



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN STUDENTS' CONFEDERATION IN CHINA (ASCC)

2026

PREAMBLE

We, the African student associations in China, adopt this Constitution to govern the African Students' Confederation in China (ASCC) on the principles of unity, solidarity, cooperation, inclusivity, transparency, and rotational leadership.

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND NATURE

- a) The organization shall be known as the African Students' Confederation in China (ASCC).
- b) The ASCC is a non-profit, non-political, and independent student platform.
- c) The Confederation operates across China, with coordination based on its leadership structure.

ARTICLE 2: SUPREMACY

- a) This Constitution is the supreme governing instrument of the Confederation.
- b) The Founding Charter is a declaratory document that sets out the principles and objectives of the Confederation, but shall not override any provision of this Constitution. In the event of any inconsistency, this Constitution prevails.
- c) Any annex, regulation, or internal rule adopted by the General Assembly or Executive Committee must be consistent with this Constitution.

ARTICLE 3: OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

- a) The official languages of the Confederation are English, French, Arabic, and Swahili, consistent with the languages of the African Union.
- b) English shall be the primary working language for official documents, minutes, and legal instruments unless otherwise decided by the General Assembly.
- c) The Confederation shall endeavor to provide translations of key documents into the other official languages when resources permit.
- d) In any dispute over interpretation, the English version of this Constitution shall prevail unless the General Assembly decides otherwise.

ARTICLE 4: DEFINITIONS

In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:

- i. “Active participation” means attendance by a member association’s official representative at no fewer than two-thirds (2/3) of General Assembly meetings and Steering Committee-reported activities in the preceding twelve months.
- ii. “Consensus” means a decision-making process where, after reasonable discussion, no member association present and voting formally objects to the proposed decision. Consensus does not require unanimity.
- iii. “Extraordinary circumstances” means an event outside the control of the Confederation (e.g., natural disaster, government-imposed closure, public health emergency) that makes a normal leadership transition impossible. It does not include administrative delays, lack of candidates, or internal disagreements.
- iv. “Recognized African student association” means a student group officially registered with its embassy in China, the education attaché affairs authority, or with its host Chinese university.
- v. “Working day” means any day except Saturdays, Sundays, and official public holidays in Beijing, China.
- vi. “In writing” includes email or other verifiable electronic communication.

ARTICLE 5: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the ASCC are to:

- a) Promote unity and solidarity among African student associations in China;
- b) Strengthen cooperation, coordination, and mutual support;
- c) Represent African students in China in academic, cultural, and institutional matters;
- d) Facilitate the integration and adaptation of African students in China, particularly newly arrived students, through guidance, support networks, and shared resources;
- e) Facilitate dialogue and collaboration with embassies, universities, and institutional partners;
- f) Organize conferences, forums, and joint initiatives;
- g) Promote cultural exchange and intercultural understanding;
- h) Contribute to the academic, social, and professional development of members.

ARTICLE 6: PRINCIPLES

The Confederation shall operate based on:

- a) Equality of all member associations;
- b) Collective decision-making;

- c) Shared responsibility;
- d) Respect, cooperation, and inclusivity;
- e) Rotational leadership;
- f) Transparency and accountability.

ARTICLE 7: LEGAL STATUS AND COMPLIANCE

- 1) The Confederation is a voluntary, unincorporated association of independent member associations. It does not have a separate legal personality under Chinese law unless and until formally registered.
- 2) The Confederation shall operate in compliance with:
 - i. The laws of the People's Republic of China, including regulations on foreign student organizations and public security registration, where applicable;
 - ii. The rules and regulations of each host university where member associations are based;
 - iii. The directives of African embassies and consulates in China regarding student welfare, provided they do not conflict with this Constitution or the Confederation's autonomy.
- 3) No provision of this Constitution shall be interpreted as requiring any member association or individual to violate applicable laws or university policies.
- 4) The Steering Committee shall, where necessary, seek guidance from legal advisors or embassy education attachés on matters of local compliance.
- 5) Member associations remain responsible for their own compliance with their respective university and embassy regulations. The Confederation shall not be liable for any violation by an individual member association.

ARTICLE 8 – MEMBERSHIP

8.1: Admission

1. Membership is open to all recognized African student associations in China.
2. An association wishing to join shall submit a written application to the Steering Committee, accompanied by proof of recognition by its embassy or host university. The Steering Committee shall present the application to the next General Assembly, which may admit the applicant by simple majority vote.
3. Each member association has equal status within the Confederation.

8.2: Rights of Full Members

Full member associations have the right to participate in the General Assembly, vote, nominate candidates, take part in leadership processes, and participate in the activities of the Confederation, subject to eligibility criteria.

8.3: Associate or Observer Participation

The General Assembly may approve associate or observer participation for African-descendant student communities, diaspora student groups, or other Africa-related student organizations. Such participants may contribute to activities and discussions but shall not have voting rights or leadership rotation rights unless otherwise decided by the General Assembly.

8.4: Responsibilities

Member associations shall:

- a) Participate in meetings and activities;
- b) Contribute to collective initiatives;
- c) Respect this Constitution and decisions of the General Assembly;
- d) Promote unity, cooperation, and mutual support;
- e) Support the long-term sustainability of the Confederation.

8.5: Resignation

Any member association may resign by giving three months' written notice to the Secretary General. Resignation does not relieve the association from any outstanding financial obligation.

8.6: Suspension and Expulsion

1. A member association may be suspended or expelled only for:
 - a) A serious and persistent breach of this Constitution;
 - b) Conduct that gravely damages the reputation or functioning of the Confederation;
 - c) Failure to pay any mandated financial contribution for six months after the due date.
2. Suspension or expulsion shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all full member associations, excluding the association concerned.
3. The accused association shall receive at least 30 days' written notice of the charges and an opportunity to be heard at a General Assembly meeting before the vote.
4. A suspended association loses voting, leadership, and hosting rights. It may be reinstated by a simple majority vote after demonstrating compliance.
5. An expelled association has no right to any refund of past contributions.

ARTICLE 9: ORGANS OF THE CONFEDERATION

The ASCC shall consist of:

- 1) General Assembly;
- 1) Steering Committee;
- 2) Functional Committees;
- 3) Oversight and Compliance Committee;
- 4) Advisory Council.

ARTICLE 10: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10.1: Supreme Body

- 1) The General Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of the Confederation.
- 2) It is composed of official representatives of all full member associations.
- 3) Each full member association shall have one vote.

10.2: Functions

The General Assembly shall:

- a) Define the general direction of the Confederation;
- b) Approve major decisions;
- c) Adopt and amend this Constitution;
- d) Provide strategic guidance;
- e) Elect or confirm leadership;
- f) Approve major initiatives, programs, and institutional decisions;
- g) Adopt the annual budget and financial regulations.

10.3: Bureau

For the orderly conduct of its meetings, the General Assembly shall have a Bureau composed of:

- a) Chairperson of the General Assembly;
- b) Deputy Chairperson of the General Assembly;
- c) Secretary of the General Assembly;
- d) Deputy Secretary of the General Assembly.

The Bureau serves in a neutral and facilitative role and shall not replace the authority of the General Assembly.

10.4: Quorum

1. No General Assembly meeting may take binding decisions unless at least 50% of all full member associations are present or represented by proxy.
2. For amendments to this Constitution or dissolution, a quorum shall be 60% of all full member associations.
3. If a meeting is called and a quorum is not met within 30 minutes of the scheduled time, the meeting may be adjourned to a date within seven (7) days. If quorum is again not met, the meeting may proceed with those present, provided that at least 30% of member associations are represented, but any decision shall be provisional until ratified by a subsequent electronic vote achieving the required quorum.
4. Proxy voting is permitted if written authorization is submitted to the Secretary General before the vote.

ARTICLE 11: STEERING COMMITTEE

11.1: Composition

The Steering Committee shall consist of the following elected officers, each from a different member association:

- a) President;
- b) Vice President;
- c) Secretary General;
- d) Deputy Secretary General;
- e) Treasurer;
- f) One representative from each Functional Committee (selected by that committee's members).

The General Assembly may, by simple majority, add non-voting advisory members.

11.2: Roles and Responsibilities

President

- i. Chairs all Steering Committee meetings.
- ii. Represents the Confederation externally at official functions.
- iii. Signs official correspondence and agreements (with Steering Committee approval).
- iv. Oversees implementation of General Assembly decisions.
- v. Has a casting vote only to break ties.

Vice President

- i. Acts as President in the President's absence or incapacity.
- ii. Assists with external relations and member association outreach.
- iii. Coordinates cross-committee collaboration.

Secretary General

- i. Maintains all official records, minutes, and archives.
- ii. Issues with meeting notices and circulating agendas.
- iii. Handles official correspondence.
- iv. Manages membership records and communication with member associations.

Deputy Secretary General

- i. Supports the Secretary General.
- ii. Assists with documentation and record-keeping.
- iii. Acts as Secretary General when required.

Treasurer

- i. Manages the Confederation's funds and bank accounts.
- ii. Prepares annual budgets and financial reports.
- iii. Ensures compliance with financial controls (two signatories, spending limits).
- iv. Reports to the Steering Committee and General Assembly.
- v. Committee Representatives
- vi. Report their committee's activities to the Steering Committee.
- vii. Coordinate cross-committee tasks.

Ensure committee decisions align with the Steering Committee direction.

11.3: Meetings and Decision-Making

- 1) The Steering Committee shall meet at least once every month.
- 2) A quorum requires at least half of its voting members.
- 3) Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of members present and voting. The President shall not have a casting vote except to break a tie.
- 4) All major operational decisions (e.g., opening a bank account, signing external agreements, spending over 1,000 RMB) must be recorded in minutes with explicit approval.

11.4: Vacancies

For vacancies in Vice President, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, or Treasurer:

- a) The Steering Committee may appoint an interim officer from another member association, subject to confirmation by a simple majority at the next General Assembly meeting.
- b) The interim officer shall serve only until a special election can be held, which shall occur within 90 days if more than six months remain in the term.

11.5: Transition of Power

1. Within 14 days after election or confirmation, the outgoing Steering Committee shall deliver to the incoming Committee:
 - a) All official documents, digital files, and communication archives;
 - b) A detailed handover report including pending tasks, financial status, ongoing partnerships, and unresolved matters;
 - c) Access to all accounts, passwords, and contact lists (excluding personal data restricted by law).
2. A joint transition meeting shall be held, chaired by the outgoing President or a neutral member of the Advisory Council.
3. Failure to cooperate with an orderly transition may result in suspension of the outgoing member association under Article 8.6.

11.6: Code of Conduct

All Steering Committee members shall:

- a) Act in the best interest of the Confederation, not their own association or personal interest;
- b) Disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest in writing to the Oversight and Compliance Committee;
- c) Not use Confederation resources, contacts, or brand for personal or association-only benefit without General Assembly approval.

A violation may be investigated by the Oversight and Compliance Committee and, if confirmed, referred to the General Assembly for possible removal.

ARTICLE 12: FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES

12.1: Establishment

The Confederation shall establish functional committees, including:

- a) Program and Academic Committee;
- b) Communication and Media Committee;

- c) Logistics and Operations Committee;
- d) Sponsorship and Partnerships Committee;
- e) Protocol and External Relations Committee;
- f) Cultural and Networking Committee.

The General Assembly may create or dissolve committees by a simple majority.

12.2: Roles

Each committee shall:

- a) Be led or co-led by designated member associations;
- b) Execute specific operational tasks;
- c) Report to the Steering Committee;
- d) Operate collaboratively with other members;
- e) Submit progress updates when required;
- f) Support the implementation of the Confederation's programs and events.

12.3: Appointment of Committee Leadership

- a) Each committee shall have a Chair and, optionally, a Co-Chair.
- b) The Chair shall be appointed by the Steering Committee from among candidates nominated by member associations, with preference given to associations that have not held a key leadership position in the current term.
- c) The appointment must be ratified by a simple majority of the General Assembly or, between sessions, by the Oversight and Compliance Committee for urgency.
- d) Committee Chairs serve a one-year term, renewable once, but may be removed by the Steering Committee for cause (e.g., inactivity, misconduct).

ARTICLE 13: OVERSIGHT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee shall ensure transparency, accountability, and proper governance within the Confederation.
2. Its responsibilities include:
 - a) Monitoring financial management;
 - b) Reviewing budget implementation;
 - c) Ensuring transparency in financial and administrative matters;
 - d) Providing periodic reports to the General Assembly;
 - e) Reviewing compliance with this Constitution;
 - f) Verifying the eligibility of candidates for leadership positions before elections.

3. The Committee shall be composed of representatives from different member associations.
4. Members of the Steering Committee (including the Treasurer) shall not serve in the Oversight and Compliance Committee.
5. The Committee shall operate independently from the Steering Committee in its oversight role.

Article 14. Advisory Council

1. The Advisory Council shall provide guidance, institutional memory, and strategic advice.
2. It may include:
 - a) Former Presidents or senior officers of the Confederation;
 - b) Former or current leaders of recognized African student associations in China;
 - c) African leaders with experience in student affairs, education, diplomacy, or Africa–China cooperation;
 - d) Other persons invited by the General Assembly due to relevant expertise.
3. Members shall be appointed or confirmed by the General Assembly upon recommendation by the Steering Committee or member associations.
4. The Advisory Council serves in an advisory capacity only and shall not exercise executive, voting, or financial authority.
5. Term and removal: Members serve a two-year term, renewable once (maximum four consecutive years). The General Assembly may remove a member by a two-thirds majority for conduct detrimental to the Confederation.
6. The Council shall elect its own Chair from among its members.

ARTICLE 15: LEADERSHIP, ELIGIBILITY, AND ROTATION

15.1: Principle of Rotational Leadership

Leadership shall be rotational among eligible and active member associations. No member association shall permanently hold or dominate leadership.

15.2: Eligibility of Member Associations to Lead

A member association is eligible if it:

- a) Is recognized;
- b) Has an active leadership structure;
- c) Has joined the Confederation and accepted this Constitution;

- d) Has actively participated (as defined in Article 4);
- e) Has at least one representative based in China;
- f) Has demonstrated commitment to unity and cooperation;
- g) Has no unresolved accountability issue.

15.3: Eligibility of Candidates

A candidate for leadership shall:

- a) Be a current student association leader;
- b) Be officially endorsed by his/her member association;
- c) Be based in China during service (unless otherwise approved by the General Assembly);
- d) Have demonstrated leadership experience;
- e) Be committed to the Confederation's objectives;
- f) Not be under any disciplinary concern.

15.4: Election and Confirmation

1. The President shall be elected or confirmed by the General Assembly from among eligible candidates.
2. Where possible, leadership shall be determined by consensus; otherwise by majority vote. Each member association has one vote.
3. The Oversight and Compliance Committee shall verify the eligibility of candidates within 14 days after nominations close. Disqualified candidates may appeal to the General Assembly.

15.5: Rotation Mechanism

In determining the next leadership, the General Assembly shall consider active participation, capacity, past leadership opportunities, regional and linguistic balance, and commitment to principles. Priority may be given to associations that have not previously held the position of President.

15.6: Duration of Mandate

The leadership mandate shall be one year, unless extended under extraordinary circumstances with General Assembly approval. No member association shall hold the

President position for two consecutive terms unless approved by consensus due to exceptional circumstances.

15.7: Distribution of Key Leadership Positions

Key positions (President, Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Chairperson of the General Assembly, Chairperson of the Oversight and Compliance Committee) shall, as far as possible, be distributed among different member associations. No single association may hold more than one key position at the same time.

15.8: Skipping or Deferral

An ineligible or inactive association may be skipped. The decision shall be made by the General Assembly after consultation. A skipped association does not lose membership rights and may be reconsidered later.

15.9: Leadership Vacancy and Removal

1. A leader may be removed before the term ends for:
 - a. Gross misconduct;
 - b. Extended absence without notice (more than 60 days);
 - c. Actions contrary to the Confederation's principles.
2. Removal requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all full member associations at a General Assembly meeting called for that purpose, with 14 days' notice.
 1. If the President's position becomes vacant, the Vice President shall act as interim leader for up to 90 days, after which a new election shall be held.
 2. Other vacancies may be filled by Steering Committee appointment, confirmed by a simple majority of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 16: ELECTION PROCEDURE

1. Elections shall be conducted during a General Assembly meeting convened for that purpose.
2. The Secretary General shall circulate the list of eligible member associations and nominated candidates before the election.
3. Candidates may present their leadership vision before voting.

4. Voting shall be by secret ballot, open ballot, or consensus, as decided by the General Assembly.
5. The candidate who receives the required majority shall be declared elected. Results shall be recorded in the minutes.

ARTICLE 17: FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

17.1: Financial Management

The Treasurer shall:

- a) Prepare budgets;
- b) Monitor expenditures;
- c) Maintain records of income, expenditure, sponsorship, and donations;
- d) Ensure that at least two independent signatories (from different member associations) are required for any bank account;
- e) Obtain prior Steering Committee approval for any expenditure exceeding 2,000 RMB;
- f) Submit an annual financial report to the General Assembly within 60 days after the end of the financial year (31 December).

17.2: Financial Contributions (Membership Subscription)

1. The General Assembly may, by simple majority, impose an annual membership subscription on full member associations.
2. The amount, due date, method of payment, and any exemptions or reductions shall be set out in a separate Financial Regulations document adopted by the General Assembly.
3. Failure to pay the subscription within six months of the due date shall be grounds for suspension or expulsion under Article 8.6.
4. The Steering Committee may, with General Assembly approval, waive or reduce subscriptions for member associations experiencing financial hardship.

17.3: Oversight

All financial activities shall be subject to review by the Oversight and Compliance Committee, which may request original receipts and bank statements at any time.

17.4: Funding Sources

Funding may include member contributions, sponsorship, institutional support, donations, and other lawful and transparent sources approved by the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 18: ROTATIONAL HOSTING OF EVENTS

1. Hosting of ASCC events by member associations shall follow a rotational principle, subject to preparedness and capacity.
2. No member association shall host the same major event more than once while other eligible associations have not yet had the opportunity to do so.
3. Priority shall be given to associations that have never hosted, then to those that have gone the longest period without hosting.
4. Any interested association shall present a proposal to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall decide by consensus or, if necessary, by ballot, considering the quality of the proposal, capacity, fairness, and rotation.

ARTICLE 19: INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 1) Any dispute between member associations, or between a member and the Steering Committee, shall first be attempted to be resolved through good-faith consultation.
- 2) If consultation fails within 30 days, either party may refer the dispute to the Oversight and Compliance Committee for mediation. The Committee shall propose a non-binding resolution within 30 days.
- 3) If mediation fails, the dispute shall be submitted to a special session of the General Assembly, which shall decide by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. That decision shall be final and binding on all member associations.
- 4) No member association or individual officer may initiate legal proceedings in any court or before any external authority relating to a matter within the scope of this Constitution without first exhausting the internal dispute resolution process. The Steering Committee shall defend any external action brought in violation of this clause.

ARTICLE 20: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. Any member association or the Steering Committee may propose an amendment to this Constitution. The proposal must be submitted in writing to the Secretary

General at least 60 days before the General Assembly meeting at which it will be considered.

2. Ordinary amendments (procedural, committee roles, non-substantive) require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all full member associations.
3. Fundamental amendments (changes to objectives, membership criteria, leadership rotation principle, dispute resolution, financial governance, or any provision that would affect the rights of member associations) require a three-quarters (3/4) majority vote and 30 days' prior notice.
4. No amendment may reduce the rights of existing member associations without their express written consent.

ARTICLE 21: DISSOLUTION

1. The Confederation may be dissolved only by a resolution supported by three-quarters (3/4) of all full member associations at a General Assembly specifically convened for that purpose, with at least 60 days' notice.
2. Upon dissolution, the final General Assembly shall appoint a Liquidator (who may be a member of the Oversight and Compliance Committee). The Liquidator shall:
 - a. Pay all outstanding debts and liabilities;
 - b. Dispose of any remaining assets by donation to one or more African student scholarship or educational charities as decided by the General Assembly;
 - c. Deliver all official records to a neutral archival institution or to the embassy of a member state agreed by the General Assembly.
3. No asset shall be distributed to any member association or individual officer.

ARTICLE 22: GOVERNING LAW AND FORUM

- 1) This Constitution and all rights and obligations arising under it shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the People's Republic of China applicable to voluntary associations and non-profit activities.
- 2) Any dispute not resolved internally under Article 19 that proceeds to litigation shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Beijing, China, to the extent permitted by law.
- 3) Nothing in this Constitution shall be interpreted as creating any political or diplomatic status, nor as seeking registration as a foreign non-governmental organization unless and until a future General Assembly decides otherwise.

ARTICLE 23: ENTRY INTO FORCE AND TRANSITION

1. This Constitution shall enter into force on the date it is adopted by the General Assembly by the required majority.
2. The first Steering Committee, formed from the Organizing Committee of the 2nd International Conference of African Students' Associations in China, shall be deemed provisionally appointed as of the date of adoption. Within 60 days, it must call a General Assembly to confirm its members or hold new elections in accordance with this Constitution.
3. All signatory associations listed at the end of the Founding Charter are deemed founding members with full rights from the date of adoption.

Adoption

Adopted by the General Assembly of the African Students' Confederation in China on this _____ day of _____, 2026, in Beijing, China.

S/No.	Country	Signature
1.	Algeria	
2.	Angola	
3.	Benin	
4.	Botswana	
5.	Burkina Faso	
6.	Burundi	
7.	Cabo Verde (Cape Verde)	
8.	Cameroon	
9.	Central African Republic	
10.	Chad	
11.	Comoros	
12.	Congo (Brazzaville) – Republic of the Congo	
13.	Congo (Kinshasa) – Democratic Republic of the Congo	
14.	Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	
15.	Djibouti	
16.	Egypt	

17. Equatorial Guinea
18. Eritrea
19. Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)
20. Ethiopia
21. Gabon
22. Gambia
23. Ghana
24. Guinea
25. Guinea-Bissau
26. Kenya
27. Lesotho
28. Liberia
29. Libya
30. Madagascar
31. Malawi
32. Mali
33. Mauritania
34. Mauritius
35. Morocco
36. Mozambique
37. Namibia
38. Niger
39. Nigeria
40. Rwanda
41. São Tomé and Príncipe
42. Senegal
43. Seychelles
44. Sierra Leone
45. Somalia
46. South Africa
47. South Sudan
48. Sudan

- 49. Tanzania
 - 50. Togo
 - 51. Tunisia
 - 52. Uganda
 - 53. Zambia
 - 54. Zimbabwe
-