

General Assembly, Dakar, November 3–5, 2025

AUF STATUTES – Amendments proposed by the Board of Directors

Explanatory note.

At each General Assembly, the Board of Directors proposes amendments to the AUF statutes, following several working meetings, in particular to improve the readability and comprehensibility of our organization's founding text, but also to adapt it every four years to changes in the environment and global context of our activities.

This note sets out the underlying objective of the amendments proposed to certain articles and concepts.

I. Foreword

In this section, the Board of Directors proposed rewriting the paragraph on the AUF's "vision." Initially, respect for diversity was emphasized most strongly. The new wording now also emphasizes all of the AUF's other values (equal opportunities for access to knowledge for all, active solidarity for inclusive development through knowledge, gender equality, human and scientific ethical considerations, progress through tolerance, democracy, and dialogue).

II. Governance

1. Quorum rules for the election of the President and academic members of the Board of Directors

The minimum quorum requirement would be specified based on the number of full members, whether 500 or fewer than 1,000 members. This proposal would allow for a better determination of the quorum for the election of the President and academic members of the Board of Directors.

2. Eligibility criteria for academic members of the Board of Directors

This paragraph has been reworded to make it easier to understand.

3. Election of representatives of full members to the Board of Directors

In order to better understand the voting system for university representatives by region, a clarification has been proposed. Furthermore, with the development of technology, it is necessary to specify that voting could also take place online via a dedicated and secure tool, which was used at the last AGM in September 2021. Voting will also take place online at the AGM in November 2025.

4. The functions of the Board of Directors

Certain points have been clarified to make them easier to read. This is particularly the case for the approval of the appointments of Vice-Rectors, the Secretary General, and regional directors on the recommendation of the Rector.

Furthermore, the experience of closing the Caribbean Regional Office for security reasons highlighted the lack of provisions in the Statutes for such a scenario. Consequently, it was proposed to add to the Board's functions the power to decide on the closure and temporary suspension of the activities of regional offices.

A concern was raised regarding the regional representation role of Board members. With this in mind, it was proposed to add a paragraph formalizing this essential function of Board members.

More generally, even though there are already Board regulations formalizing its procedures and operating rules, it was deemed important to also mention them in the AUF Statutes.

5. Composition of the Board of Directors

The issue of replacement by alternates in the event of justified absence of a university member of the Board of Directors has been clarified. Consequently, a university member may be replaced on an exceptional and ad hoc basis by an alternate appointed by the person entitled to the elected director's seat.

The same consideration applies to the designated representative of a State or government participating in the Francophonie scientifique through AUF member institutions and having expressed an interest in sitting on the Board. In the event of justified absence, the latter may also be replaced on an ad hoc basis by a person designated and authorized to represent the State or government.

6. Meetings of the Board of Directors

In order to reflect the composition of the Board meetings, it was proposed to specify the guests attending these meetings, namely the chairpersons of the advisory bodies, the members of the Rectorate, and the outgoing Chair of the Board. Staff representatives are also automatically invited to Board meetings for reasons of transparency with regard to AUF staff.

7. The term of office and removal of university representatives

The article on the term and renewal of the mandate of university administrators has been simplified. The term of office and renewal have not been changed. However, the conditions for the removal of university representatives have been clarified. Several cases leading to the loss of the status of legal representative or mandated representative of the full member are listed, namely:

- the termination of the functions of the highest authority (PHA) in the member institution;
- in the case of delegation of the PHA, when their mandate of representation is withdrawn;
- and when the legal or authorized representative of the full member accumulates three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from meetings of the Board of Directors.

It goes without saying that the loss of full membership will result in the automatic loss of the seat of the institution concerned.

In addition, the conditions for replacing the loss of the status of legal or authorized representative of the full member are clarified. Thus, depending on the case, it is provided that:

- that upon termination of the functions of the Highest Authority (PHA) in the member institution, the new PHA shall automatically take over the seat;
- that in the event of delegation of the PHA and withdrawal of its representation mandate, the PHA itself shall recover the seat or, where applicable, appoint a new representative from its institution;
- that in the event of loss of the seat due to three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from Board of Directors meetings, a new member institution shall be elected until the end of the current term of office.

8. The composition of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

The composition of the Bureau has been clarified to provide a better understanding of the roles of its members. The number of members remains unchanged. The Bureau will therefore continue to consist of the following seven (7) members:

- the President;
- Four university administrators from the Board of Directors, two of whom are proposed as Vice-Presidents;
- And two administrators from states and governments on the Board of Directors, one of whom is proposed as Vice-Chair.

9. Decisions of the Executive Board

The article on the decisions of the Bureau has been deleted. Since the Board of Directors validates the decisions of its Bureau, it was considered redundant to retain this article.

II. The Finance Committee and the management of a financial crisis at the AUF

The role of the Finance Committee has been clarified to reflect the reality of its tasks. The Finance

Committee is therefore responsible for:

- issuing an opinion on the financial aspects of the AUF Strategy;
- proposing amendments to the AUF's financial regulations;
- issuing an opinion on the annual budget and financial statements;
- making any useful recommendations on financial matters.

Given the current difficulties facing the AUF, it has been proposed to reduce the number of years that are taken into account for a member to be in default of payment of dues. Non-payment of dues for two consecutive years, instead of three years previously, would result in the member's expulsion.

III. The Rectorate

The role of the Rector has been clarified to reflect the reality of his or her mandate. Thus, his or her functions relate to strategic management, financial governance, operational management, and coordination of the AUF's bodies and those of the Francophonie.

IV. Advisory bodies

For greater clarity, it was agreed to mention in the Statutes that the regional representation of members of the Scientific Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the Network Council within the Regional Commissions of Economic and Scientific Experts (CREES) is specified in the internal regulations of the aforementioned advisory bodies.

V. The Strategic Reflection Conference

It was proposed to change the name of the Strategic Development Commission to "Strategic Reflection Conference." This new name better reflects the role and missions entrusted to the Strategic Development Commission.