

THE AFRICAN UNION

1. BACKGROUND

Organization of the African Union (OAU)

- The OAU was established in May 1963 as a compromise solution towards African Unity.
- The OAU did not come to strengthen the weak unity of many African states, but to give credence to the inherited colonial frontiers.
- The OAU supported the principle of territorial integrity, and its opposition to succession movements in Africa according to Article (3) of the OAU Charter – paragraphs 1,2,3 and 6 as they call for:
 1. The sovereign equality of all member states;
 2. Non-interference in the internal affairs of states;
 3. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state and for its inalienable right to independence and existence;
 4. Absolute dedication to the total emancipation of the African territories which are still dependent.

2. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION

- Sirte (September 1999) OAU special summit: led to
 - The Sirte Declaration on the establishment of the African Union
- Abuja (May 2000) 1st African Ministerial Meeting
 - Called on African leaders to implement the Sirte Declaration and establish the AU and the Pan-African Parliament and accelerate implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC)
- Tripoli (June 2000): Ministerial Conference on Establishment of AU
 - Led to finalization of draft documents for the Lomé Summit;
 - Lomé (11 July 2000): 36th OAU Summit. Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted.
 - Lusaka (July 2001): 37th OAU Summit. The OAU Secretariat to prepare the launch of the AU and make proposals to the 38th Durban Summit.
- Durban (July 2002): 38th and last OAU Summit and 1st Summit of the AU.
 - OAU disbanded and AU formally established in its place.
- Maputo (July 2003): 2nd AU Summit
 - Election of Members of the Commission for about 4 years.
 - Approval of AU Budget and Financing Proposals
 - Approval of the Structure of the AU Commission and plans for launching other institutions of the Union.
 - Adoption of a Declaration on Integration of NEPAD into the African Union.

3. AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES

Democratic Republic of Algeria	Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Republic of Angola	Republic of Madagascar
Republic of Benin	Republic of Malawi
Republic of Botswana	Republic of Mali
Burkina Faso	Islamic Republic of Mauritania
Republic of Burundi	Republic of Mauritius
Republic of Cameroon	Republic of Mozambique
Republic of Cape Verde	Republic of Namibia
Central African Republic	Republic of Niger
Republic of Chad	Federal Republic of Nigeria
Islamic Federal Republic of Comoros	Republic of Rwanda
Republic of the Congo	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	Republic of Sao Tome and Principe
Democratic Republic of Congo	Republic of Senegal
Republic of Djibouti	Republic of Sierra Leone
Arab Republic of Egypt	Republic of Somalia
State of Eritrea	Republic of South Africa
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Republic of Sudan
Republic of Equatorial Guinea	Kingdom of Swaziland
Gabonese Republic	United Republic of Tanzania
Republic of the Gambia	Togolese Republic
Republic of Ghana	Republic of Tunisia
Republic of Guinea	Republic of Uganda
Republic of Guinea Bissau	Republic of Zambia
Republic of Kenya	Republic of Zimbabwe
Kingdom of Lesotho	
Republic of Liberia	

(Source: Constitutive Act of the African Union)

4. AU ORGANS

- The Assembly of the Union
- The Executive Council
- The Pan-African Parliament
- The Court of Justice
- The Commission
- The Permanent Representative Committee
- The Specialized Technical Committees
- The Economic, Social and Cultural Council
- The Peace and Security Council
- The Financial Institutions

The organs of the AU will have to develop their own performance indicators and commit themselves to producing the right results.

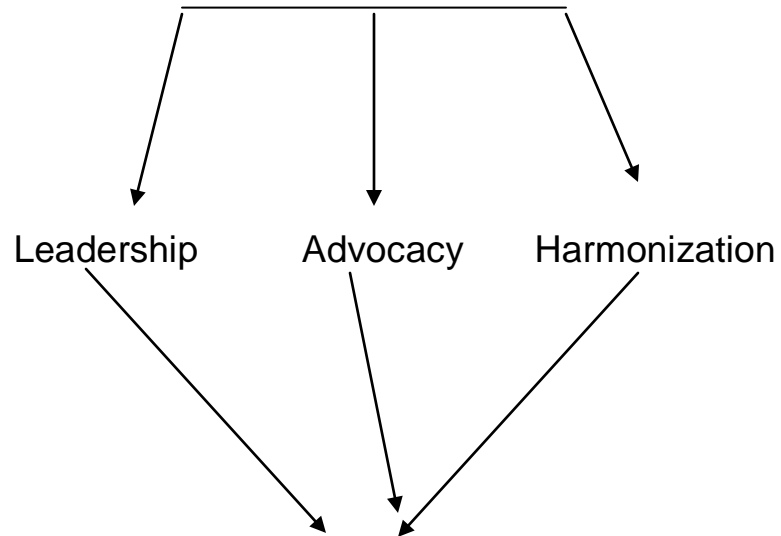
5. AU MISSION AND VISION

To build on integrated African, a prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.

Mission 1

- Building the capacities of Integrated players
- Harmonizing and Rationalizing the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to enable them to meaningfully play their role as pillars of integration:
 - Magrabe Union
 - CEN-SAD
 - ECOWAS
 - COMESA
 - SADC
- Integration of NEPAD into the Commission to the African Union.
- greater facility for harmonization of projects and programmes
- greater focus on and appropriate treatment of issues relating to peace, security and conflict prevention and resolution
- the building of physical infrastructure (roads, bridges, telecommunication, energy, river and lake basin development)
- address the structural causes of poverty and under development
- enhance the dynamism of African culture and creativity.

6. THE ROLES OF THE (AUC)



RECs
AU Organs
Member States
African Diaspora
Other Regional Bodies
External Partners

7. STAGES OF CONTINENTAL INTEGRATION

- A) Short term strategic objectives (2004 – 2007)
 - To consolidate institutional pillars and build the human network.
- B) Middle term strategic objectives (2008 – 2015)
 - To ensure convergence of virile Regional Economic Communities.
- C) Long term strategic objective (2015 – 2028)
 - To continental integration.

8. 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 production 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 Africa region;
- To increase awareness about the AU, its mission and its work in the region;
- To establish working relationships with the Southern Africa region;
- To monitor political development 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 Africa 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 Africa region;
- To participate in other consultations of interest to the AU.

9. CONCLUSION

- AU committed to support African countries in their efforts towards integration.
- The AU committed to transparency, good governance and mutual respect, women's development and values of solidarity.

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Constitutive Act

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