



FAAPA CHARTER OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

PREAMBLE

The Atlantic Federation of African News Agencies (FAAPA) is a professional platform that aspires to promote cooperation and the exchange of experiences among African news agencies in all areas of common interest, including information, media training, and multimedia products¹.

In perfect harmony with the right to information, one of the most fundamental freedoms of every human being, and considering the public's right to learn of facts and opinions, FAAPA has set itself the following objectives:

- Ensure the collection, processing and dissemination of African news by the news agencies that are members of the Federation;
- Set up an instrument for an effective and a balanced flow of information among African countries and with the rest of the world.

As a result, the news agencies, members of FAAPA, adopt the necessary rules to accomplish their mission to inform.

Committed to the pursuit of their journalistic activities, in accordance with universally accepted professional standards and criteria, the African news agencies declare that they subscribe to this Charter, which outlines the essential principles and specifies the duties and responsibilities as well as the rules and standards of conduct.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

On the basis of their awareness of the importance of the mission entrusted to them and in order to fulfill their journalistic duties independently, the press agencies, members of FAAPA, undertake to:

Article 1: Adhering to the Charter

To respect the rules of ethics as set out in this Charter and make them mandatory.

Article 2: Commitments

2.1- To serve the general interest by providing a product that meets the criteria of quality and reliability based on the principles of honesty and integrity, and in respect of pluralism, objectivity and balance.

¹ Article 5 of the statutes of the FAAPA adopted on 14 October 2014 in Casablanca.

2.2- In conducting its activities, FAAPA respects the references of African identity, the universal values of civilization, and the democratic choices of African countries which guarantee pluralism, freedom of thought, opinion and expression.

Article 3: Responsibilities

3.1- Take responsibility for all the written materials, albeit anonymous, that are being circulated through FAAPA.

3.2- Recognize that the use of anonymous sources is the exception and not the rule.

3.3- Affirm, in terms of ethics and journalistic conduct, their will to ensure the democratization and moralization of professional relations among them.

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

The essential duties of news agencies in researching, writing and disseminating news are:

Article 4: Taking into account sources

4.1- Verify the source of any news story to be published.

4.2- Ban the use of any dishonest or unfair process to access information.

Article 5: Research and processing of information

5.1- Look for credible information that meets the user's concerns and expectations.

5.2- Conduct the search for facts without a priori in the interests of fairness and neutrality.

5.3- Ensure the reliability of all information before it is disseminated.

5.4- Provide a quality information service that conforms to the standards established by news agencies and which includes, mainly reliability, neutrality and objectivity.

5.5- Ensure the respect of pluralism and balanced processing of information.

5.6- Respect the principle of the presumption of innocence while processing of information of judicial nature.

5.7- Never confuse information with publicity.

Article 6: Integrity and editorial independence

6.1- Refuse to fall under the influence of any party, whatever its nature may be, in a way that affects the veracity, objectivity and credibility of the information.

6.2- Refrain from plagiarizing the work of others, and respect intellectual property laws.

6.3- Refrain from manipulating photos in a way to alter the facts, except for the aesthetic touches to make them more expressive.

6.4- Refrain from publishing any information or data that FAAPA becomes aware of during its activities and which would likely jeopardize the work of other news agencies.

Article 7: Respect for human dignity

7.1- Prohibit defamation and insult of individuals and respect the privacy of individuals as long as it has no impact on public life.

7.2- Respect the privacy of fellow journalists and to adhere to a proper conduct towards them, while refraining from any behavior that risks affecting relations among them.

7.3- Prohibit any process that could provoke discriminatory sentiments based on race, ethnicity, confession, gender, or social or cultural status.

Article 8: Correction of erroneous information

Recognize that a person or institution has a right of reply according to the law. To do this, it is necessary to:

- Respect the principle of the right of reply without restrictions and without prejudice to the legal provisions;
- Rectify as soon as possible any published information, which is materially inaccurate.

MISCELLANEOUS

Article 9: Modalities of implementation

9.1- The provisions of this Charter apply to all media contents produced by the news agencies' newsrooms, if the product is destined for FAAPA, whatever distribution medium is used.

9.2- The Executive Council of FAAPA shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this Charter and shall inform the General Assembly of any breaches.

Article 10: Amendments

Any amendments made to FAAPA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct shall be subject to a vote by the General Assembly and approved in advance by the Executive Council.

Article 11: Publishing

FAAPA Charter of Ethics and Professional Conduct must be posted in all the newsrooms of FAAPA members and remain accessible in its entirety at all times on each of their sites and on FAAPA website.

Article 12: Effective Date

The Charter entered into force on December 9, 2016, the date of its adoption by the General Assembly of FAAPA.

Casablanca, on December 9, 2016