

NOTE: 2018 Charter with proposed edits in italics. Proposal will be voted on during AACS 2024.

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN AIR FORCES

CHARTER

FOREWORD

Africa is a diverse and dynamic region that is undergoing significant gains in economic growth and development, but transnational and domestic security threats often hinder progress. Challenges range from resource distribution concerns and long-standing identity conflicts to growing issues with violent extremism and drug trafficking. African nations are increasingly stepping up to confront these security issues.

Airpower is a critical component and key to successfully combating these security challenges. Air assets can be utilized to overcome some of the difficulties presented by Africa's size, austere environment and limited transportation infrastructure. Air mobility operations bridge distances, support rapid resupply of ground troops, and expand governmental reach. Airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) provides vital situational awareness.

While airpower itself can be a force multiplier, regional cooperation in the air domain is just as important. During the 2014 African Air Chiefs Symposium, the participants cited the transnational nature of the current security challenges and argued they require continental, regional, multilateral, and bilateral cooperation for effective responses. To this end, the Air Chiefs expressed a desire to formalize the existing Air Chiefs' forum and develop an organization to facilitate cooperation.

The first iteration of this Charter formalizing the Association of African Air Forces was drafted September 2015, succeeded by the second iteration drafted October 2018, and the current third iteration drafted January 2024.

SECTION I: ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN AIR FORCES

I. Title and Objective

The Association of African Air Forces (AAAF) is a voluntary and non-political organization; membership is open to Air Forces or their equivalent within the continent of Africa and the United States of America.

II. Mission

The Association of African Air Forces (AAAF) is to foster and strengthen the bonds of friendship, cooperation and mutual support among its members.

III. Vision

To develop a premier African airpower collaborative organization for safety, peace, and security.

IV. Approach

The AAAF is focused on the exchange of experiences and examining opportunities to cooperate and collaborate in order to improve and support air operations across Africa.

V. Guiding Principles

The principles guiding AAAF:

- A. The need for airpower capabilities throughout Africa has never been more relevant. Airpower is a comprehensive solution to address many African challenges, to include the vast African geography, the current transnational threat situation, and the lack of infrastructure.
- B. Because of their professional knowledge, the members of the AAAF are able to advise their respective governments and international organizations (e.g. African Union, Regional Economic Communities) on the effective and efficient use of air resources.
- C. It is essential to maintain and strengthen a climate of professional cooperation and trust in which future agreements may be developed.
- D. AAAF agreements and activities, as defined by this Charter, are apolitical and will not affect the sovereignty of the nation states.

VI. Topics of Interest

Fundamental topics of mutual interest to address:

- A. AAAF Doctrine
- B. Air Operations, specifically:
 1. Air Mobility
 2. Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR)
 3. Air-to-Ground Integration (AGI)
 4. Search and Rescue
- C. Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HADR)
- D. Transnational Threats
- E. Human Resources, Education and Training
- F. Supply, Logistics, Rapid Response
- G. Air Accident Prevention, Air Domain Safety

VII. Official Language

Documents of the Association of African Air Forces will be provided in English, French and Portuguese. When possible and requested, documents will be provided in Arabic as well.

SECTION II: MEMBERSHIP

VIII. Members of the AAAF

- A. Members are defined as the Air Forces or the equivalent of every country that signs this Charter:
 1. *If a country expresses desire to join the Association after AACCS, they become a non-chartered member.*
 2. *A non-chartered member participates in all AAAF events and activities except for voting.*
 3. *A non-chartered member must sign the charter at the next AACCS.*
- B. All members have an equal voice within the Association.
- C. Two-thirds of members constitutes a quorum.
- D. Two-thirds of members in attendance constitutes a passing vote.
- E. To hear a proposed amendment, 2/3 of the members of the association must agree.
- F. Any changes to the AAAF Charter require a unanimous vote by all Air Chiefs, or designated representatives, in attendance.

- G. Members will provide a Liaison Officer (LNO) to be part of the AAAF Working Group (AAAF WG).
- H. *Members may provide a Women, Peace, and Security Representative (WPSR) to be part of the AAAF WG. If a member does not have a WPSR and is hosting an AAAF event or activity, the Secretary General shall seek a Lead WPSR from other member countries.*
- I. *Members may provide a Senior Enlisted Representative (SER) to be part of the AAAF WG. If a member does not have an SER and is hosting an AAAF event or activity, the Secretary General shall seek a Lead SER from other member countries.*
- J. Members implement activities and action items agreed upon during an annual Symposium.

SECTION III: AAAF ORGANIZATION

The AAAF runs on an annual cycle. This cycle is the duration from the end of an African Air Chiefs Symposium (AACS) to the next, normally equating to a one-year period.

IX. African Air Chiefs Symposium

- A. The intent is for AACS to be held annually, subject to the availability of sufficient funds; the location will be determined by the Co-Hosting Air Forces.
- B. Executive and plenary sessions may be held during AACS. Bilateral or multilateral meetings may be held on a voluntary basis upon the request of one or more countries.
- C. Location of the next AACS should be announced at the end of the current AACS.
- D. Air Chiefs, at AACS, will determine action items to be addressed by the AAAF WG.

X. Co-Chairmen of the AAAF

- A. The Air Force Commander of the hosting nation and the USAFE-AFAFRICA Commander or designee are considered the AAAF Co-Chairmen. In the event the hosting nation is not a member of the AAAF, the previous Hosting Chairman will remain in place until the next AAAF member hosts the next event.
- B. The Co-Chairmen of the AAAF lead the association during the AAAF cycle:
 1. The Co-Chairmen lead the AAAF Executive Session.
 2. The Co-Chairmen lead the Executive Session outbrief.
 3. The Co-Chairmen assist in coordination of AAAF events during the AAAF cycle.
- C. The official handover from the outgoing Chairman to the incoming will take place during the AACS Closing Ceremony.

XI. The AAAF Working Group

The AAAF WG comprises the LNOs, WPSRs and SERs

- A. The LNOs are made up of Air Force staff trained, preferably Majors and equivalents or above (field grade officers) nominated by their respective Air Forces:
 1. *LNOs communicate their Air Chief of Staff's interests and coordinate with representatives across AAAF working groups.*
 2. *The LNOs will collaborate to execute the vision developed by the Air Chiefs at the AACS. They will provide an update on the action plan during the subsequent Symposium.*
- B. *The WPSRs are made up of Air Force staff trained officers with prior knowledge on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325:*
 1. *WPSRs will provide member nations with the opportunity to collaborate on WPS efforts.*

2. *WPSRs will share national action plans, successes, and challenges.*
- C. *The SERs are made up of Air Force Senior Enlisted members with vast knowledge on Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs) development:*
 1. *SERs will collaborate and share matters on NCO development.*
 2. *SERs will carry out instructions as directed by the Air Chiefs.*

XII. Office of the Permanent Secretariat

- A. The purpose of the Permanent Secretariat is to centralize and ensure the continuity and permanency of AACS and all other AAAF activities.
- B. The Permanent Secretariat provides administrative and functional support to the AAAF, such as ensuring action items decided on during the annual Symposium by the Air Chiefs are accomplished. It develops, reports, records, and disseminates information.
- C. Responsibility for Permanent Secretariat operations should be assumed by an Air Force for a minimum period of five years.

XIII. Effective Date

- A. This association took effect upon the date of the original Charter's signature on 17th September 2015 (Seventeenth of September, Two-Thousand Fifteen). Membership takes effect upon the date of the Air Chief's signature of the Charter.

