

# **Charter of the China-Africa Consortium of Universities**

## **Exchange Mechanism**

### **Chapter 1 General Principles**

Article 1 China-Africa Consortium of Universities Exchange Mechanism (hereinafter referred to as "the Mechanism") is an unofficial mechanism established by China Association of Higher Education (CAHE) and Association of African Universities (AAU) based on the Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing a Partnership between the two sides. The mechanism is led by the universities from both sides based on the principle of voluntary participation.

Article 2 The full name of the Mechanism in Chinese is "中非大学联盟交流机制". The full name of the Mechanism in English is "China-Africa Consortium of Universities Exchange Mechanism".

Article 3 The mechanism respects the rules and regulations of the states of all members, whereby it conducts its activities. To regulate the operation of the routine work, promote the sound and stable development of the mechanism, the Charter is formulated based on the real situation.

Article 4 The Mechanism aims to build a communication platform for Chinese and African universities, implement the China-Africa 100 Universities Project, promote cooperation between Chinese and

African universities in talent development, scientific research, academic exchange, and social services so as to promote common development of higher education in all members and inject new impetus into China-Africa community of shared future in the new era.

Article 5 The missions of the Mechanism include:

1. building an academic information exchange platform between Chinese and African universities to promote international cooperation and exchange among Mechanism members.
2. promoting the China-Africa 100 Universities Project, with each side selecting its member universities based on the fields to cooperate in.
3. establishing a joint research network for compiling and publishing education overviews, guidelines and policy briefs for China and African countries.
4. integrating existing projects and resources on higher education exchange and cooperation between China and Africa, and conducting systematic planning.
5. providing short-term trainings for higher education practitioners and managers.
6. promoting the joint research institutes and centers for higher education between China and Africa to form think tanks for knowledge and intellectual support for China-Africa

cooperation.

7. organizing members for international cooperation in teaching and research, and coordinating and promoting international cooperation between members from different regions and countries.
8. promoting the connection and cooperation between member universities in their outstanding disciplines, and attracting financial and material support from nations, social organizations, research institutions, state-owned enterprises, and private companies for talent development.
9. prioritizing the cooperation and exchange in areas of expertise including agriculture, environmental chemistry, traditional Chinese medicine, biomedicine, language, aerospace, electronic communication, mining, and education, so as to develop high-end talents for China and African countries.

## **Chapter 2 Organizational Structure**

Article 6 The Mechanism is under the joint leadership of CAHE and AAU. The leaders should aid the Mechanism to win the policy support from the host countries, guide members in organizing and participating in the activities organized by the Mechanism, facilitate fund-raising and fund dedicated research and various academic activities when necessary.

Article 7 The Mechanism should set up a committee, where there should be one director from China and Africa respectively. The director is elected from the leaders of CAHE and AAU. There should be one executive director and one deputy director for each side from China and Africa respectively.

Article 8 The committee is responsible for deciding on important issues and personnel adjustment, including its committee members, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Secretariat, and the mechanism for enrolling more universities; They are also responsible for formulating important papers, including the Charter, proclamation, work plan, reform and development plan, annual work plan and focus, annual work report, and the threshold for member enrollment.

Article 9 A Secretariat is established in China and Africa respectively in the Mechanism, responsible for the local routine work. The Secretariat is staffed with one Secretariat and several Deputy Secretariats. Under the leadership of the committee, they are responsible for implementing China-Africa 100 Universities Project, selecting its new members among the applicants, organizing the routine conferences, promoting routine affairs, issuing notices and announcements, preparing work briefings, organizing and promoting various projects, and completing other tasks assigned by the director.

Article 10 In the Mechanism, China and Africa should set up their

institutions respectively. It should be in charge of organizing the academic conferences for the members and actively participate in consultation. Under the leadership of the committee, the Mechanism should be responsible for constructing China-Africa Educational Policy Network, promoting building the China-African Educational Thinktank, organizing activities relevant to “China-Africa Thinktank Forum” so as to promote the intercollegiate communication between China and Africa. It should formulate the professional development plan for excellent teachers from China and Africa, promote the educational cooperation, exchanges and training for teachers, and complete other tasks assigned by the committee.

Article 11 The Mechanism holds annual meetings, which will be organized by members from China and Africa alternately.

### **Chapter 3 Funds and Assets**

Article 12 The Mechanism doesn't own cash, tangible assets and immaterial assets. The Mechanism does not charge annual fees to members and encourages them to raise funds through multiple channels to support Mechanism activities.

Article 13 The daily operating expenses of the Chinese Secretariat and institutions are mainly raised CAHE, AAU and the Entities where the Secretariats and institutions are placed.

Article 14 Funds for Mechanism activities and research projects

are raised and managed by the organizers or research project undertakers in accordance with their financial management and auditing requirements.

#### **Chapter 4 Admission and Withdrawal**

Article 15 Entities applying to join the Mechanism must be higher education institutions officially registered and recognized by the education supervisory authorities in China or African countries.

Article 16 Entities applying to join the Mechanism voluntarily must recognize all the articles in the Charter. They should have certain foundations for China-Africa Cooperation, have the ability to provide necessary human resources, man power and financial support, and would establish the equal and mutually-beneficial relationship between members of the Mechanism.

Article 17 Entities applying to join the Mechanism should submit an application to the Mechanism Secretariat. Upon the deliberation on its eligibility by the committee, a notice and a certificate of membership will be issued after approval.

Article 18 Entities applying to withdraw from the Mechanism shall submit an application to the Secretariat. If a member does not participate in activities organized by the Mechanism without justification for two years, it shall be deemed to have applied to withdraw by default. Upon the deliberation of the committee, a notice

regarding the withdrawal of relevant members shall be issued by the Secretariat.

## **Chapter 5 Rights and Obligations**

Article 19 Mechanism member have the following rights:

1. Participating in activities initiated by the Mechanism;
2. Applying to organize activities initiated by the Mechanism;
3. Receiving services from the Mechanism;
4. Reviewing materials of the Mechanism;
5. Submitting suggestions and proposals to the Mechanism;
6. Supervising the work of the Mechanism;
7. Other rights as stipulated in the Charter.

Article 20 Member shall fulfill the following obligations:

1. Complying with the Charter;
2. Implementing resolutions of the Mechanism;
3. Implementing work assigned by the Mechanism.

## **Chapter 6 Supplementary Provisions**

Article 21 The logo of the Mechanism is drafted by the Secretariat.

Article 22 This Charter was approved through vote at the meeting of the Mechanism on July 7, 2023.

Article 23 Any revision of this Charter must be initiated by the mechanism director or jointly proposed by more than one-third of member universities. The revision can come into effect only with the

support of two-thirds of the member universities.

Article 24 The Mechanism Secretariat reserves the right to interpret the Charter.