We, Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU):

….

**Article 2  
Establishment**

The African Union is hereby established in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

**Article 29  
Admission to Membership**

**1.** Any African State may, at any time after the entry into force of this Act, notify the Chairman of the Commission of its intention to accede to this Act and to be admitted as a member of the Union.

**2.**The Chairman of the Commission shall, upon receipt of such notification, transmit copies thereof to all Member States. Admission shall be decided by a simple majority of the Member States. The decision of each Member State shall be transmitted to the Chairman of the Commission who shall, upon receipt of the required number of votes, communicate the decision to the State concerned.

**[Back to top](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/aboutau/constitutive_act_en.htm" \l "top)**

**Article 30  
Suspension**

Governments which shall come to power through unconstitutional means shall not be allowed to participate in the activities of the Union.

[**Back to top**](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/aboutau/constitutive_act_en.htm#top)

**Article 31  
Cessation of Membership**

**1**. Any State which desires to renounce its membership shall forward a written notification to the Chairman of the Commission, who shall inform Member States thereof. At the end of one year from the date of such notification, if not withdrawn, the Act shall cease to apply with respect to the renouncing State, which shall thereby cease to belong to the Union.

**2**. During the period of one year referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, any Member State wishing to withdraw from the Union shall comply with the provisions of this Act and shall be bound to discharge its obligations under this Act up to the date of its withdrawal.

[**Back to top**](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/aboutau/constitutive_act_en.htm#top)