



## SOUTHERN AFRICA

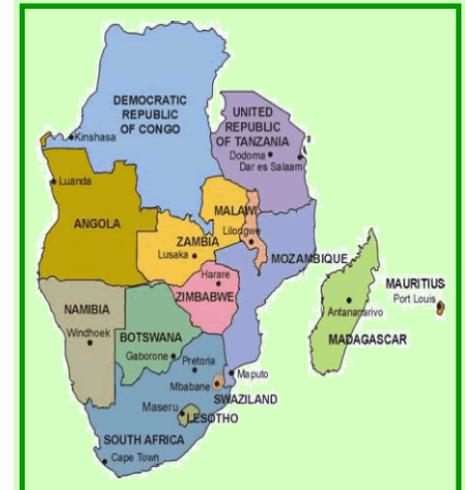


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## African Union Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO)



## AFRICAN UNION

The African Union (AU) was established on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2002 in Durban, Republic of South Africa, replacing the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) /African Economic Community (AEC) that were established in 1963 and 1991 respectively. The driving force for the establishment of the AU was the advancement of African integration and development.

Thus, the main objective of the AU is essentially the acceleration of economic integration and development in Africa. In order to fast track continental economic integration and development, emphasis is, among other things, laid on rapid political and socio-economic integration. The promotion of peace, security and stability in the continent. The defence of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Member States. The promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in accordance with African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments. The advancement of the development of the continent through the promotion of research in the field of science and technology. The establishment of conditions that would enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations.

In the movement towards the full continental economic integration, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa, according to the Treaty of Abuja establishing the AEC, are expected to form the pillars for continental integration. They would deepen integration processes in trade liberalization, common external tariffs, monetary integration to aid continental economic integration.

## AFRICAN UNION SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

The African Union Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO) was established in 2001. It is a representational office to develop and maintain constructive and productive relationship between the AU and Member States in the Region, as well as SADC and COMESA.

The core functions include the following:-

- To represent the AU in the Southern African region ;
- To increase awareness about the AU, its mission and its work in the region;
- To establish working relationships with the Southern African Region;
- To monitor political developments of concern to African countries in the Southern Africa region;
- To ensure that Southern African activities on Refugees, Health, Immigration and Natural Disasters receive quick attention from the AU;
- To support the Exchange of Information between Southern African countries of the AU;
- To counter, when necessary, media distortions about developments and events in Southern Africa;
- To follow-up on issues relating to early warning systems in Southern Africa;
- To ensure regular consultations with the RECs in the region;
- To deal with issues which foster and promote cohesion, solidarity and unity;
- To liaise and harmonise specific policies in geo-political and socio-economic activities of the AU in the Southern African Region;
- To spearhead, initiate and review the AU activities and policies taking into account the constant changing world trends;

- To promote unity, solidarity and enhance Pan-African spirit in the Southern African Region;
- To participate in other consultations of interest to the AU.

In the context of these core functions, the AU-SARO works closely with the AU countries in Southern Africa, the RECs, especially the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), multilateral organizations including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization (WHO), African Union Center for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases (CTTBD), Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Center for Africa (GCYDCA), etc. and non-governmental organizations actively engaged in the promotion of economic growth and development in Southern Africa, including the Southern Africa Region Poverty Network (SARPN) and Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). In addition, the Office works closely with the African Ambassadors/High Commissioners accredited to the Republic of Malawi, on integration and development in the region. In other words, there is continuous engagement and consultations with all stakeholders, including development partners, in the region to ensure that support for development programs that are in conformity with AU and national development priorities.

Working with the RECs, SADC and COMESA essentially entails facilitating and supporting their processes to ensure rapid deepening of regional economic integration towards the attainment of continental economic integration and development.

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