

Constitution of the Nordic Association of African Studies

1. Objects

The objects of the association shall be to promote the study of Africa and its languages and cultures.

On achieving such objects the association shall have the following powers:

- to advance studies of Africa through international cooperation, particularly between nordic countries;
- to help promote and disseminate the findings of scholarship relating to Africa both within and beyond Africa;
- to promote and carry out or assist in promoting and carrying out research and investigations on Africa and publish the useful results of such research and investigations;
- to arrange and provide for or join in arranging and providing for the holding of exhibitions, meetings, lectures, seminars and training courses;
- to make regulations for any property which may be acquired;
- subject to such consents as may be required by law, to raise money for the said objects and accept gifts on such terms and on such security as shall be deemed necessary;
- to raise funds and invite and receive contributions to the association by personal or written appeals, public meetings or otherwise, provided that the association shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for the said objects;
- to do other such lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objects.

2. Limitation

The association shall be politically non-partisan and without political affiliation.

3. Membership

a. Members of the association are those individuals, institutions and associations whose names are appended to this constitution and such other individuals, institutions and associations as may from time to time be admitted to membership by the Board.

b. Honorary members of the association are individuals who, having in the opinion of the Board performed meritorious services to the association, are appointed by the Board to honorary life membership of the association.

c. Members of the association are subscribers to the journal of the association.

d. The members of the association shall elect the members of the Board of the association in accordance with this constitution.

e. Every member shall abide by the constitution of the association, and pay such annual or other subscription or other due as the General Meeting or the Board of the association may from time to time determine.

f. Membership of the association shall terminate

(i) upon resignation in writing being delivered to the secretary or the office of the association;

(ii) upon expulsion by the Board, provided that on the date of such expulsion the member expelled shall have failed to pay a subscription or other liabilities to the association due on a date at least six months before such expulsion;

4. The General Meeting of the association

a. The General Meeting of the association shall be held at such time as the Board may determine and at intervals no longer than three years. A General Meeting may also be held by a written request addressed to the secretary by not less than five members belonging to not less than two different countries. In all cases a General Meeting shall be called for a day not less than two months after the date of posting by the secretary of the notice convening the meeting.

b. The chairperson of the General Meeting shall be the chairperson of the Board or in his absence the vice-chairperson of the Board.

c. To form a quorum at a General Meeting, the presence of at least one-quarter of individual members and representatives of other members or of ten such individual members and representatives of other members, whichever is the fewer, belonging to at least three different countries shall be necessary.

d. Every member is entitled to one vote at a General Meeting. If this voting right cannot be exercised through the representative of a member, it may be vested by proxy in another member's representative or in an individual member, provided that a written authority to this effect is deposited with the secretary at least two days before the day of the meeting and provided that no one attending a General Meeting shall exercise more than three proxy votes. Individual members shall not appoint proxies.

e. In case voting is used in deciding questions, a simple majority is needed, and in case of an equality of votes the chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.

f. Part of the business of the General Meeting is:

- to receive the audited accounts of the association for the preceding financial year;
- to receive the reports of the Board, the chairperson and the treasurer for the period since the last meeting;
- to discuss any other business relating to the association and its affairs.
- to elect the Board members as described below.

5. The Board

a. The Board will be responsible for the management of the association and may exercise all such powers and do all such acts as may be exercised and done by the association. The Board elects or acts itself as the editorial board for the journal of the association.

b. The Board shall have an elected membership of not less than five and not more than ten. Each of the nordic countries shall have at least one member in the Board.

c. Candidates for election to the Board shall be proposed and seconded by members and may also be nominated by the Board. The election of the Board members will be carried out in the General Meeting.

d. Members shall be elected for terms of three years and may be re-elected.

e. The Board shall meet at least once in each calendar year. A meeting shall be convened by the secretary at the direction of the chairperson or by a requisition made in writing to the chairperson by at least three elected members of the Board. The attendance of four members being nationals of at least two countries shall be necessary to form a quorum.

f. A member of the Board shall cease to be a member thereof if he or she gives notice in writing to the secretary of resignation of membership, or if he or she fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board except by leave of the Board.

g. The Board shall elect its chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its own members. The chairperson shall be elected to serve for three years and may be re-elected.

h. One Board member shall be the representative of the Scandinavian Institute of African Studies (SIAS), Uppsala, appointed by the Institute itself irrespective of nationality.

i. In case voting is used in deciding questions, a simple majority is needed, and in case of an equality of votes the chairperson of the Board shall have a second or casting vote.

6. Auditors and finance

a. The members in General Meeting or failing them the Board shall appoint an auditor or auditors to the association and shall approve the remuneration to be given. The accounts shall be audited at least once a year by the auditor or auditors appointed under this constitution. Audited statements of the accounts shall be submitted by the Board to the General Meeting.

b. All money raised by or on behalf of the association shall be applied to further the objects of the association and for no other purpose.

c. The treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the association.

d. A bank account shall be kept in the name of the association with such a bank or banks as the Board shall from time to time decide. The Board shall authorize in writing the treasurer, the chairperson and the secretary of the association to sign cheques on behalf of the association and may so authorize two further members of the Board. Cheques must be signed by not less than two of the authorized signatories.

7. Amendment of the constitution

a. This constitution may be amended by a majority of at least two-thirds of members and the representatives of other members not present and voting at a duly convened General Meeting.

b. A proposal for amendment of the constitution shall be either submitted by the Board or supported in writing by at least one-quarter of the members. It shall be circulated to members at least two months before the meeting at which it will be considered.

8. Termination of the association

a. The association may be dissolved by a majority of at least two-thirds of members voting either directly or by proxies in a General Meeting called for the purpose of considering a proposal to terminate the association.

b. If, upon dissolution of the association, there remains any property whatsoever of the association after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, this property shall not be distributed among the members but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the association, as shall be determined by the members at or before the time of dissolution.

This constitution was approved by the Constitutional Meeting of the Association, held in Uppsala on 22.4. 1991.