

Other AU organs

- The Peace and Security Council
- African Commission on Human and People's Rights
- African Court on Human and People's Rights
- African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- African Peer Review Mechanism

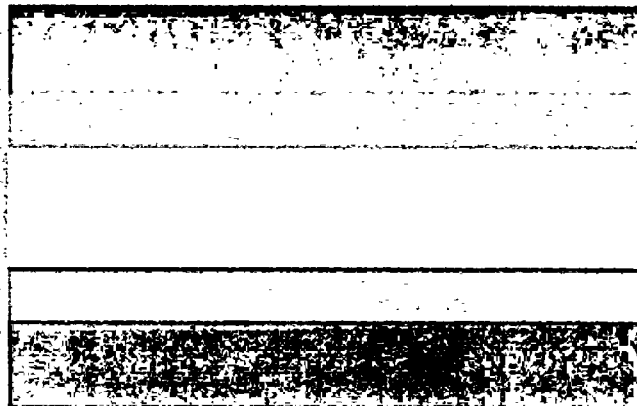
The Commission

It has a historical responsibility of being the architect of and catalyst for an Africa victorious over its current challenges and asserting itself tomorrow.

It will work to achieve the Vision of the AU and be committed to a Stable, Peaceful and Prosperous Africa.

Its primary objectives are:

- To establish a responsible Commission
- To formulate a shared vision of the Continent
- To ensure the radiance of African Culture and Sport
- To ensure the momentum for continental integration
- To promote a society based on the rule of law and African citizenship
- To contribute to economic and social development by addressing the structural causes of poverty.



The 2004 African Union Day is celebrated for the first time on 9 September in Burkina Faso on the margins of the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Employment and Poverty Alleviation In Africa which is held under the theme "Strategies for Employment Creation/Promotion and Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods".

The Africa Day (establishment of the OAU) is still celebrated on the 25 May each year in all AU Member States.

For further information on the African Union, contact:

The AU Commission

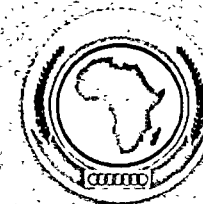
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**IN CELEBRATION
OF
AFRICAN UNION DAY**

"A WINNING AFRICA"

**Organized by the African Union
and
hosted by the Government of the Republic
of Burkina Faso**

9 September 2004

INTRODUCTION TO THE AFRICAN UNION

Establishment

The OAU was established in 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with the primary objective of achieving the decolonisation and unity of Africa. Its successor, the African Union is set up as an aspirational union of 53 African countries, representing where the countries want to be an economic and social union of countries working together to develop their people.

Several Summits and Ministerial meetings preceded the establishment of the African Union, namely:

Sirte (9 Sept. 1999) OAU Special Summit
Adopted the Declaration to establish the African Union.

Lome (11 July 2001) 36th OAU Summit
Adopted the Constitutive Act establishing the African Union

26 May 2001
Entry into force of the Constitutive Act

Lusaka (July 2001) 37th OAU Summit
Determined the transition period for the establishment of the AU as 2001-2002 and adopted the New African Initiative (NAI).

Abuja, October 2001
The NAI renamed and launched as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

Durban (July 2002) 38th and last OAU Summit and 1st Summit of the AU
OAU disbanded and AU formally established.

Maputo (July 2003)
Elected five men and five women as the 10 members of the Commission for first 4 years term. Approved the budget and structure of the AU Commission. Adopted the Declaration on the integration of NEPAD into the AU.

Addis Ababa (July 2004) 2nd Summit of the AU
Adopted in principle the Vision and Mission of the AU and the Strategic Plan of the Commission. Adopted the AU flag, emblem and anthem.

Objectives

The objectives of the AU are set out in the Constitutive Act of the AU and amongst others relate to:

- Achieving unity and solidarity between African countries and peoples; *building partnerships with the Diaspora, civil society and private sector*
- Accelerating political and socio-economic integration of the Continent;
- Promoting peace, *democracy* and defend human rights
- Promoting sustainable social, economic and cultural development
- *Promoting gender equality*

Organs of the African Union
(Established under the Constitutive Act)

The Assembly is composed of Heads of State and Government and is the supreme organ of the Union.

The Executive Council is composed of Ministers of Foreign Affairs or other Ministers designated by the Member States and coordinate and take decisions on policies in areas of common interest to Member States.

Specialized Technical Committees are composed of Ministers or Senior officials responsible for sectors falling within their sphere of competence and prepares projects and programmes of the Union. There are 7 such Committees.

Pan African Parliament is composed of a President and Members of Parliament representing Member States and was established in March 2004.

African Court of Justice

Financial institutions which are the African Central Bank, the African Monetary fund and the African Investment Bank. Still to be established.

The Commission is composed of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and 8 Commissioners. They are all full-time elected officials and supported by staff to for the smooth running of the Commission.

Permanent Representative Committee is composed of Permanent Representatives to the Union and other Plenipotentiaries of Member States and prepares the work of the Executive Council.

The Economic, Social and Cultural Council is an advisory organ composed of different social and professional groups of the Member States.

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Organs

African Union Commission

2004

In Celebration of African Union Day: A Winning Africa

African Union

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