



AUF STATUTES

**PROPOSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Dakar, November 3 to 5, 2025

AUF STATUTES

FOREWORD

1. Historical overview of the origins and evolution of the AUF

FROM AUPELF TO AUF!

In Montreal, in 1961, the Association des universités partiellement ou entièrement de langue française (AUPELF) was founded. It was incorporated under the rules of Part III of the Quebec Companies Act (RLRQ chapter C. 38) and recognized by letters patent dated October 31, 1961. In 1987, the University of French-Language Networks (UREF) was established. The merger of these two entities in 1994 resulted in the Agence francophone pour l'enseignement supérieur et la recherche (AUPELF-UREF). Following the General Assembly in Beirut in 1998, the current name was adopted: Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie - AUF.

MANDATE AS OPERATOR OF FRANCOPHONIE SUMMITS

At each World Summit of La Francophonie, and especially since the 1989 summit of heads of state and government in Dakar, the role of the Agence de la Francophonie for higher education and research has taken shape. The definitive confirmation, which officially established the AUF as an operator of Francophonie Summits in the field of higher education and research, was the adoption of the Francophonie Charter at the Hanoi Summit in 1997, revised in 2005, which defines the AUF as "an institution of the Francophonie " and "direct and recognized operator of the Summit."

In order to carry out its activities as an operator in a spirit of trust and transparency, the AUF brings together in its governing bodies representatives from the academic and scientific world as well as representatives from states and governments, but also from the economic world and civil society, to affirm the openness of educational and university structures to the environment. As a result, and in order to facilitate the achievement of its missions, the AUF regularly seeks headquarters agreements with the states where it is established. These agreements allow it to benefit from the privileges and immunities of an international organization on the part of these host states.

THE AUTONOMY OF THE FRANCOPHONIE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

Following the Francophonie Summit in Moncton in 1999, a consultation process was established to propose new statutes for the AUF to the relevant authorities, enshrining its second mission. In addition to its role as an operator of the Francophonie, the AUF's statutes had to respond to the shared concern of the AUF and the institutional Francophonie to perpetuate university and scientific cooperation.

Consequently, following the revision of the AUF's statutes in 2001 at an extraordinary general meeting in Quebec City, the Act respecting the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (RLRQ, chapter A-7.2), which came into force on November¹, 2001, amended the legal regime applicable to the AUF, specifying in particular that:

"the Agency's operations are governed by its Statutes."

The current form of the AUF's statutes allows, on the one hand, the institutional Francophonie to ensure that states and governments play their full role in the organization's decision-making and management bodies; and, on the other hand, leaves it up to the scientific Francophonie to organize, in complete autonomy, its associative life, the choice of its organizational and academic structures, and to define its four-year strategy.

2. The AUF today...

Identity "Who are we?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUF: revealing the genius of French-language higher education and scientific Francophonie
Vision "The path we are paving..."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thinking globally about French-language higher education and the scientific Francophonie & acting regionally while respecting the values of the AUF
Values "Our shared convictions that guide our actions"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, 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.
Objectives "How to co-create value for and by the French-speaking world?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NETWORKING: Networking among stakeholders (students, teachers, academics, researchers, ecosystem, politicians, etc.) to share experiences and build Francophone and scientific communities of practice (e.g., AUF member network, thematic networks, institutional networks, alumni networks, etc.). EXPERTISE: Mobilizing Francophone expertise around the world to support education and university systems (e.g., governance, labeling, accreditation, evaluation, reforms, observatories, etc.). PROJECTS: Setting up innovative educational, research, and outreach projects in the French-speaking world (e.g., digital transformation, R&D, training of trainers, etc.). INTERNATIONALIZATION: Promoting partnership, cooperation, mobility, and scientific development in higher education and international research. ADVOCACY: Developing advocacy on the contribution of the scientific and academic Francophonie to societal challenges (e.g., SDGs, employability, gender equality, multilingualism, etc.). SOLIDARITY: Humanitarian aid and solidarity for all those in need within education and university systems, both within and outside the Francophonie.

ARTICLE 1 - MEMBERS

The "members" of the AUF are divided into two categories under the statutes: members with deliberative and voting rights at the General Assembly, known as "full members," and members with consultative and non-voting rights at the General Assembly, known as "associate members." Associate members may attend AUF conferences and seminars and benefit from its services in accordance with the decisions of the Board of Directors.

Administrative, educational, scientific, and research structures that have legal personality and whose purpose is or are capable of developing partnerships and international cooperation with the AUF may be admitted as members by resolution of the Board of Directors.

If necessary, the Rectorate may propose to the Board of Directors another category of "partnerships," which facilitates work and cooperation in the field, without affecting statutory categorization and voting rights.

1.1. Full members

Full membership is open to:

- (a) universities, university centers, and other higher education and research institutions that are partially or entirely French-speaking, or in which a significant portion of the teaching is regularly conducted in French in several disciplines (other than French studies proper) and which offer education leading to recognized university degrees;
- (b) research centers or institutions with autonomous governance, whose main working language is French and which manage research programs of excellence.

A new full member begins to exercise their voting rights after four years of membership in the AUF, i.e., from their participation in their second General Assembly.

1.2. Associate members

The following may be associate members:

- (a) universities, university centers, and other higher education and research institutions with little or no French-speaking presence, which are committed to developing scientific Francophonie and offer education leading to recognized university degrees;
- (b) research centers or institutions with autonomous governance, where French is one of the working languages and which manage research programs of excellence;
- (c) networks, not members of the AUF Council of Networks, academic, disciplinary, educational, administrative, university life, etc., which are involved in developing or promoting scientific Francophonie;
- (d) scholarly associations that do not correspond to any of the above categories (a), (b) and (c) and are involved in developing or promoting scientific Francophonie.

ARTICLE 2 – GOVERNANCE

The governing bodies of the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie are as follows:

- the General Assembly
- the Board of Directors (including its bureau, its member institutions committee, and its finance committee)
- the Presidency
- the Rectorate

The advisory bodies of the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie are as follows:

- the Scientific Council
- The Economic and Social Council
- The Networks Council
- The strategic review committee

The Agence universitaire de la Francophonie will ensure that the principle of gender parity is respected in the composition of its bodies and organs.

ARTICLE 3 – THE GENERAL MEETING

3.1 Composition

The General Assembly is made up of authorized representatives of full members, who have voting rights.

Authorized representatives of full members may attend the General Assembly in an advisory capacity.

A single person may only represent one member.

3.2 Convocation

The General Assembly is convened every four years, in ordinary session, in accordance with the procedures established by the Board of Directors.

It shall be convened in extraordinary session by decision of the Board of Directors taken by a two-thirds majority of its members present or upon simultaneous written request addressed to the Chairman by at least one-third of the full members.

In exceptional circumstances that prevent a General Assembly from being held in person, the General Assembly may be held by videoconference.

The Board of Directors shall invite representatives of the International Organization of La Francophonie and direct and recognized operators of the Francophonie Summit to attend General Assembly meetings. It may also invite observers, in particular representatives of international bodies and concerned States. Invited persons and observers shall attend meetings in an advisory capacity.

The Secretariat of the AUF General Assembly, provided by the Rectorate, is responsible for organizing and running the General Assembly.

3.3 Powers and functions

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, decision-making, and representative body of the AUF.

As such, it is responsible for:

- (a) defining the AUF's four-year general policy and broad guidelines proposed by the Rectorate and adopted by the Board of Directors, in particular as set out in the priorities established by the Summit and the Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie;
- (b) approving the activity report of the Councils;
- (c) approving a financial report on the financial years since the previous General Assembly;
- (d) elect the President in accordance with the provisions of Article 5, and the representatives of the full members on the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of Articles 4.2 and 3.6. It takes note of the names of the directors nominated by the States and governments.

3.4 Approval of statutory reports

The reports referred to in Article 3.3 (b) and (c) must be communicated to the members of the AUF at least two calendar months before the opening of the General Assembly meeting.

The reports shall be approved by the General Assembly on the day of the opening of the General Assembly meeting.

3.5 Adoption of the AUF's general policy

The four-year general policy and the main guidelines referred to in Article 3.3 (a) are presented at the General Assembly and adopted by consensus of the full members present.

The consensus can be understood by the absence of firm opposition from a significant portion of the full members.

3.6. Elections of the Chair and academic members of the Board of Directors

3.6.1 Quorum

The quorum for the validity of elections is determined based on the number of full members of the AUF:

- (a) If the AUF has fewer than 500 full members, elections shall only be valid if at least 50% of the AUF's full members who are not in arrears with their membership fees within the meaning of Article 11.1.2 are registered for the General Assembly on the announced closing date for registration for the General Assembly meeting.
- (b) If the AUF has between 501 and 999 full members, the elections shall only be valid if at least 40% of the full members of the AUF who are not in default of payment of their membership fees within the meaning of Article 11.1.2 are registered for the General Assembly on the announced closing date for registration for the General Assembly meeting. However, the minimum quorum required for the validity of the elections is that defined in point (a).
- (c) If the AUF has 1,000 or more full members, elections are only valid if at least 30% of the AUF's full members who are not in default of payment of their membership fees within the meaning of Article 11.1.2 are registered for the General Assembly on the announced closing date for registration for the General Assembly meeting. However, the minimum quorum required for the elections to be valid is that defined in point (b).

3.6.2 Voting

Unless otherwise specified, votes are decided by a majority of the votes cast.

Each full member shall cast a single vote through its authorized representative.

The total number of votes cast at a General Assembly meeting by full members from the same country may not exceed one-quarter of the votes.

Blank votes are counted in the calculation. Invalid votes and abstentions are excluded from the calculation.

3.6.3 Candidate eligibility criteria

Any university candidate for election to the AUF General Assembly must:

- (a) hold one of the following titles: Rector, President, Director General (or any other title as PHA - Highest Authority of the institution); or be a Professor of Higher Education or researcher of equivalent rank appointed by their PHA;
- (b) be active in a full member institution that is not in default of payment of its membership fee (within the meaning of Article 11.1.2);
- (c) be officially registered at the General Assembly as a PHA or authorized representative of said member.

3.6.4 Procedure

3.6.4.1 Applications

3.6.4.1.1 Application files

Representatives registered with the General Assembly who meet the criteria set out in Article 3.6.3 and who are interested in standing for election as President or for one of the seats on the Board of Directors must do so at least 30 days before the opening of the General Assembly meeting by submitting their application file to the AUF General Assembly Secretariat. This file must include a letter of motivation, a curriculum vitae, and a description of their vision for scientific Francophonie.

A candidate may not run for the Presidency and the Board of Directors at the same General Assembly.

3.6.4.1.2 Validation of candidacies

The lists of candidates submitted to the Secretariat of the General Assembly must be validated by the outgoing Board of Directors based on the eligibility criteria listed in Article 3.6.3.

The Board of Directors' office informs the Board of Directors of the decisions taken and the final list of candidates for the Presidency and the Board of Directors.

3.6.4.1.3 Communication of candidate lists and application files

The Secretariat of the AUF General Assembly shall distribute the application files to the full members of the General Assembly at least 15 days before the opening of the General Assembly meeting.

3.6.4.2 Election

3.6.4.2.1 Election of the President

The President is elected by an absolute majority at the General Assembly from among the lists of candidates communicated.

If there are multiple candidates for the Presidency of the bodies in the first round of voting, the three candidates who receive the most votes proceed to the second round. After the second round, if no candidate obtains an absolute majority, a third round of voting is held to elect the President from among the two candidates who received the most votes in the second round.

3.6.4.2.2 Election of representatives of full members to the Board of Directors

The duly authorized representatives of the full members referred to in Article 1.2 shall meet on a regional basis during the General Assembly meeting to elect their representatives to sit on the Board of Directors, and their alternates, from among the lists of candidates provided.

The election of the eighteen university representatives elected by full members with voting rights in accordance with Article 1.1 is decided on a regional basis by relative majority. Voting, which may be conducted online, is carried out in accordance with the regional distribution of the AUF and is organized in proportion to the number of full members.

The regional distribution is confirmed by the Board of Directors prior to a General Assembly.

ARTICLE 4 – THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ITS OPERATING STRUCTURES

4.1 Functions of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors administers the AUF in accordance with the general policy defined by the General Assembly, to which it is accountable. It is responsible, in particular, for:

- (a) to adopt the four-year general policy and the main guidelines of the AUF proposed by the Rectorate;
- (b) to decide on membership applications and membership fee issues;
- (c) to establish the bureau in accordance with the provisions of Article 4.8;
- (d) to establish the Member Institutions Committee in accordance with the provisions of Article 4.9;
- (e) to establish a Finance Committee in accordance with the provisions of Article 4.10
- (f) to elect the Rector;
- (g) to approve the appointment, on the recommendation of the Chancellor:
 - one or more Vice-Rectors;
 - the Secretary General;
 - the Regional Directors;
- (h) to prepare the agenda for General Assembly meetings and to present a report on its activities to the General Assembly;

- (i) to approve or amend the AUF's work program and annual budget for the following year ;
- (j) communicate to the Francophonie authorities the program guidelines it considers to be priorities in higher education and research;
- (k) to approve an annual activity report and financial statements;
- (l) approve the AUF's general administrative regulations and financial regulations;
- (m) to decide on the opening, closure, or temporary suspension of regional directorate activities, on the recommendation of the Rector;
- (n) take all decisions concerning the acquisition and disposal of AUF real estate;
- (o) to set the staff remuneration policy;
- (p) to set up commissions, committees, and working groups, whose powers and delegations it determines;
- (q) support the AUF's strategy and initiatives by ensuring regional representation among members and their ecosystem;
- (r) to formalize its procedures and operating rules in internal regulations of the Board of Directors.

Points (c), (d), and (e) must be addressed at the first meeting of the Board of Directors, which is held immediately after the close of the General Assembly, in its plenary session.

4.2 Composition of the Board of Directors

4.2.1 Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of the following directors:

- (a) The elected Chair (in accordance with the terms of Article 3.6.4.2.1);
- (b) The eighteen (18) academics who are legal representatives or are appointed by their full member institution and elected (in accordance with the provisions of Article 3.6.4.2.2);
- (c) The General Secretariat of La Francophonie or its authorized representative;
- (d) The designated representatives of the eleven (11) member states and governments of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF);
- (e) The designated representative of a State or government participating in the Francophonie scientifique (Scientific Francophonie) through AUF member institutions and having expressed an interest in sitting on the Board;

The implementation of points (c) and (d) shall be carried out in accordance with a procedure approved in the internal regulations of the Board of Directors.

4.2.2 Alternates

In the event of a justified impediment, the directors referred to in Article 4.2.1 (b) may, on an exceptional and ad hoc basis, be replaced by a substitute appointed by the beneficiary to the elected director's seat.

In the event of a justified impediment, the directors referred to in Article 4.2.1 (d) and (e) may be replaced on an ad hoc basis by a person designated and authorized to represent the State or the government.

4.2.3 Guests

The following may be invited to attend Board of Directors meetings, in consultation between the Chair and the Rector, depending on the agenda, in an advisory capacity:

- Chairpersons of advisory bodies
- Members of the Rectorate
- Outgoing Chair of the Board of Directors

AUF staff representatives are automatically invited to Board of Directors meetings.

4.3 Term of office and removal of university representatives

4.3.1 Term and renewal of the term of office of directors referred to in section 4.2(b)

The term of office of the directors referred to in section 4.2(b) is four (4) years. The directors referred to in section 4.2(b) are eligible for re-election.

4.3.2 Removal from office of directors referred to in section 4.2(b)

4.3.2.1. Loss of status as legal or authorized representative of the full member

The member referred to in Article 4.2(b) shall lose his or her seat on the Board of Directors in the following cases:

- (a) when he ceases to exercise the functions of highest authority (PHA) in the member institution;
- (b) in the event of delegation of the HAA, when his or her mandate of representation is withdrawn;
- (c) after three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from Board of Directors meetings.

4.3.2.2. Loss of full membership of the representative's institution

The loss of full membership automatically results in the loss of the seat of the institution concerned.

4.3.3 Replacement of the loss of status as legal or authorized representative of the full member.

In the case of Article 4.3.2.1. (a), the new highest authority (PHA) of the member institution shall automatically regain the seat.

In the case of Article 4.3.2.1. (b), the PHA shall appoint a new representative from its institution or shall itself recover the seat.

In the case of Article 4.3.2.1. (c), a new member institution shall be elected (in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 3.6.4.2.2) until the end of the current term of office.

4.4 Convening and participation in the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice a year in ordinary session, at the place and on the date it has set, or failing that, at the place and on the date set by the President.

Meetings may be held remotely via videoconference.

4.5 Quorum

The Board of Directors may only validly sit and deliberate if the majority of its members are present.

4.6 Decisions

Decisions of the Board of Directors are adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of its members present, except for those relating to amendments to the Articles of Association, which must be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all its members.

A resolution written and signed, on a single document or on several identical documents, by all the directors has the same value as if it had been adopted during a meeting of the Board of Directors.

4.7 Delegation of authority

The Board of Directors may delegate to the Executive Committee its authority to deal with certain matters that it has determined.

4.8 Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

4.8.1 Functions

The Bureau deals with matters delegated to it by the Board of Directors, adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members.

4.8.2 Composition

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors is composed of the following seven directors:

- (a) the Chair;
- (b) the four university directors of the Board of Directors, two of whom are proposed Vice-Presidents
- (c) two directors from states and governments on the Board of Directors, one of whom is proposed as Vice-Chair.

4.8.3 Term of office

The term of office of members is four years. These members are eligible for re-election once.

4.8.4 Convening

It meets at least once a year, in the presence of its members, except in exceptional circumstances that prevent a face-to-face meeting, when convened by the Chair. If necessary, the Chair may also convene an extraordinary meeting, in the presence of its members or remotely, by videoconference.

4.9 The Member Institutions Committee

4.9.1 Role

The Member Institutions Committee's mission is to strengthen solidarity between institutions and to share the AUF's objectives with them. Responsible for association-specific matters:

- (a) it reviews applications for membership of the AUF,
- (b) it studies the membership fee scale,
- (c) it proposes the categorization of members,
- (d) it monitors and manages members.

The proposals of the Member Institutions Committee are submitted to the Board of Directors for final approval.

4.9.2 Composition

The Member Institutions Committee is composed of:

- (a) the Chair,
- (b) ten university members appointed from among the eighteen university representatives on the Board of Directors elected by the full members of the AUF referred to in Article 1.2.

The ten university members are appointed from among the eighteen university representatives elected by the voting members by the eighteen university representatives at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the elections.

The President and the ten university representatives must each represent a region according to the regional distribution indicated in Article 3.6.3.4.2.

4.9.3 Convening of meetings

The Member Institutions Committee meets at least once a year in the presence of its members, except in exceptional circumstances that prevent a face-to-face meeting, when convened by the Chair. If necessary, the Chair may also convene an extraordinary meeting in the presence of its members or remotely by videoconference.

4.10 Finance Committee

4.10.1 Role

The Finance Committee is responsible for:

- (a) to issue an opinion on the financial aspects of the AUF Strategy;
- (b) to propose amendments to the AUF's financial regulations;
- (c) to issue an opinion on the annual budget and financial statements;
- (d) to make any useful recommendations on financial matters.

4.10.2 Composition

It is composed of an equal number of the President and the administrators referred to in Article 4.2(a) and Article 4.2(c).

The Finance Committee may invite observers to its meetings in an advisory capacity.

4.10.3 Convening

The Finance Committee meets twice a year in person or remotely via videoconference, upon convocation by the Chair.

ARTICLE 5 – THE CHAIR

5.1 Role

The Chair has the following responsibilities:

- (a) he convenes and chairs the General Assembly,
- (b) He convenes and chairs the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.
- (c) He/she convenes and chairs the Institutions Committee and the Finance Committee.
- (d) He convenes and chairs the Strategic Review Committee.
- (e) he sets the agenda for the aforementioned bodies.

The President has no executive powers.

When decisions are made by the Board of Directors, in the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote.

5.2 Election and term of office

The President is elected by the full members of the General Assembly. The procedures for electing the President are set out in Article 3.6.

The President's term of office is four years and may be renewed once at the General Assembly following his or her first term.

5.3 Vacancy

In the event that the President is permanently unable to perform his or her duties, he or she shall be replaced by the Vice-President who is the eldest of the Vice-Presidents elected from among the university representatives elected by the full members to the Board of Directors. He or she may be replaced temporarily under the same conditions.

5.4 Delegation of powers

The President may delegate authority to a member of the Board of Directors or to the Rector.

ARTICLE 6 – THE RECTORATE

The Rectorate is headed by the Rector, who is assisted by a Management Board. The Management Board is composed of the AUF's senior management and all central, regional, and institute directors, as defined by the AUF's General Administrative Regulations.

6.1 Functions

The Rector is responsible for executive management, in particular through the following functions:

(a) Strategic management:

- He consults the advisory bodies for strategic considerations in relation to their missions.
- He or she proposes the AUF's strategy to the Board of Directors.

(b) Financial governance:

- It manages the AUF's income and expenditure.
- Each year, he or she submits a draft budget to the Board of Directors and submits the previous year's accounts and an annual activity report for approval.
- He undertakes all financial procedures required under Article 11.2 and reports to the Board of Directors.

(c) Operational management:

- He recruits, directs, and manages the AUF's own staff.
- He implements all of the AUF's policies, programs, and projects.
- He manages and coordinates the network of AUF member institutions.
- He approves and implements contracts entrusted to the AUF.
- He represents the AUF in court.
- He reports on all of these activities at each meeting of the Board of Directors.

(d) Coordination of bodies:

- He proposes the agendas for the Board of Directors, the Member Institutions Committee, and the Finance Committee to the President.
- He proposes agendas for their respective meetings to the Presidents of the Scientific Council, Economic Council, Networks Council, and Strategic Reflection Conference.
- It presents the Board of Directors with a coherent set of procedures for evaluating applications submitted to the AUF, after first seeking the opinion of the advisory boards.

(e) Coordination with Francophonie stakeholders:

- He represents the AUF in the following Francophone bodies:
 - The Conference of Heads of State and Government of French-speaking countries;
 - The Ministerial Conference of the Francophonie;
 - The Permanent Council of La Francophonie.

6.2 Eligibility criteria

Candidates for the position of Rector must meet the following criteria:

- (a) be a professor in higher education according to the law applicable in the candidate's place of work, and
- (b) have held high-level university management responsibilities.

Candidates who are retired under the law applicable to their place of employment are not eligible for the position of Rector.

6.3 Term of office and renewal

The term of office of the Rector is four years and may be renewed once after an international call for applications and election by the Board of Directors.

6.4 Election

The rules governing the election of the Rector are defined by regulations established by the Board of Directors.

The election of the Rector is officially communicated to the authorities of the Francophonie.

6.5 Vacancy

In the event that the Rector is permanently unable to perform his or her duties or resigns, he or she shall be temporarily replaced by a person appointed by the Board of Directors to allow for the election of a new Rector.

6.6 Participation

The Rector shall automatically attend meetings of the Board of Directors, its Executive Committee and related committees, the Scientific Council and its Executive Committee, the Economic Council and its Executive Committee, the Networks Council and its Executive Committee, and the Strategic Orientation Council.

The Rector may not participate in meetings of the Board of Directors and its bureau that deal exclusively with the election of the Rector.

ARTICLE 7 – THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

7.1 Role

The Scientific Council is an advisory body responsible for proposing scientific policy guidelines and defining the AUF's program evaluation policy. Responsible for scientific matters:

- (a) it participates in strengthening the scientific dimension of the AUF's actions
- (b) it carries out specific missions at the request of the Rectorate
- (c) it coordinates the scientific evaluation of projects in the regions
- (d) it calls on the regional commissions of economic and scientific experts (CREES) to select candidates who have responded to AUF calls for proposals

His advisory opinions are forwarded to the Board of Directors and the Rectorate.

7.2 Composition

The Scientific Council consists of up to twenty individuals, selected for their scientific expertise and experience in university governance or research structures, in addition to the President, the Rector, and the member of the Rectorate responsible for the Scientific Council.

The members of the Scientific Council are appointed by the eighteen university representatives on the Board of Directors and are, in fact, members of the regional commissions of economic and scientific experts (CREES).

Appointments are made on the basis of disciplinary fields, the representativeness of the AUF regions, gender parity, and university objectives in the Francophonie.

The regional representation of SC members within the Regional Commissions of Economic and Scientific Experts (CREES) is specified in the SC's internal regulations.

7.3 Term of office

Their term of office is four years and cannot be renewed.

7.4 Chair

The Scientific Council elects a Chair from among its members, who is invited to attend Board of Directors meetings depending on the agenda.

The Chair of the SC acts as a liaison between the Rectorate, the Board of Directors, and the Scientific Council and coordinates the work of the members of the Scientific Council.

7.5 Convening, participation, and removal

The Scientific Council meets at least once a year in ordinary session, convened by its Chair.

It may be convened for extraordinary sessions under the same conditions or at the written request of two-thirds of its members. These extraordinary sessions may be held remotely.

Furthermore, after three absences from half-yearly meetings or group working sessions, the member's term of office shall be suspended and the member may be replaced.

7.6 Opinions and recommendations

For formal consultations (requests on specific issues), the opinions and recommendations of the Scientific Council are adopted by a majority of those present.

7.7 The Scientific Council's bureau

7.7.1 Role

The bureau deals with matters delegated to it by the Scientific Council and reports back to it.

7.7.2 Composition

The Executive Committee of the Scientific Council is composed of the President of the SC and four members whose appointment is proposed by the President on the basis of the disciplinary fields and regions represented on the Scientific Council.

7.7.3 Mandate

The term of office of the members of the bureau shall end at the same time as their term of office on the Scientific Council.

7.7.4 Convening

It meets when convened by its Chair, in the presence of its members or remotely, by videoconference.

ARTICLE 8 – THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

8.1 Role

The Economic and Social Council is an advisory body responsible for proposing guidelines on issues relating to openness to the members' ecosystem, employability and entrepreneurship, as well as societal issues.

8.2 Composition

The Economic and Social Council is composed of ten members from the socio-economic world, in addition to the President, the Rector, the member of the Rectorate in charge of the Economic and Social Council, and the Director in charge of economics at the OIF.

The ten members of the Economic and Social Council are appointed by the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Rector, after consultation with the President, and are in fact members of the regional commissions of economic and scientific experts (CREES).

Appointments are made based on socio-economic sectors, the representativeness of AUF regions, gender parity, and socio-economic objectives in the Francophonie.

8.3 Term of office

The term of office for members is two years. It is renewable once.

8.4 Presidency

The Economic and Social Council elects a President from among its members from socio-economic backgrounds.

The President of the Economic and Social Council acts as a liaison between the Rectorate, the Board of Directors, and the Economic and Social Council and coordinates the work of the members of the Economic Council.

8.5 Convening

It is convened at least once a year by its President, who sets the agenda on the recommendation of the Rector.

8.6 Opinions and recommendations

For formal consultations (requests on specific issues), the opinions and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council are adopted by a majority of those present.

The regional representation of CES members within the Regional Commissions of Economic and Scientific Experts (CREES) is specified in the CES's internal rules of procedure.

ARTICLE 9 – THE NETWORK COUNCIL

9.1 Role

The Network Council is an advisory body responsible for proposing guidelines for the development of French-speaking thematic networking, whether disciplinary or advocacy-based.

9.2 Composition

The Network Council is composed of a maximum of ten networks, represented by their presidents, in addition to the President, the Rector, and the member of the Rectorate in charge of the Network Council. The networks are divided into clusters according to disciplinary or advocacy fields.

The ten members of the Network Council are appointed by the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Rector, after consultation with the President.

Appointments are made according to the importance of the network's theme for the AUF.

9.3 Term of office

The term of office of members is two years, renewable.

9.4 From the Presidency

The Network Council elects a President from among its ten members.

The President of the CR acts as a liaison between the Rectorate, the Board of Directors, and the Network Council and coordinates the work of the members of the Network Council.

9.5 Convening

It is convened at least once a year by its Chair, who sets the agenda on the recommendation of the Rector.

9.6 Opinions and recommendations

For formal consultations (requests on specific issues), the opinions and recommendations of the Network Council are adopted by a majority of those present.

ARTICLE 10 – THE STRATEGIC REFLECTION CONFERENCE

10.1 Functions

The Strategic Reflection Conference is an advisory body responsible for reflecting on and advising the Board of Directors on the AUF's major strategic orientations.

10.2 Composition

The Strategic Reflection Conference is composed of the following persons:

- (a) The members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors
- (b) The Chair of the Scientific Council, plus two of its members;
- (c) The Chair of the Economic and Social Council, plus two of its members;
- (d) The President of the Networks Council, plus two of its members
- (e) The authorized representative of the Secretary General of La Francophonie
- (f) The members of the AUF Rectorate
- (g) Any other member of the Board invited by the President or the Rector in consultation

10.3 Of the Presidency

The Strategic Review Conference is chaired by the President.

10.4 Convening

It is convened at least once a year, if necessary, by the President, in consultation with the Rector.

ARTICLE 11 – MEMBERSHIP FEES, RESOURCES, AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

11.1 Membership fees

11.1.1 Amount of the contribution

The Rectorate proposes a membership fee index that includes a set of terms and criteria, renewed annually and validated by the Board of Directors.

11.1.2 Non-payment of membership fees

Failure to pay dues for two consecutive years will result in the member's expulsion.

At the express request of a member eligible for termination, citing exceptional circumstances, the Board of Directors may suspend the application of this article. This suspension allows the member to remain a member without voting rights at the General Assembly.

11.2 Resources and financial management

The AUF is funded by various resources, including:

- (a) government grants
- (b) contractual funds
- (c) co-financing contracts
- (d) membership fees
- (e) financing from the Single Multilateral Fund (SMF),
- (f) income from service activities, sales of publications,
- (g) grants from national and international organizations,
- (h) contributions from the private sector,
- (i) donations, and bequests.

The AUF may benefit from non-financial resources, including:

- (j) the provision and secondment of personnel
- (k) the provision of premises and usable space free of charge
- (l) office furniture and equipment
- (m) and any other benefits in kind.

Subsidies, subscriptions, and donations of any kind made to the AUF may only be accepted if they are not subject to any conditions that are incompatible with the AUF's statutes and objectives.

The management of resources entrusted to the AUF is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the financial regulations adopted by the Board of Directors.

11.3 External audit

An external auditor is appointed by the Finance Committee every three years following a call for applications. The external auditor submits the final accounts to the Board of Directors for approval on an annual basis.

ARTICLE 12 – AUF HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the AUF is located in Montreal. It may be moved by decision of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 13 – AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

13.1 Proposed amendments

Proposals for amendments to the Statutes shall be made:

- (a) either the Board of Directors;
- (b) either on the initiative of the Rectorate, in which case they must be submitted to the Board of Directors at least three calendar months before the date of the General Assembly meeting;
- (c) or at the initiative of at least one-fifth (1/5) of the full members of the AUF representing at least ten countries, in which case they must be sent to the Board of Directors six calendar months before the date of the General Assembly meeting.

13.2. Adoption of amendments and consultation period

The Board of Directors adopts proposed amendments to the Articles of Association by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of its members.

These amendments must be communicated to the full members of the General Assembly at least two calendar months before the opening of the General Assembly meeting.

13.3 Ratification

Amendments to the Statutes shall be deemed to have been ratified by the General Assembly on the day of the opening of the General Assembly meeting if, during the two months prior to the opening of the General Assembly meeting, the full members have not objected in writing to the amendments adopted by the Board of Directors.

The required percentage of members is calculated based on the number of full members of the AUF:

- (a) if the AUF has fewer than 500 full members, 50% of the AUF's full members who are not in default of payment of their membership fees within the meaning of Article 11.1.2 must object in writing to the amendments adopted by the Board of Directors;
- (b) if the AUF has between 500 and 999 full members, 40% of the AUF's full members who are not in default of payment of their membership fees within the meaning of Article 11.1.2 must object in writing to the amendments adopted by the Board of Directors;
- (c) if the AUF has 1,000 or more full members, 30% of the full members of the AUF who are not in default of payment of their membership fees within the meaning of Article 11.1.2 must object in writing to the amendments adopted by the Board of Directors.

13.4 Decision

In the absence of ratification (in accordance with Article 13.3), the Statutes shall be amended by the General Assembly by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of its members present.

ARTICLE 14 – ENTRY INTO FORCE

Amendments ratified by the General Assembly shall enter into force immediately.