares Semedo	Signed

PAICV		Alves Teixeira	Signed
PAICV		Fernandes Da Graca Moreira	Signed
PDG-RDA		Beavogui Oyé	Signed
SLECG		Soumah Aboubacar	Signed
MOJA		Konneh Massa	Signed
MOJA		Panton Richards	Signed
CGTCI		Atse Ebiba Desire	Signed
USYPACI		Amani Kouame Simplicé	Signed
PCRCI		Dje Lou Gonelevie Claire	Signed
USYPACI		Kouame Kouadio Emmanuel	Signed
CGTCI		Sangare Fatou	Signed
Faso Kanu		Traore Sekou	Signed
Faso Kano		Sy Savane Hawa Dite Fily	Signed
ORDN		Amadou Hamidou Rakiatou	Signed
ORDN		Mahamadou Saadatou	Signed
USTP		Egbanubi Adenkule Martin	Signed
USTP		Wade Ousmane	Signed
FRAPP		Badiane Khady	Signed
FERMENT		Diagne Fode Roland	Signed
PDG-RDA		Kaba Mohammed Arphan	Signed
S.M.G		Theresa Dede Boateng	Signed
S.M.G		Kafui Kan-Senaya	Signed
TUC		Naa Ayele S.Aidaifio Sekyere	Signed
AAPRP		Nii Tetteh Afotey	Signed
PDG-RDA		Adama Traore	Signed