

AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF COMMANDANTS OF STAFF COLLEGES



CONSTITUTION

OF

AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF COMMANDANTS OF STAFF COLLEGES

Preamble

1. The African Conference of Commandants of Staff Colleges (Hereinafter referred to as ACoC) was founded following a meeting held from 6 - 8 November 2007 between Commandants of the following Staff Colleges: Defence Command and Staff College Botswana, Command and Staff College Egypt, Defence Staff College Kenya, National War College South Africa, Command and Staff College Tanzania, Defence Services Command and Staff College, Zambia, Staff College Zimbabwe, and Namibia Military School (Hereinafter referred to as the founding members).
2. The founding members; training and research institutions are:
 - a) Committed to enhancing harmonisation, interoperability, commonality, standardisation and cooperation between African Staff Colleges.
 - b) Committed to the principle of African solutions to African problems through cooperation between Staff Colleges and other training institutions.
3. The vision of ACoC is:

“To enhance military professionalism in Africa through education, training and development of officers in African Staff Colleges.”
4. The mission of ACoC is:

To conceptualise, inform and enhance education, training and development of the military officer in order to support policy formulation and military standards in Africa.

Article I

Establishment of ACoC

1. There shall be established and maintained an association to be known as ACoC which shall function and be governed in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
2. The ACoC is an independent association.

3. The ACoC shall have a Chairperson who is the Commandant of the host Staff College with a tenure of one (1) year decided at the Annual Conference.
4. The ACoC is a non-profit making organisation founded on the following values:
 - a. Professionalism
 - b. Military Cooperation
 - c. Human Dignity
 - d. Discipline

Article II

Objectives

The main objectives of the ACoC shall be to:

1. Enhance harmonisation, interoperability, commonality, standardisation and cooperation between African Staff Colleges.
2. Contribute to African security through quality **education**, which would provide the required knowledge; **training** to equip students with necessary skills; and **development** to ensure the right attitudes for the desired professional;
3. Develop curricula in order to enhance military professional standards.
4. Develop cooperation amongst African Staff Colleges through; benchmarking; college curriculum best practice; directing staff exchange programmes academic accreditation and Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX);
5. Translate requirements for improvement, as derived from lessons learned, into continental standards for military officers' training.

Article III

Mandate of the ACoC

For the purposes of this constitution, the ACoC through its member institutions has the

following mandate, being to;

1. Promote compliance with professional military standards.
2. Support the preparation of middle level officers for appointments at higher levels of command and staff.
3. Enhance channels of communication and linkages with different Colleges.
4. Undertake Joint Exercises at regional and Member State levels, and ensure sharing of lessons.

Article IV

Status of the ACoC

The ACoC is a juristic person with rights and privileges. It may sue and be sued on its own behalf. ACoC may: -

1. Make known, when and as it deems advisable, by printed publication or otherwise any information or advice concerning any matter relating to the purposes of the ACoC and with a view thereto to acquire, set up, maintain, publish and circulate magazines, journals, circulars, pamphlets or other works as the ACoC may deem to be in any way beneficial to the ACoC or to the public or any section thereof;
2. Take such steps by personal or written appeals, public meetings or otherwise, as may from time to time be deemed expedient for the purpose of procuring contributions to the funds of the ACoC, in the form of donations, grants, annual subscriptions or otherwise;
3. Purchase or otherwise acquire letters patent, brevets d'invention, concessions, licences, inventions, trademarks and designs, rights and privileges, subject to royalty or otherwise, and whether exclusive or non-exclusive or limited, or any part interest in such letters patent, brevets d'invention, concessions, licences, inventions, trademarks and designs, rights and privileges;
4. Grant any patent rights, brevets d'invention, concessions, licences, inventions, trademarks and designs, rights or privileges belonging to the

ACoC, or which it may acquire, or any interest in the same;

5. Enter into arrangements by way of cooperation research with any other organisation or body whether incorporated or not, as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the ACoC provided that the ACoC shall make no payment by way of dividend to any other organisation or body gifted to it for scientific or other research purposes.

Article V

Membership

1. Membership of the ACoC is voluntary and open to all African Staff Colleges or equivalents.

Application for Membership

2. Any staff College that wishes to join the ACoC after adoption of this constitution shall apply to the Secretariat of ACoC for membership.
3. Any such application for membership shall be presented by the Chairperson and deliberated upon at the Annual Conference.
4. If the application is approved, the new entrant will be duly processed.

Suspension

5. A member may be suspended by a resolution of the Annual Conference.

Termination

6. Membership may terminate by withdrawal or any other means as may be determined by the Annual Conference.

Article VI

Obligations of Member Colleges

7. The obligations of the Member Colleges shall be to:

1. Attend ACoC Annual Conferences.
2. Pay any dues that may be decided.
3. Engage in and promote ACoC activities.
4. Adhere to any other decisions.

Article VII

Organisation of the ACoC

The ACoC is organised as follows:

1. Annual Conference;
2. Troika;
3. Working Groups when required; and
4. Secretariat.

Article VIII

Annual Conference

1. There shall be an annual conference of all members, which is the supreme policy and decision-making organ of the ACoC.
2. At least three (3) months before the Conference, the host of the subsequent Conference shall be decided. In addition, members and the Troika will forward Conference Agenda proposals at least two (2) months before the Conference.

Functions and Powers

3. The Annual Conference shall have the following powers:
 - a. Consideration and approval of membership;
 - b. Approval of policies of the ACoC;

- c. Discussion and approval of reports of the Troika;
 - d. Making of rules and regulations for ACoC;
 - e. Reviewing all the activities of the ACoC;
 - f. Approval and endorsement of the plans and budgets of the ACoC;
 - g. Amendment of the Constitution.
4. The following arrangements for the Annual Conference apply:
- a. **Chairperson:** The Annual Conference will be presided over by the incoming Chairperson of the Troika after the outgoing Chairperson has presented his annual report
 - b. **Agenda:** The agenda of the Annual Conference, together with the necessary background material will be sent to the Members of the ACoC at least one (1) month before the Annual Conference.
 - c. **Extra-Ordinary General Meeting:** If one fifth of Members or two of the Troika members requests an extraordinary General Meeting, it will take place within 2 months. The Troika will determine the date and venue of the meeting and invite all members with the requested agenda at least one (1) month in advance.
 - d. **Decision Making:** Each Member at the Annual Conference will have one vote. Any member, who cannot be present at the Annual Conference, can mandate his or her vote to be cast by a duly appointed proxy.
 - e. **Decision through Electronic Mail:** The Annual Conference may take decisions through electronic mail. To that effect, a designated person will contact all members and the mailing will include an explanation from the Troika regarding the reason (s) that necessitated the written procedure and the text of any proposal. Any such proposal will be adopted if within twenty (20) working days after the mailing, the number of replies to the Troika is sufficient to meet the quorum and voting requirements as set out in these Articles.

Article IX

The Troika

1. There shall be a Troika for ACoC consisting of the following:
 - a. Preceding Chairperson;
 - b. Incumbent Chairperson;
 - c. Succeeding Chairperson.

Functions and Powers

2. The Troika shall implement the policies and decisions of the Annual Conference and oversee the operations and management of the ACoC in accordance with this constitution and any other rules, regulations and directives issued by the Annual Conference. In the exercise of its mandate, the Troika will have the functions and powers to:
 - a. Guide the implementation of Annual Conference resolutions and directives;
 - b. Develop administrative and operational guidelines and policies;
 - c. Mobilise resources for the ACoC;
 - d. Decide the rules of procedure of the Annual Conference and Working groups,
 - e. Undertake public relations for the ACoC,
 - f. Appoint Working Groups to undertake specific tasks
 - g. Facilitate the process of selection of the next host Staff College.

Meetings, Voting and Decisions

3. The Troika shall meet from time to time as required. It will decide the date and place of its meetings. Where possible, meetings will make decisions by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be determined by a simple majority of votes.

4. Where not all the Troika members may be physically present at a meeting, the Troika may hold meetings through electronic media.
5. The decisions of the Troika shall be distributed to all members and ratified at the next Conference.

Article X

The Secretariat

1. The Secretariat shall comprise the following:
 - a. The Executive Secretary who will be the chief executive officer of the Secretariat;
 - b. Coordinator.
 - c. Any other officers as required.

Functions and Responsibilities

2. The Secretariat shall have the following functions and responsibilities:
 - a. Manage the day-to-day operations of the ACoC.
 - b. Establish and maintain networks with and amongst members and stakeholders.
 - c. Facilitate the drafting, editing and publishing of papers.
 - d. Prepare proposals, budgets and reports for the ACoC.
 - e. Monitor programmes and activities of the ACoC.
 - f. Account for all the funds of the ACoC.
 - g. Serve as secretariat during ACoC meetings.
 - h. Update ACoC website and manage the database.

- i. Carry out any other duties as may be determined at the Annual Conference

Functions and Powers of the Executive Secretary

3. The Executive Secretary will direct ACoC Secretariat activities. He / she will guide and participate in the discussions of the Annual Conference, the Troika, or any Working Groups but will not have voting rights.
4. The Executive Secretary shall:
 - a. Oversee and coordinate all programmes and activities of the Secretariat;
 - b. Be the accounting officer of the Secretariat;
 - c. Direct and supervise all staff of the Secretariat;
 - d. Ensure coordination between the Secretariat, stakeholders and donors;
 - e. Oversee the implementation of the decisions of the Troika, Working Groups and the Annual Conference
 - f. Compile reports.
 - g. Carry out any other duties as directed by the Troika.

Article XI

Limited Liability

The liability of the members of the ACoC is limited.

Article XII

Finance and Auditing

1. The ACoC will be financed through:
 - a. Contributions from members.

- b. Grants and donations from donors.
- c) No money will be accepted if it is deemed, at an Extra Ordinary General Meeting or Annual Conference, to be intended to compromise the spirit and purpose of ACoC.
- d) The Executive Secretary shall keep and maintain true accounts of the money received and expended by the ACoC and the matters in respect of which such receipt and expenditure took place and of the property, credits and liabilities of the ACoC.
- e) The accounts of the ACoC shall be audited annually. The audited accounts must be presented before the Annual Conference by the outgoing Chairperson.

Article XIII

Amendment

- f) This constitution may be amended by the members in an Annual Conference or Extra-Ordinary General Meeting and/or by a special resolution passed by two thirds majority provided notice is given in accordance with relevant provisions.

Article XIV

Dissolution

- g) The dissolution of the ACoC will be decided by two-thirds majority of all members in the Annual Conference.

