

DECISION A/DEC.2/7/86 RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE ORGANISATION OF TRADE UNIONS OF WEST AFRICA, THE ADOPTION OF THE CHECK-OFF SYSTEM AND MEETINGS OF ECOWAS MINISTERS OF LABOUR

DECIDES

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

- MINDFUL of Article 5 of the Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government, and defining its composition and functions;
- RECALLING Authority Recommendation A/REC.1/5/83 relating to the mobilisation of the different sections of the people of the sub-region in the integration process.
- NOTING that the Statutes of the Organisation of Trade Unions of West Africa (OTUWA) are in conformity with the aims and objectives of the Community;
- TAKING NOTE of Resolution C/RES.2/6/86 of the Council of Ministers relating to the creation of OTUWA;

Article 1

An Organisation to be known as Organisation of Trade Unions of West Africa (OTUWA) and composed of national trade unions of ECOWAS Member States, is hereby created. The Statutes of OTUWA is attached to this Decision as Annex.

Article 2

The system of Check-off shall be applied in all Member States of the Community in order to improve the financial position of the national trade unions as well as that of their regional Organisation: OTUWA.

Article 3

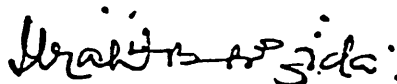
Meetings of ECOWAS Ministers of Labour shall be held whenever the need arises, to discuss problems affecting workers in the sub-region.

Article 4

This Decision shall enter into force upon signature and shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community and in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 1ST DAY OF JULY, 1986

FOR THE AUTHORITY



.....
H.E. MAJOR-GENERAL IBRAHIM BADAMASI BABANGIDA
CHAIRMAN

STATUTES OF THE ORGANISATION OF TRADE UNIONS OF WEST AFRICA (O.T.U.W.A.)

PREAMBLE

The Trade Unions of ECOWAS Member Countries, which are mobilized within the Organisations of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) to work for the total liberation of the continent in order to ensure the true emancipation of the African Workers and for the socio economic development of our continent;

DETERMINED to give concrete and effective support for the gigantic task of economic integration

being undertaken by ECOWAS in West Africa,

DETERMINED to implement the recommendation A/REC.1/5/83 adopted by the 6th Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government held in Conakry in May 1983, on the effective mobilization of organisations of the masses and universities of our sub-region in the integration process of the Community,

MINDFUL of the role incumbent on the regional and sub-regional organisations in the realization of African Unity on the one hand and in the achievement of genuine economic integration of the West African States on the other,

CONVINCED of the need for a permanent organisation to centralize and give impetus to the action of ECOWAS workers at, trade union, economic, social and cultural levels,

DECIDE to establish, in accordance with the principles and programmes of ECOWAS, a trade union organisation to be called the Organisation of Trade Unions of West Africa.

CHAPTER 1

NAME AND HEADQUARTERS

Article 1

There is hereby established among national workers organizations of ECOWAS Member States, an Organization of Trade Unions of West Africa (OTUWA).

Article 2

The Headquarters of OTUWA shall be established in Cotonou and may be transferred, at the request of two-thirds of its members, to any other site in the sub-region with the consent of the host country.

CHAPTER II

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Article 3

The aims and objectives of OTUWA shall be:

Political

- (a) to contribute to the ultimate achievement of total liberation of the continent;
- (b) to contribute effectively to the development of national economies;
- (c) to give strong support to the economic integration process embarked upon by ECOWAS and work towards the attainment of its economic, social and cultural objectives;
- (d) to draw up as a matter of urgency, a concerted programme for the control of unemployment and in particular the integration of youth in the labour force in accordance with the regional policy of the Economic Recovery Programme of the Community;
- (e) to protect the rights of migrant workers within the Community through a concerted policy of free movement, right of residence and establishment, the harmonization of labour legislation and social security in Member States;
- (f) to cooperate, in the interest of the sub-region, with any similar institution and international organisation likely to promote development and intensify its economic, social and cultural activities.

Economic

- (g) to contribute to increased production in all sectors;
- (h) to give an impetus to rural activities through the extension of the cooperative movement and the development of food crops with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in food;
- (i) to promote industrialization in Member States of the sub-region by concentrating on specialised community enterprises;
- (j) to contribute to the removal of customs barriers through trade liberalisation between Member States of the Community for a better integration of their economies.

Training

- (k) the harmonization of educational policies and training programmes.
- (l) to organise colloquia and seminars with the aim, among other things, of raising the level of Community consciousness among workers of ECOWAS Member States.

CHAPTER III

STRUCTURES AND OPERATIONS

Article 4

The organs of OTUWA shall be:

- (a) the General Council
- (b) the Coordinating Committee
- (c) the Permanent Secretariat.

Article 5

The General Council shall be the supreme organ of OTUWA and shall meet once every two years. It may meet in extraordinary session at the request of the coordinating committee or at the express request of a 2/3 majority of its members.

In that event, all organisations shall be informed at least one month before the meeting of the General Council.

Article 6

The General Council shall be composed of the coordinating committee and two representatives of each national organisation.

Article 7

Each national member organisation shall be represented within the General Council of OTUWA by a two-member (2) delegation and shall have one single vote.

Article 8

The General Council, like all other OTUWA organs, shall endeavour, to obtain the widest consensus possible among its members.

Article 9

The functions of the General Council shall be:

- (1) to define the general policy of OTUWA,
- (2) to select the headquarters,
- (3) to decide the venue of its meetings
- (4) to elect members of the coordinating Committee,
- (5) to determine the rate of contributions,
- (6) to admit trade union organisations to OTUWA,
- (7) to decide the exclusion of trade union organisations from OTUWA,
- (8) to study and adopt the activity and financial reports submitted by the coordinating Committee,
- (9) to adopt the Rules of Procedure,
- (10) to revise the statutes of the organisation,
- (11) to carry out an annual audit of the accounts of the organisation through a committee elected within the Council.

Coordinating Committee**Article 10**

In accordance with its powers the Coordinating Committee shall be the executive organ and decision-making body of OTUWA between meetings of the General Council.

Article 11

The Coordinating Committee shall meet in ordinary session once a year in any ECOWAS Member State, or in extra-ordinary session, at the request of 2/3 of its members, at OTUWA Headquarters.

Article 12

The decisions of the Coordinating Committee shall be taken by consensus; in the event of a vote, a simple majority shall prevail.

Article 13

The functions of the Coordinating Committee shall be:

- (a) to draw up and adopt the OTUWA budget,
- (b) to prepare the ordinary session of the General Council,
- (c) to convene extraordinary meetings of the General Council.
- (d) to replace any elected Member of the Secretariat who is absent from Headquarters for more than 3 months without a valid excuse after due consultation.

Article 14

The Coordinating Committee shall be elected for a two (2) year term, reeligible once, and shall be composed of the following:

- the Chairman
- two Vice-Chairmen
- A Permanent Secretary—General respectively in charge of:

- (a) international relations
- (b) economic and financial affairs
- (c) education and training, press and documentation.

Article 15

The Permanent Secretariat is composed of the Secretary General and his three (3) Deputies. It shall operate according to the Rules of Procedure approved by the Coordinating Committee.

Article 16

There shall be specialized commissions within OTUWA. The modalities of operation shall be determined in the Rules of procedure.

CHAPTER IV**RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES****Article 17**

National trade unions shall pay regular contributions for the running of the Organisation.

Article 18

Members of OTUWA shall participate actively in the execution of tasks assigned to them by the Organisation.

Article 19

Member Organisations shall have the imperative duty to strengthen their unity and undertake vigorous action for the advancement of OTUWA.

Article 20

It shall be the duty of national trade unions which are members of the Organisation to participate in all meetings and take decisions on guidelines and activities of OTUWA.

Article 21

National trade unions shall have the right to withdraw their membership of OTUWA by notifying the Coordinating Committee in writing.

CHAPTER V**Article 22**

The financial resources of OTUWA shall be derived from:

- (1) annual contributions from member organisations,
- (2) special contributions from member organisations,
- (3) income from various profit making activities of the organisation,
- (4) grants, donations and legacies from ECOWAS and its Member States, Pan-African and International Organisations whose principles and objectives conform to those of OTUWA.

Article 23

The Secretary-General shall be the administrator of OTUWA funds.

CHAPTER VI**SPECIAL PROVISIONS****Article 24**

The emblem and flag of OTUWA shall be selected by the General Council on the proposal of member organisations.

Article 25

The General Council, or any other body it shall designate for this purpose shall be empowered to interpret these statutes.

Article 26

Any disputes arising from the implementation of these statutes shall be settled by the Coordinating Committee. In the event of failure to settle the dispute the matter shall be referred to the General Council whose decision is final.

Article 27

The working languages of OTUWA shall be all ECOWAS working languages.

CHAPTER VII**SANCTIONS****Article 28**

The General Council shall have the absolute prerogative to take any measure or sanction against member organisations whose attitude is detrimental to the spirit or the letter of these statutes.

CHAPTER VIII**FINAL PROVISIONS****Article 29**

OTUWA is hereby established for an indefinite period. It may be dissolved only by the vote of a two-third majority of its members.

Article 30

In the event of dissolution, the movable and immovable assets shall become the property of ECOWAS.

Article 31

Provisions not established by these statutes shall be determined by the Rules of Procedure.

NIAMEY, 17TH OCTOBER, 1985