

Extract from the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity

PURPOSE

ARTICLE II

The Organisation shall have the following purpose:

1. To promote the unity and solidarity of the African States;
2. To co-ordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa;
3. To defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity and independence;
4. To eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa; and
5. To *promote international cooperation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.*

To these ends, the Member States shall coordinate and harmonise their general policies, especially in the following fields:

- a. Political and diplomatic cooperation;
- b. Economic cooperation, including transport and communications;
- c. Education and cultural cooperation;
- d. Health, sanitation and nutritional cooperation;
- e. Scientific and technical cooperation; and
- f. Cooperation for defence and security.

PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE III

The Member States, in pursuit of the purposes stated in Article 11 solemnly affirm and declare their adherence to the following principles:

- a. The sovereign equality of all Member States;
- b. Non-interference in the internal affairs of States;
- c. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State and for its inalienable right to independent existence;
- d. Peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation or arbitration;
- e. Unreserved condemnation, in all its forms, of political assassination as well as of subversive activities on the part of neighbouring States or any other States;
- f. Absolute dedication to the total emancipation of the African territories which are still dependent; and
- g. Affirmation of a policy of non-alignment with regard to all blocs.

Source: <http://www.uneca.org/itca/ariportal/oaucharter.htm>