

**Action for Southern Africa
Constitution**

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Clause 1 Name

The name of the organisation shall be "Action for Southern Africa", hereafter referred to as "ACTSA".

Clause 2 Aims and Objects

The aims and objects shall be:

- a) to support the development of southern Africa (defined as those countries in membership of the Southern Africa Development Community- SADC)
- b) to support the people of southern Africa achieve a region free of poverty, based on, peace, justice, democracy, equality and human rights for all.
- c) to advance the education of the public on southern Africa, in particular on the destructive legacies of apartheid, the causes of poverty, underdevelopment, conflict and human rights.
- d) to promote friendship, co-operation, partnership and solidarity between people, organisations and communities in Britain and southern Africa.

ACTSA shall co-operate with organisations in Southern Africa, Britain and internationally in support of the above aims and objects and otherwise act in furtherance of its Founding Statement.

Clause 3 Transfer of Members

ACTSA shall be the Successor Organisation to the Anti-Apartheid Movement and shall have transferred to it at its Founding Meeting all the national individual members and affiliates of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Any membership for which a subscription has been paid to the Anti-Apartheid Movement prior to the Founding Meeting of ACTSA shall remain valid in ACTSA until its due expiry date.

Clause 4 Interpretation of Rules

In the event of any question arising as to the interpretation of these rules or where the rules are silent, the question shall be referred to the Nation Executive Council whose decision shall be final.

Clause 5 Anti-Discrimination Policy

ACTSA shall seek to ensure that discriminatory acts are not committed against any persons by itself, its organs, members or employees on grounds of race, gender, sexuality, disability, age or creed.

Clause 6 Membership of ACTSA

6.1. The National Executive Council shall establish criteria and procedures for acceptance into membership which shall be incorporated in the Standing Orders. The National Executive Council shall appoint a Credentials Committee consisting of three members of ACTSA, none of whom shall be members of the National Executive Council, to report on any questions arising in connection with applications for membership, representation of affiliated organisations and any other related matters.

6.2. ACTSA shall have the following categories of members:

- (a) Individual members
- (b) Affiliated organisations according to the following categories:
 - (i) bone fide national organisations (other than a political party);
 - (ii) bone fide local and regional organisations (including Local Authorities);
 - (iii) recognised ACTSA Local Groups and ACTSA Regional Committees.

All members and affiliates must support the aims and objects of ACTSA and admission to or refusal of membership shall be at the absolute discretion of the National Executive Council without a right to appeal.

6.3. Members of ACTSA may establish ACTSA Local Groups and ACTSA Regional Committees and apply to the National Executive Council for recognition which may be granted or refused at the absolute discretion of the National Executive Council without a right to appeal.

6.4. Individual members will pay either an annual or ten-year single or joint rate subscription.

6.5. Affiliates will pay an annual subscription.

6.6. Rates of subscription including any concessionary rates will be as determined from time to time by the National Executive Council.

Clause 7 ACTSA Cymru (Wales ACTSA)

ACTSA Cymru (Wales ACTSA) shall be an integral part of ACTSA with the rights as set out in this Constitution including those of ACTSA affiliates.

Clause 8 ACTSA Scotland

ACTSA Scotland shall be an integral part of ACTSA with the rights as set out in this Constitution including those of ACTSA affiliates.

Clause 9 Patrons and Honorary Positions

The National Executive Council may appoint Patrons. The National Executive Council may make appointments to any Honorary post which may be created. Such appointments shall be in a non-voting capacity but appointees will have the right to attend and speak at any meeting. Rights as an individual shall not be affected. Honorary appointments shall only be rescinded by the National Executive Council voting with a two-thirds majority of those entitled to attend.

Clause 10 Annual General Meeting

10.1. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held which will be the primary policy-making body of ACTSA. Notice of the AGM shall be sent to all members and affiliates. The Agenda shall include the report from the National Executive Council, motions submitted for debate in accordance with the Standing Orders and a duly audited financial account. The AGM shall elect Officers, the National Executive Council and Standing Orders Committee as set out in Clauses 10.4 to 10.6.

10.2. Other than for the first Annual General Meeting (also known as the Founding Meeting) when representation will be as provided for in the Constitution of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, the following shall be entitled to attend and vote at AGMs:

- (a) Individual members who shall have one vote for all purposes
- (b) Delegates from affiliated organisations on the following basis:
 - (i) National organisations as defined in Clause 6.2 (b) (i)
 - Up to 100,000 members – two delegates
 - Up to 500,000 members – three delegates
 - Up to 1,000,000 members – four delegates
 - Over 1,000,000 members – five delegates
 - (ii) Local and regional organisations as defined in Clause 6.2 (b) (ii)
 - One delegate
 - (iii) ACTSA Cymru, ACTSA Scotland and recognised ACTSA Local Groups and ACTSA Regional Committees as defined in Clause 6.2 (b) (iii)
 - Two delegates

Delegates may only represent one affiliated organisation. If a delegate is also an individual member of ACTSA she/he shall not be entitled to exercise voting rights in this capacity.

10.3. Voting shall be by a show of hands unless a card vote is called for by:

- (a) the Chair;
- or
- (b) at least five members/delegates.

In the event of a card vote being called and for the elections of Officers, National Executive Council and the Standing Orders Committee, individual members shall have one vote and delegates shall have five votes.

In the event of a tied vote on any matter, including elections, the Chair will have a casting vote in addition to her/his vote.

10.4. The AGM shall elect the following Officers: a Chair, two Vice Chairs and a Treasurer, who shall take up post from the end of the meeting.

10.5. The AGM shall also elect a National Executive Council of 15 members, at least five of whom shall be women members and at least two of whom shall be black members.

10.6. The AGM shall elect a Standing Orders Committee of three members who shall not be Officers or members of the National Executive Council nor candidates for election as an Officer or member of the National Executive Council.

10.7. Candidates for all elections must be individual members of ACTSA and nominated by two named members or affiliates.

10.8. The quorum of the AGM shall be 30 participants entitled to attend and vote.

10.9. No delegate representing an affiliated organisation nor individual member nor affiliated organisation shall be able to attend and vote at an AGM or be eligible to stand as a candidate in any election or to nominate any candidate for any election unless the individual member or the affiliated organisation is a) in membership at the date of dispatch of the notice of the AGM and b) fully paid up at the date of the AGM.

Clause 11 National Executive Council

- 11.1. The National Executive Council shall consist of: Officers elected in accordance with Clause 10.4; 15 members elected in accordance with Clause 10.5. In addition up to three members may be co-opted by the National Executive Council.
- 11.2. The National Executive Council will appoint a Director who shall also become, ex-officio, an Officer of ACTSA and a member of the National Executive Council.
- 11.3. The National Executive Council may appoint such other staff as appropriate.
- 11.4. The National Executive Council shall carry on the work of ACTSA and be responsible for the interpretation, implementation and development of policy between AGMs. It shall prepare a report on its activities to the AGM, including plans for the next year.
- 11.5. The Officers of ACTSA shall be responsible for carrying on the work between meetings of the National Executive Council.
- 11.6. The National Executive Council may establish such sub-committees and specialist committees as appropriate. It shall determine the powers and responsibilities of any such committees, which will be reported to the AGM. It will also organise a Forum for representatives of Local ACTSA Groups and other structures recognised in accordance with Clause 11.7.
- 11.7. The National Executive Council will have the authority to recognise ACTSA Local Groups and ACTSA Regional Committees. Any such bodies which exist will work within the aims and objects of ACTSA and its policies.
- 11.8. The National Executive Council shall meet at least four times a year. A quorum shall be five members, including two Officers.
- 11.9. The National Executive Council shall have the power to call an Extraordinary General Meeting at which the basis of attendance and voting shall be as for an Annual General Meeting.
- 11.10. The National Executive Council shall each year appoint Auditors.

Clause 12 Finance

ACTSA shall be financed from membership subscriptions, affiliation fees, from any special appeals and functions organised in its aid, from merchandise and other sales, and any other appropriate sources. It will also be able to apply for grants from other organisations in pursuance of the aims and objects.

All expenditure shall be consistent with the aims and objects of ACTSA. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the proper keeping of accounts on behalf of the National Executive Council and shall see that they are audited annually.

Clause 13 Discipline

The National Executive Council shall have the right, by a two-thirds majority of its membership, to expel any member/affiliate if it can be shown that such a member/affiliate was clearly working against the interests of ACTSA. Any member/affiliate shall have a right of appeal to the Credentials Committee as established under Clause 6.1 of the Constitution whose decision will be final.

Clause 14 Standing Orders

The National Executive Council shall draw up Standing Orders for the conduct of its own business and that of the AGM.

Clause 15 Constitution

The Constitution may only be amended by a motion to an AGM. Any amendment shall require for approval a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

Clause 16 Dissolution

ACTSA may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an AGM. Any outstanding funds shall only be spent on activities consistent with the aims and objects of ACTSA.

The Constitution was adopted at the Founding Meeting of ACTSA on 29 October 1994 and amended at the AGMs of 20 November 1999 and 9 November 2002 and 29 October 2011.