We, students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in recognition of the need to improve access to basic education and the potential for this human right to end the cycle of poverty in developing countries, have decided to form an organization; and have agreed to the present Charter.

Article I (Name)
The organization shall be officially known as Expediting Access to Standard Education (EASE) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Article II (Membership)
Section 1. Student membership shall be open to all Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) students, faculty, staff and alumni;
Section 2. Membership shall be recognized upon participation at MIT EASE activities and subscribing to our mailing list;
Section 3. Membership shall participate in at least 3 fundraisers per semester.
Section 4. Membership will consist of at least 5 MIT students, and will constitute more than 50% MIT students;
Section 5. The Expediting Access to Standard Education does not discriminate based on any characteristic listed in MIT's Nondiscrimination Statement;
Section 6. Some form of public recognition could be granted by the EASE Executive Board to people who have shown distinction, commitment, and an interest in the promotion of EASE’s objectives as stated below.

Article III (Aims and Objectives)
EASE has adopted the following as its aims and objectives:
1. To raise awareness at MIT and surrounding institutions about the effect of domestic financial constraints on the accessibility to basic education in developing African countries
2. To improve access to basic education by financially sponsoring underprivileged students in Africa to attend their equivalent Junior and Senior High School
3. To promote cooperation with other international development-focused organizations
4. To help selected villages/schools establish community libraries/stock existing ones
5. To extend EASE Operations to other colleges besides MIT
6. To extend EASE Sponsorship and Operations to other African countries
7. To act on other matters related to the aims and objectives as stated above

Article IV (The Executive Board)
Section 1. The EXECUTIVE BOARD is the main decision making body of EASE and shall consist of the following officers:
1. President
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Ghana Liaison
Article V (Duties of the Executive Body)
The duties of the executive officers shall be as defined below:

1. President
   **The President shall:**
   a. Direct the affairs of the organization
   b. Summon and preside over all general, executive, and emergency meetings
   c. Coordinate the logistics of all EASE events
   d. Ensure the cohesive functioning of the organization
   e. Be the official voice of EASE and the overall spokesperson for EASE in consultation with the rest of the executive body

2. Secretary
   **The Secretary shall:**
   a. Take minutes at both general and executive body meetings.
   b. Be responsible for the general correspondence of EASE with the rest of the MIT community.
   c. Send biweekly updates to the executive body and/or general body to facilitate the completion of tasks.
   d. Send semesterly updates to alumni and donors, which detail the progress, sponsorship efforts, and future direction of the organization
   e. Send appreciation calls/cards to donors, and event sponsors
   f. Check mailbox for letters monthly

3. Treasurer
   **The Treasurer shall:**
   a. Send checks to all sponsorship accounts within the first 2 weeks of each semester
   b. Be responsible for all EASE financial correspondence
   c. Be responsible for reimbursements
   d. Be responsible for collecting all dues, if applicable
   e. Attain payment methods (SAO cash box, tech cash reader/forms, etc) for all fund-raising activities
   f. Give monthly updates on financial status of the organization
   g. Inform Secretary about any new donors or sponsors

4. Ghana Liaison
   **The Ghana Liaison shall:**
   a. Manage the affairs of EASE in Ghana
   b. Provide updates on any changes made by EASE Ghana
   c. Attain profiles of students being sponsored each school year
d. Connect sponsored students with EASE members for mentoring

5. EASE-Nigeria Committee
   **The EASE-Nigeria shall:**
   a. Manage the affairs of EASE in Nigeria
   b. Provide updates on the status of EASE in Nigeria
   c. Attain profiles of students being sponsored each school year
   d. Connect sponsored students with EASE members for mentoring

6. Publicity Chair
   **The Publicity Chair shall:**
   a. Be responsible for EASE’s publications and publicity for events
   b. Maintain an advertising mailing list for all events
   c. Be responsible for increasing awareness of EASE's goals amongst the MIT community and surrounding institutions
   d. Aid the webmaster by providing content for the website that will improve publicity
   e. Assume the responsibility of historian, which includes photojournalism of events and submissions to external journals

7. Webmaster
   **The Webmaster shall:**
   a. Be responsible for the maintenance and regular updating of the EASE’s website.
   b. Regularly monitor and update the mailing lists associated with the group.
   c. Maintain and organize the MIT EASE athena locker.

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**Article VI (Eligibility for Holding Office)**

All student members of Massachusetts Institute of Technology Expediting Access to Standard Education, as defined by Article II, may run for any one of the offices of the Executive Body.

**Article VII (Elections and Selection of Officers)**

**Section 1.** The choosing of officers for the Executive body by the membership shall be done through secret balloting at a general body meeting every spring semester.

**Section 2.** All nominees for office should be present at time of election but, with prior arrangement, may be elected proxy.

**Section 3.** The assumption to duty of Officers shall become effective two weeks after the election, and shall last one calendar year.

**Section 4.** There shall be a pro tem President who shall preside at the meeting to elect new Officers. This will be the outgoing President if he/she is not seeking re-election.

**Section 5.** Before the actual balloting, each candidate for each office may explain his candidacy, and give a general idea of his plans.

**Section 6.** Each member of the Association shall have one vote.

**Section 7.** There shall be no proxy votes or absentee ballots.

**Section 8.** In case of a tie the pro tem President may, at his discretion, cast a tie breaking vote, before announcing the results.
Section 9. The newly elected Officers shall each pledge to honorable service as follows:

“I _________ hereby pledge to devote myself entirely to the duties of my office, fulfilling my responsibilities in good faith and in the best interest of the MIT Expediting Access to Standard Education. That my responsibilities shall be exercised at all times with due diligence, care and skill in a reasonable and prudent manner. I also pledge to respect the constitution and the bylaws herein. I will always invest my best effort to Expediting Access to Standard Education, and encourage other members to do the same.”

Article VIII (Duration of Offices)
Section 1. The Executive Body President may hold office for a period not to exceed two (2) consecutive one-year terms subject to re-election.
Section 2. Other officers may hold office for any number of one-year terms subject to re-election.

Article IX (Removal of Officers)
Section 1. An officer may be relieved of their duties if they fail to adhere to the terms of the MIT EASE Constitution or do not honor their pledge to office as expressed at the time of election.
Section 2. In order to formally relieve an officer of his / her duties:
1. A written petition must be presented at any general body meeting, after having been signed by at least half of the membership
2. Two-thirds of the meeting membership must vote in favor of the petition
Section 3. Resignations following unusual or irresoluble circumstances may also be accepted from officers and reviewed at the discretion of the rest of the Executive Board. Such formal statements must be received at least one week before the intended termination date, and service to the Association continued as usual during this period.

Article X (Filling of the Vacancy of an Office)
Section 1. Elections must be held within thirty-one (31) days after the vacancy occurs.
Section 2. In the event that an election cannot be held within the required thirty-one (31) days, the Executive Body can appoint someone to the vacant office until the next general body meeting.

Article XI (Ad Hoc Committees)
Section 1. Officers of EASE may establish ad hoc committees during the academic year as they deem necessary for planning events, drafting official documents for release, etc.

Article XII (Finance)
MIT EASE currently does not impose any membership dues. This decision is subject to change depending on the Executive Body, after receiving feedback from the membership about such financing, and at least a two-thirds majority vote by the membership to impose such a due.

Article XIII (Financial Transactions)
Section 1. All financial transactions shall be approved by one of the six (6) Executive Body members whose signatures are authorized by MIT Expediting Access to Standard Education.
Section 2. The Executive Body of EASE must have an annual audit and make a financial report to the membership.

Article XIV (Meetings)
Section 1. A membership meeting shall be held at least once every month, during the school period.
Section 2. Emergency meetings shall be called by at least two (2) of the Executive Body members, upon request of any member of the Executive Body or of the membership.
Section 3. Executive Body meetings shall be called by the President or, in his absence, by the Treasurer or Secretary.

Article XV (Quorums)
Section 1. Two-thirds of the members of the membership shall constitute a quorum of any membership meeting.
Section 2. Five (5) officers of the Executive Body shall constitute a quorum at any Executive meeting.

Article XVI (Constitutional Amendment)
The constitution of the association may be amended upon petition by a member, by means of a written request to the President, and on approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership.

Article XVII
Expediting Access to Standard Education agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association of Student Activities, and its executive board. This constitution, amendments to it, and the by-laws of this organization shall be subject to review by the ASA Executive Board to insure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.