

The Achievements of The African Union Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO)

I. Introduction:

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.

II. The Office Core Functions:

- 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 harmonize 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.

III. Main Achievements of the Office:

A. The Office since its establishment in 2001 has worked closely to Promote good relations and was engaged with the member states, RECs, intergovernmental organization and non-governmental organizations in Southern Africa namely:

- The AU countries in Southern Africa;
- The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC);
- The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA);
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);
- The African Development Bank (AfDB);
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- The World Health Organization (WHO);
- The African Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases (CTTBD);
- The Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA);
- 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 and Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN).

- B. The Office works closely with the African Ambassadors/High Commissioners accredited to the Republic of Malawi, on integration and development in the region.
- C. In November 2006 the Office initiated a Bulletin called AU-SARO Bulletin. The main purpose of the publication is to provide information about the activities of the AU and AU-SARO and this has significantly enriched and enlightened AU countries in Southern Africa, regional organizational and universities, about the direction of integration and development in the continent.

IV. Conclusion

The Office through its continuous engagement and consultations with all stakeholders in the region is trying to ensure support for development programs that are in conformity with AU and national development priorities.

Indeed, 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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