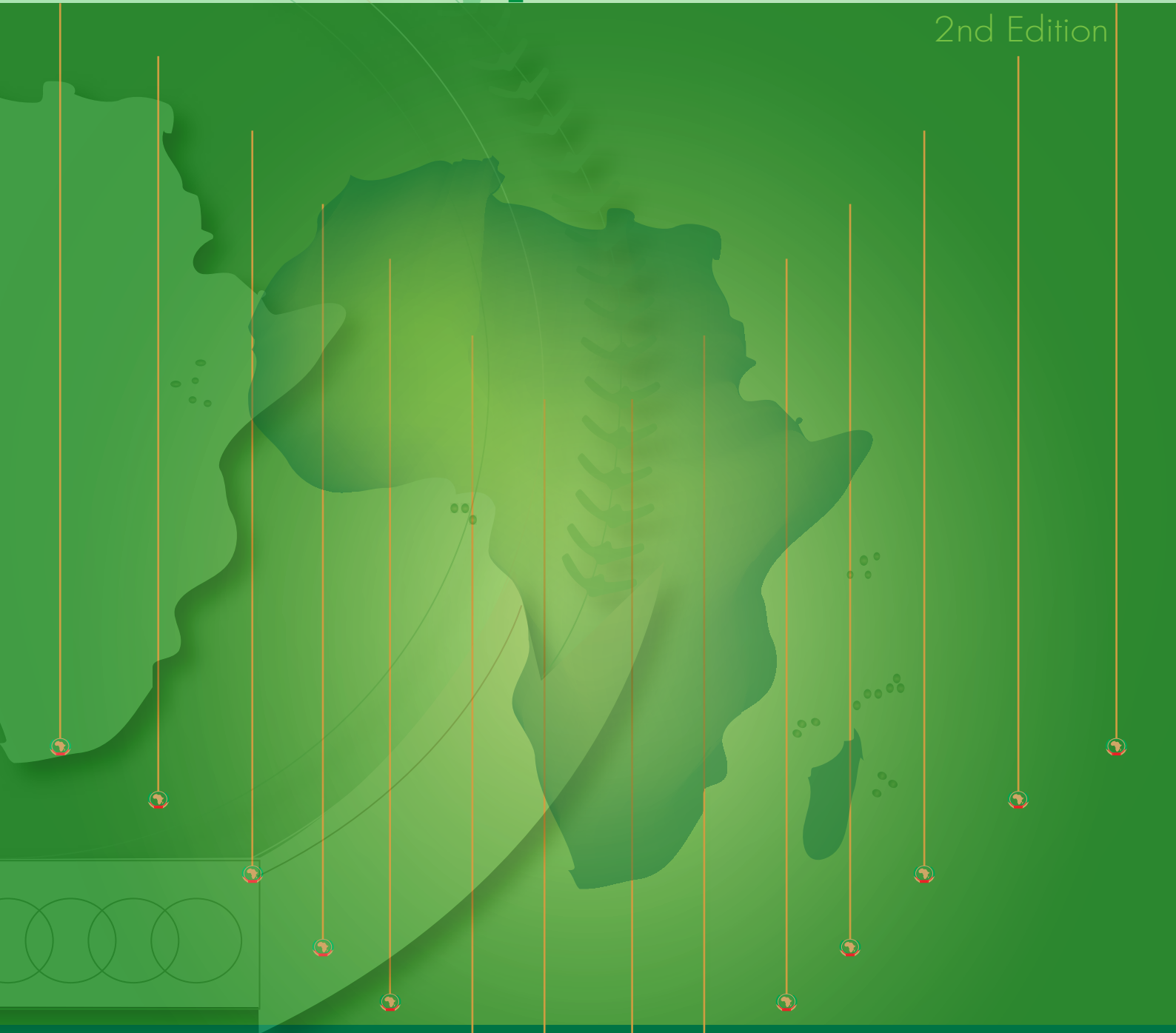


# African Union Compendium

2nd Edition



**OXFAM**  
International

**Oxfam International**

Liaison Office with the African Union

### About Oxfam International Liaison Office with the African Union

Around the globe, Oxfam works to find practical, innovative ways for people to lift themselves out of poverty and thrive. We save lives and help rebuild livelihoods when crisis strikes and we campaign so that the voices of the poor influence the local, national, regional and global decisions that affect them. We believe that change happens when citizens are informed, empowered and enabled to influence policies, practices and to use mechanisms to hold their leaders accountable.

We work directly with citizens, communities and we seek to influence the powerful to ensure that poor people can improve their lives and livelihoods and have a say in decisions that affect them. We are an international confederation of 17 organizations working together with partners in more than 90 countries including 35 in Africa.

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union and a Bilateral Host Agreement with the Government of Ethiopia, Oxfam set up a Liaison Office with the African Union (OI-AU) in Addis Ababa to strengthen its collaboration with the African Union. OI-AU together with other Oxfam affiliates and partners operating in Africa, work closely with the African Union and its member States on various issues of common interest including humanitarian policy, peace and security, social affairs, gender justice, economic affairs, governance, agriculture, citizens' participation and communication.

In line with the African Union's mission to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena, our Liaison Office with the African Union, part of Oxfam Pan Africa Team works essentially on the following:

1. Active Citizenship in the Affairs of the African Union: To support citizens and civil society organizations of Africa to work with and engage the African Union, and be part of the policy processes debates and decisions that affect their life.
2. Saving Life Now and in the Future: Peace, Security and Humanitarian Affairs including direct engagement with the African Union's peace and security organs in terms of policy advocacy and campaign, building on Oxfam's operational presence in 35 countries in Africa including a number of conflict affected countries namely Sudan, South Sudan, DRC, Mali, Somalia etc.
3. Making African Extractive Resources Work for Africa: Support the AU's African Mining Vision and African Mineral Development Centre objectives to ensure that African rich mineral resources are fully and best used for the socio-economic development of the continent
4. Representation of Oxfam to the African Union and management of the confederation's relationship with the African Union, its organs and member states in the framework of the existing Memorandum of Understanding between Oxfam International and the African Union Commission.

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# **African Union Compendium**



**Oxfam International Liaison Office with the African Union**

## Acronyms

AACC	All Africa Conference of Churches
ACB	African Central Bank
ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and People's Rights
AEC	African Economic Community
AIB	African Investment Bank
AMF	African Monetary Fund
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture
ASF	African Standby Force
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CCP-AU	Centre for Citizens' Participation in the African Union
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States CID Citizens and Diaspora Directorate
CMD	Conflict Management Division
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EAC	East African Community
EASFCOM	Eastern Africa Standby Force Mechanism
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FAS	Femmes Africa Solidarité

FEMNET	African Women's Development and Communication Network
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FIDH	International Federation for Human Rights
GIMAC	Gender is My Agenda Campaign
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
International IDEA	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
IPSS	Institute for Peace and Security Studies IRRI International Refugee Rights Initiative
ISS	Institute of Security Studies
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NARC	North African Regional Capability
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OAU	Organisation of Africa Unity
OI-AU	Oxfam International Liaison Office with the African Union
PAP	Pan Africa Parliament
PRC	Permanent Representatives Committee
PSC	Peace and Security Council
PSD	Peace and Security Department
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SOAWR	Solidarity for African Women's Rights
SOTU	State of the Union Coalition
UNOAU	United Nations Liaison Office to the African Union

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## Acknowledgment and Introduction

I am delighted to introduce to you this second edition of the African Union Compendium.

I would like to thank sincerely my dynamic and dedicated colleagues of OI-AU who worked hard to complete this 2nd edition, a totally revised and augmented version of the 1st edition.

I am particularly grateful to Rinret Dabeng the Project Lead, Idriss Ali Nassah and Brenda Mofya the reviewers and all the other colleagues contributors in this exciting work.

I would also like to thank the African Union Commission staff and the representation offices of the RECs, for their contributions and assistance in the realization of this project.

The original project and the 1st Edition of this Compendium was thought by Oxfam Liaison Office with the African Union and Fahamu with the objective of supporting the African Union's mission to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, an Africa driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.

Our aim was to have a comprehensive manual to support our “understanding the African Union” training programme now jointly executed by Oxfam and the African Union Commission.

It is to be noted that, in preparing the African Union Compendium, we have made use of publicly available official AU documents, policy instruments, key presentations by AU departmental experts, internet research and research work that has taken into account available information

Oxfam and its partners are committed to the vision and objectives of the African Union, and continue their engagement with the continental body through different efforts of popularizing the African Union, and supporting it to promote the implementation of



the various policy instruments that will in essence render better conditions of life for the citizens of the continent.

I sincerely hope that this Compendium will be of great use to citizens, CSOs, the media, policy makers and other interested stakeholders.



Désiré Assogbavi,

Resident Representative and Head of Oxfam Liaison Office of the African Union

Addis Ababa, 6 January 2014

## *Why an AU Compendium?*

Since its creation in 2002 as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the African Union (AU) has been seeking to achieve greater unity and solidarity of African countries and to be a people-centred institution by allowing and encouraging citizens' engagement with its organs. The AU has promised to keenly involve African citizens at large and members of the diaspora in the process of the continental integration. Over the last few years, the AU has been trying to build a partnership between governments and all segments of civil society, in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion among the African people and to make Africans 'both the actors and beneficiaries of the structural changes engendered by development' (OSISA et al., 2007). In addition, the creation of organs such as the Pan African Parliament (PAP) and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) was another manifestation of the AU's desire and determination to engage different stakeholders in the affairs of the Union.

Over the past 10 years, the increased relevance and targeting of the African Union as the premier continental institution has been a learning process worth the effort for many involved in the advocacy space in Africa. As a result, there has been a growing interest by African civil society in popularising and engaging the continental body, thus introducing a clear need to alleviate the knowledge and information gap on the structures and the functioning of the AU, its various organs, institutions as well as its decision-making processes. To address this need, the AU Commission and Oxfam have undertaken a capacity building project since 2010 in the form of a training on 'Understanding the African Union'. This training is meant to popularise the continental institution among members of the civil society and help them to strategize on how to engage it at various levels.

A comprehensive resource guide on the AU to assist in the delivery of such trainings was identified as a key missing tool. With this in mind, OI-AU decided to produce a resource book titled 'African Union Compendium'. The Compendium covers the AU structures, decision making processes, civil society space at the AU and it adds value by highlighting the role these various civil society actors have played in the space provided and, in some instances, how they initiated the creation of that space. The African Union Compendium is intended for multiple stakeholders including—but not limited to—CSOs and policymakers at various levels, AU and diplomatic staff, academics, staff of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the media.

In the past, there have been a number of guides and manuals on the AU, with useful information for civil society and other actors seeking to engage the continental body. These include; Civil Society Organisations and the African Union: Towards a Continental Advocacy Strategy published by World Vision (2007), Towards a People Driven African Union: Current Obstacles and New Opportunities published by AfriMAP, AFRODAD and Oxfam, Strengthening Popular Participation in the African Union: A Guide to African Union Structures and Processes published by Oxfam and AfriMAP. However, with the African Union Compendium, a holistic approach was adopted in the gathering and organising of information about the African Union, its organs, structures and mechanisms that offer both an overview for understanding the AU as well as a comprehensive reference for in-depth insight.

## **CHAPTER 1: THE PAN-AFRICAN MOVEMENT**



- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Origins
- ❖ Ideological and Philosophical Concepts

# Chapter 1: The pan-African Movement

## 1. Introduction

A number of historians and political analysts believe that the creation of the African Union (AU) and its predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), was a manifestation of the rise of the pan-African movement. In addition, the establishment of the AU was a desire by African leaders to unite all people of Africa in order to face new realities of globalisation, including the role of emerging powers that are shifting the power relations between the North and the South (Adi and Sherwood, 2003).

Even though the establishment of the OAU was 'a demonstration of the ascent of the pan-African ideologies,' Adi and Sherwood (2003) continue arguing that there has never been a universally accepted definition of what constitutes pan-Africanism. Most recent writers on the subject are reluctant to provide definitions, or they provide several, acknowledging that the vagueness of the term reflects the fact that pan-Africanism has taken different forms at different historical moments and geographical locations. They view pan-Africanism as a movement of people, men and women whose lives and work have been concerned, in one way or the other, with the social and political emancipation of African people and those of the African diaspora.

For instance, the Oxford Dictionary defines the term 'pan-Africanism' as the '*principle or advocacy of the political union of all the indigenous inhabitants of Africa*'. The Cambridge Dictionary writes that '*pan-Africanism is a belief that people from Africa and their descendants should be united, or a movement to achieve such unity*'. The Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary says that '*pan-Africanism is a movement for the political union of all the African nations*'. Badejo (2008) gives a similar meaning by saying that pan-Africanism is 'a socio-political worldview, philosophy, and movement, which seeks to unify native Africans and those of African heritage into a 'global African community.

On the other hand, authors such as Cheikh Anta Diop and Théophile Obenga have sometimes used the term pan-Africanism to mean advocacy for a political African unification. In the United States of America, the term is closely associated with Afrocentrism, an ideology of African American identity politics that emerged during the civil rights movement of the 1960s to 1970s (Amate, 1986). Pan-African unity is especially important in African American identity politics because the African ancestry of the Afro-American community cannot be derived from any identifiable African people. Therefore, it has become necessary to minimise the differences between the various people of Africa in favour of a generalised African heritage (Shivji, 2008). Despite those differences in the meaning of pan-Africanism, there is a uniting factor, that is, all the authors 'believe in some form of unity or of common purpose among the people of Africa and the diaspora' (Adi and Sherwood, 2003).

In the short introduction above, we did not seek to write about pan-Africanism as different scholars, including the ones quoted above, have extensively covered the subject. Rather, we have sought to establish a linkage between the pan-African movement in the 19th century and the creation of the OAU and ultimately the AU. The driving force behind the work of George Padmore, Isaac Wallace-Johnson, William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, Aimé Césaire and Walter Rodney, among others, was the same that led Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Kambarage Nyerere and Sékou Touré, just to name a few, to dedicate their lives to the unity of African people.

## 2. Origins

As a philosophy, pan-Africanism represents the aggregation of the historical, cultural, spiritual, artistic, scientific and philosophical legacies of Africans from past times to the present. Pan-Africanism as an ethical system traces its origins from ancient times, and promotes values that are the product of the African civilisation and the struggles against slavery, racism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. It thus includes a variety of ideas, activities and movements that celebrated 'Africaness', resisted the exploitation and oppression of those of African descent and opposed ideologies of racism (Adi and Sherwood, 2003).

Pan-Africanism is usually seen as a by-product of the European slave trade. Enslaved Africans of diverse origins and their descendants found themselves entrenched in a system of exploitation where their African origin became a sign of their servile status. Pan-Africanism set aside cultural differences, asserting the principality of these shared experiences to further solidarity and resistance to exploitation.

Alongside a large number of slave insurrections, by the end of the 18th century, a political movement developed across the Americas, Europe and Africa that sought to connect these disparate movements into a network of solidarity putting an end to this oppression. In London, the United Kingdom, the 'Sons of Africa' was a political group addressed by Quobna Ottobah Cugoana — an African abolitionist — in the 1791 edition of his book 'Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery'. The group addressed meetings and organised letter-writing campaigns, published campaigning material and visited parliament. They wrote to figures such as Granville Sharp, William Pitt and other members of the White Abolition Movement, as well as King George III and the Prince of Wales, the future George IV (Harris, 2003).

What we could call 'the modern organised pan-African movement' began around the beginning of the 20th century with the founding of the African Association in London, later renamed the Pan-African Association by the Trinidadian Henry Sylvester-Williams around 1887. The Pan-African Association was concerned, at that time, with solving what they saw as the 'problem of the twentieth century...the problem of the colour line', and to 'secure civil and political rights for Africans and their descendants throughout the world'. (Harris, 2003)

### 3. Ideological and Philosophical Concepts

As initially conceived by Henry Sylvester-Williams (some historians credit this idea to Edward Wilmot Blyden, an Americo-Liberian educator, writer, diplomat and politician) pan-Africanism referred to the unity of all continental Africa. The concept soon expanded, however, to include the African diaspora. During apartheid in South Africa there was a Pan-Africanist Congress that dealt with the oppression of South Africans under white apartheid rule. Other pan-Africanist organisations include Garvey's

Universal Negro Improvement Association-African Communities League, Trans-Africa and the International People's Democratic Uhuru Movement (Badejo, 2008)

Pan-Africanism seeks to re-examine the African history from an 'African perspective' and a return to traditional African concepts about culture, society and values. An important aspect is the suggestion that Ancient Egypt has essential 'African' characteristics, sometimes expressed by the term Nile Valley Civilisations or African civilisations that group Egypt with other civilisations of other parts of the continent. According to Badejo (2008), the pan-African movement of the 1950s and early 1960s focused on four pillars:

- 1. The recognition that African nationalism had to be pan-Africanism; that 'territorial nationalism' built within countries whose boundaries had been artificially drawn by colonial masters was both unreal and unviable;*
- 2. Pan-Africanism was consistently anti-imperialist;*
- 3. Pan-Africanism was conceived and perceived as a political project or movement;*
- 4. Pan Africanists were persistent in their stand that African unity would be voluntary act and that it could not be imposed.*

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the new pan-Africanism movement is still committed to the 'long aspired-to African unity and solidarity', but with an unprecedented new level manifested in the recognition that development, peace and security and democracy in Africa are intertwined and interdependent. This new understanding of pan-Africanism explains the termination of the OAU and the birth of its successor, the AU (Da Costa, 2007).



## Celebrating the Year of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance

*May 25th, 2013 was a historical day for the African Union as it celebrated fifty (50) years of the existence of the Organization of African Unity that eventually became the African Union. Remembering the words of Kwame Nkrumah that declared that "Africa must unite or perish!" the AU chose the 21st Ordinary Summit in May 2013 to reflect on the dreams and visions that led to the existence of the organization.*

*The OAU Charter of 1963 was envisaged to "harness the natural and human resources of our continent to the total advancement of our peoples in all spheres of human endeavour". As the whole African continent celebrated and reflected the golden jubilee, the AU acknowledged that the mission that OAU set out to achieve had been accomplished. According to the AU, Africa today "enjoys its total liberation and its unity, enjoys an unprecedented economic rise, enjoys more and more democracy and good governance, peace and stability".*

*The Golden Jubilee Celebration paid tribute to the Founders of the OAU and the leaders who led the liberation movement in Africa. The AU also sought to "take stock of 50 years of achievements while paving the way for the next 50 years". The celebration afforded the AU the opportunity to assess the values that underlie pan-Africanism and the chance to outline its vision and mission for the year 2063. The AU, in partnership with Femmes Africa Solidarité and the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) celebrated the past and present accomplishments of women and paid tribute to various women across history who led in the liberation struggle for independence in Africa.*

## The Pan-African Movement in Africa



**H.E. Dr. Francis Kwame Nkrumah** (Sept. 21, 1909- April 27, 1972); Nkrumah was the founder and leader of the African independence movement and the foremost advocate of Pan-Africanism during his time. In February of 1951, Kwame Nkrumah left James Fort Prison. After 207 years under colonial rule and a landslide election, Nkrumah guided the Gold Coast to independence in 1957 and rapidly renamed it Ghana. Nkrumah was a proponent of Pan-Africanism, as he sought the liberation of the entire African continent from colonial rule and offered assistance to other African nationalists. So deep was his commitment that he declared that “the independence of Ghana was meaningless unless

it was linked up with the total liberation of the African continent”. To Nkrumah, Ghana’s sovereignty was secondary to the pan-African dream of a Union of African States. According to Nkrumah, “the unity of Africa and the strength it would gather from continental integration of its economic and industrial development...could have a most powerful effect for world peace”. He found allies in his contemporaries such as Nnamdi Azikiwe, Sékou Touré and Modibo Keita and in them he found powerful support. His efforts helped to bring about the Organization of African Unity in the promotion of peace and cooperation between African states.



**H.E. Jomo Kenyatta** (October 20th 1893-August 22nd 1978); Kenyatta was the founding President and Head of State of the Republic of Kenya. After being released from prison; in December 1963, Kenyatta was jubilantly declared the Prime Minister and in 1964; became the President of an independent Kenya. In his time, Kenyatta was a pioneer, a nationalist, an intellectual and fervent pan-Africanist. Along with other founding presidents; Kenyatta popularized the message

*and values of pan-Africanism, emphasizing on an intellectual, political and economic cooperation that would lead to the political unity of Africa.*



**H.E. Benjamin Nnamdi Azikiwe** (Nov. 16, 1904- May 11, 1996); Azikiwe was the Head of State of Nigeria from 1960-1966 and was the first president of an independent Nigeria. Azikiwe firmly believed that in order for Africa's to come into its own, dignity must be restored to African peoples. He supported the idea that African States declare a doctrine of non-intervention where the continued existence of any colonial territory in Africa, by any non-African state would be regarded as an unfriendly act against the African continent as a whole. In an address in 1962, Azikiwe stated that in the quest for the unity of African states, "so long as the form of

*government is clearly understood and an efficient machinery for organization and administration is devised, backed by multi-lateral conventions which would enhance the standard of living of Africans, safeguard their existence by collective security and guarantee to them freedom under the law in addition to the fundamental human rights, the dream of Pan-Africanism is destined to come true".*



**H.E. Ahmed Sékou Touré** (Jan. 9, 1922- March 26, 1984); Sékou Touré was a trade union leader, a pan-Africanist and the first President of Guinea. He was the founder and leader of the Democratic Party of Guinea which won independence in 1958 from France. As a leader of the pan-African movement, he spoke out against colonial powers and was instrumental in the struggle for world African liberation. After independence, Touré signed an agreement to form a union between Guinea and Ghana. He envisioned that this unity would be transformed "into a common cooperation

*and action in all fields to realize rapidly a United States of Africa". In 1959, Touré and Nkrumah signed the Conakry Declaration where this agreement was*

*open to all countries on the continent with the aim of assisting other African countries under colonial rule to become sovereign and to form the 'Union of Independent African States'. Along with Nkrumah, he assisted in the formation of the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party and together they; with Mali's Modibo Keita; attempted to form a United States of Africa in the 1960s. Under Touré's leadership, Guinea was one of the first countries in Africa that opened its borders to Africans in the diaspora. In partnership with his pan-African contemporaries, their efforts led to the politically historic meeting in Ethiopia in 1963 that culminated into the foundation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).*



**H.E. Julius Nyerere** (April 13, 1922- Oct 14, 1999); Julius Nyerere was the first president of independent Tanganyika, the creator of Tanzania and one of the founding fathers of the OAU and a life-long ally in the pan-African movement. Nyerere was actively involved in pan-African politics and was opposed to all forms of exploitation. Nyerere granted citizenship to all peoples born in Tanganyika, irregardless of their race. With Tom Mboya of Kenya, he established the Pan-African Movement for East and Central Africa (PAFMECA) which eventually transformed into the Pam-African Freedom Movement of East, Central and South Africa in 1962; giving

*strong and active support to the liberation struggles within those regions. With Nkrumah, Nyerere convened the precursor to the OAU; the All African People's Conference (AAPC). One of the resolutions from that meeting was that "the ultimate objective of African nations is a Commonwealth of Free African States...linguistic and other divisions should be subordinated to the over-riding demands of African Unity". Shortly before the AAPC was held, Nyerere emphasized that, "African Unity must come, and it must be a real unity. Our goal must be a United States of Africa.*



**H.E. Patrice Émery Lumumba** (July 2, 1925- Feb. 11, 1961); Mr. Patrice Lumumba was an independence leader and the first democratically elected Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). An avid pan-Africanist, Lumumba constantly pursued national unity. He genuinely pursued the independence and the empowerment of Congo so that DRC could have full monopoly over their resources to improve the lives of the Congolese citizens. After meeting with Nkrumah at the AAPC, Lumumba declared that independence from colonial rule in the Congo was a fundamental right and not a gift. In the spirit of national unity, Lumumba's objective was to organize masses of the

Congolese people for the "liquidation of the colonial regime and the exploitation of man by man". Under the leadership of Lumumba and the Mouvement National Congolais (MNC), the Congolese people were united as one anti-colonialist movement. In 1959 several other independence movements joined the MNC and they "demanded an installation of a Congolese government by 1960 as a step towards independence". Faced with a united front, Congo was granted its independence on June 30, 1960. Although he was assassinated 6 months after he was elected, Lumumba left behind a legacy as an international champion in the independence struggle and pan-African movement in Africa.

## CHAPTER 2: THE CONTINENTAL BODY

- 
- ❖ Introduction: Road to Creation of the African Union
  - ❖ Advent of the African Union
  - ❖ Vision of the African Union
  - ❖ African Union Symbols and Anthem
    - Emblem
    - African Union Flag
    - African Union Anthem
  - ❖ Objectives of the African Union
  - ❖ Principles of the African Union
  - ❖ African Continental Map

## Chapter: 2 The Continental Body

### 1. Introduction

As mentioned earlier, the origins of the AU and OAU can be traced back to the activities of pan-Africanists such as Henry Sylvester Williams, William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, William Marcus Garvey, among others. Henry Sylvester Williams was the first to use the term pan-Africanism and the first to organise a pan-African congress in 1900. Whereas that congress had participants of African origins but living in the diaspora, the one that followed, organised by his follower, Du Bois, had a number of participants from Africa, mainly West Africa (Shivji, 2008).

After a series of these pan-African congresses, African leaders from the West (French-dominated) territories who participated in them started organising on their own to demand equality with French nationals in their countries and later on independence. The sentiment for West African unity was soon to give way to the desire for a wider, all embracing continental African unity. In the early 1960s, for the first time in modern history, leaders of free Africa were able to speak with one voice. They called on colonial powers to take immediate steps to grant independence to the African territories being dominated by them and to ensure that they did not violate the territorial integrity of the independent African states.

That aspiration of determining their destiny led African leaders to meet in May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to form the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1963 H.E. Kwame Nkrumah; the first president of Ghana delivered a riveting speech in which he said,

*"I am happy to be here in Addis Ababa on this most historic occasion. I bring with me the hopes and fraternal greetings of the government and people of Ghana. Our objective is African union now. There is no time to waste. We must unite now or perish. I am confident that by our concerned effort and determination, we shall lay here the foundations for a continental Union of*

*African States.*

*A whole continent has imposed a mandate upon us to lay the foundation of our union at this conference. It is our responsibility to execute this mandate by creating here and now, the formula upon which the requisite superstructure may be erected."*

Leaders of 30 of the 32 independent African states participated in the conference at which the OAU was founded. Those countries were Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zaire. Morocco and Togo, which were not present, were allowed to sign later as founding members.

On that day, His Excellency Haile Salassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia, was selected as the first President of the OAU. In his acceptance speech on May 25, 1963, he shared his vision for Africa saying, "Today, we look to the future calmly, confidently, and courageously. We look to the vision of an Africa not merely free but united. In facing this new challenge, we can take comfort and encouragement from the lessons of the past. We know that there are differences among us. Africans enjoy different cultures, distinctive values, and special attributes. But we also know that unity can be and has been attained among men of the most disparate origins, that differences of race, of religion, of culture, of tradition, are no insuperable obstacle to the coming together of peoples. History teaches us that unity is strength, and cautions us to submerge and overcome our differences in the quest for common goals, to strive, with all our combined strength, for the path to true African brotherhood and unity."

## 2. Road to the Creation of the African Union

With the end of the Cold War, the final liberation of South Africa and the reshaping of the international political scene, African Heads of State and Government recognised that the OAU's framework was no longer adequate to meet the needs for greater continental



policy coordination and stronger economic growth, and that a greater commitment to democratic government at national level was necessary to strengthen Africa's own voice on the international stage.

Whereas the purposes set out in the OAU Charter focused on the defence of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of African states and the eradication of all forms of colonialism from Africa, the first objective of the AU was to 'Achieve greater unity and solidarity among African countries and among the people of Africa'. In addition, there was a need for the continent to respond to its development needs by linking political and economic aspects, distribution of resources and the need to distinguish and recognise the role of all stakeholders including the civil society.

As such, African countries, in their quest for unity, economic and social development have taken various initiatives and made substantial progress in many areas which paved the way for the establishment of the AU. Worth mentioning among these are:

- *The African Charter on Human and People's Rights, (Nairobi 1981) and the Grand Bay Declaration and Plan of Action on Human Rights, (Mauritius 1999). These two instruments were adopted by the OAU to promote Human and People's Rights in the continent. The Human Rights Charter led to the establishment of the African Human Rights Commission located in Banjul, The Gambia;*
- *Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) established in 1985 as an emergency programme designed to address the development crisis of the 1980s in the wake of protracted drought and famine that had engulfed the continent and the crippling effect of Africa's external indebtedness;*
- *The OAU Declaration on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes taking place in the World (1990), which underscored Africa's resolve to seize the initiative, to determine its destiny and to address the challenges to peace, democracy and security;*
- *The Charter on Popular Participation adopted in 1990 as a testimony to the renewed determination of the OAU to endeavour to place the African citizen at the centre of development and decision-making;*
- *The Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) in 1991:*

commonly known as the *Abuja Treaty*, it seeks to create the AEC through six stages culminating in an African Common Market using the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as building blocks. The Treaty has been in operation since 1994;

- *The Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (1993)*: a practical expression of the determination of the African leadership to find solutions to conflicts, promote peace, security and stability in Africa;
- *The Cairo Agenda for Action (1995)*: a programme for re-launching Africa's political, economic and social development;
- *African Common Position on Africa's External Debt Crisis (1997)*: a strategy for addressing the continent's external debt crisis;
- *The Algiers Decision on Unconstitutional Changes of Government (1999)* and *the Lomé Declaration on the Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes (2000)*;
- *The 2000 Solemn Declaration on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation*: establishes the fundamental principles for the promotion of Democracy and Good Governance on the Continent;
- *Responses to other challenges*: Africa initiated collective action through the OAU in the protection of the environment, in fighting international terrorism, in combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis or dealing with humanitarian issues such as refugees and displaced persons, landmines, small and light weapons, among others.
- *The Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in 2000 at the Lomé Summit (Togo) and that entered into force in 2001*;
- *The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)*: adopted as a Programme of the AU at the Lusaka (Zambia) Summit (2001).

### 3. Advent of the African Union

The OAU's initiatives paved the way for the birth of the AU. In July 1999, the Assembly decided to convene an extraordinary session to expedite the process of economic and political integration of the continent. Since then, four Summits were held leading to the official launch of the African Union:

- *The Sirte (Libya) Extraordinary Session (1999) that decided to establish the African Union;*
- *The Lomé Summit (2000), which adopted the Constitutive Act of the Union;*
- *The Lusaka Summit (2001) that drew the roadmap for implementation of the AU;*
- *The Durban (South Africa) Summit (2002) that launched the AU and convened the 1st Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union.*

### 4. Vision of the African Union

The vision of the African Union is that of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.

This vision of a new, forward-looking, dynamic and integrated Africa will be fully realised through a relentless struggle on several fronts and as a long-term endeavour. The AU has shifted focus from supporting liberation movements in the former African territories under colonialism and apartheid, as envisaged by the OAU since 1963, to an organisation spearheading Africa's development and integration.

According to its Constitutive Act, the African Union is set to 'accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent; promote peace, security, and stability on the continent; as well as promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies'.

The shift in principles from the OAU comes in the form of the adoption of key principles the AU will conform to, such as: non-interference by any Member State in the internal

affairs of another, but at the same time also recognising the 'right of the Union to intervene in a Member State pursuant to a decision of the Assembly in respect of grave circumstances, namely: war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity'.

The decision to abide to the principle of non-indifference is a clear and bold departure from the principles of the OAU, which had its roots in non-interference and the respect of sovereignty. As mentioned earlier, the AU is based on the common vision of a united and strong Africa and on the need to build a partnership between Governments and all segments of society, in particular women, youth and the private sector, in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion amongst the people of Africa. As a continental organisation, it focuses on the promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent as a prerequisite for the implementation of the development and integration agenda of the Union.

## 5. African Union Symbols and Anthem

### 5.1. Emblem



#### *Description*

- a. The palm leaves shooting up on either side of the outer circle stand for peace;
- b. The gold circle symbolises Africa's wealth and bright future;
- c. The green circle stands for African hopes and aspirations;
- d. The plain map of African without boundaries in the inner circle signifies African unity;
- e. The small interlocking red rings at the base of the Emblem stand for African solidarity and the blood shed for the liberation of Africa.

## 5.2. African Union Flag



### *Description*

The current flag of the African Union was adopted at the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, which took place in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2010. The green background symbolises hope of Africa and the 54 gold stars represent Member States.

## 5.3. African Union Anthem

*Let us all unite and celebrate together*

*The victories won for our liberation*

*Let us dedicate ourselves to rise together*

*To defend our liberty and unity*

*O Sons and Daughters of Africa*

*Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky*

*Let us make Africa the Tree of Life*

*Let us all unite and sing together*

*To uphold the bonds that frame our destiny*

*Let us dedicate ourselves to fight together*

*For lasting peace and justice on earth*

*O Sons and Daughters of Africa  
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky  
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life*

*Let us all unite and toil together  
To give the best we have to Africa  
The cradle of mankind and fount of culture  
Our pride and hope at break of dawn  
O Sons and Daughters of Africa  
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky  
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life*

*Source: African Union Website*

## 6. Objectives of the African Union

- a. To achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the people of Africa;*
- b. To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States;*
- c. To accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent;*
- d. To promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its people;*
- e. To encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;*
- f. To promote peace, security and stability on the continent;*
- g. To promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance;*
- h. To promote and protect human and people's rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and other relevant human rights instruments;*
- i. To establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations;*
- j. To promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies;*
- k. To promote co-operation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of African people;*
- l. To coordinate and harmonise the policies between the existing and future Regional Economic Communities for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Union;*
- m. To advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all*

*fields, in particular in science and technology;*

- n. To work with relevant international partners in the eradication of preventable diseases and the promotion of good health on the continent.*

## 7. Principles of the African Union

- a. Sovereign equality and inter-dependence among Member States of the Union;*
- b. Respect of borders existing on achievement of independence;*
- c. Participation of the African people in the activities of the Union;*
- d. Establishment of a common defence policy for the African continent;*
- e. Peaceful resolution of conflicts among Member States of the Union through such appropriate means as may be decided upon by the Assembly;*
- f. Prohibition of the use of force or threat to use force among Member States of the Union;*
- g. Non-interference by any Member State in the internal affairs of another;*
- h. The right of the Union to intervene in a Member State pursuant to a decision of the Assembly in respect of grave circumstances, namely war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity;*
- i. Peaceful co-existence of Member States and their right to live in peace and security;*
- j. The right of Member States to request intervention from the Union in order to restore peace and security;*
- k. Promotion of self-reliance within the framework of the Union;*
- l. Promotion of gender equality;*



- m. Respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance;
- n. Promotion of social justice to ensure balanced economic development;
- o. Respect for the sanctity of human life, condemnation and rejection of impunity and political assassination, acts of terrorism and subversive activities;
- p. Condemnation and rejection of unconstitutional changes of governments.

## 8. African Continental Map



## Africa Hall



*Africa Hall is located within the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Although not located within the African Union headquarters, Africa Hall is of special political significance to the African Union as it was the place where the first summit of the OAU took place.*

*In May 1963, the leaders of thirty-two newly independent African states assembled to establish the OAU. They discussed the efforts to oppose colonialism and promote independence and unity among African people. The meeting was finalized with the signing of the charter forming the Organization of African Unity (OAU).*



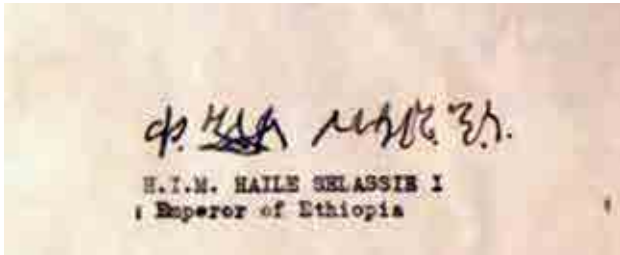
*An artist's impression of the founders of the OAU painted in Africa Hall at UNECA*



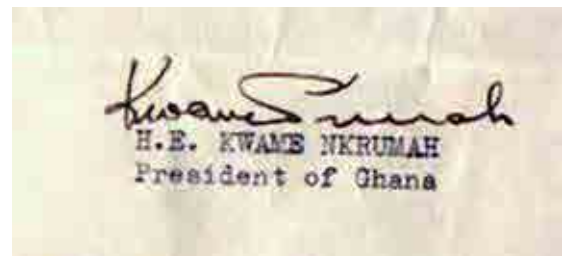


*OAU Charter Conference  
in May 1963*

*His Excellency; Emperor Haile  
Selassie I (Emperor of Ethiopia)  
signing the OAU Charter and  
his signature as shown on the  
OAU Charter.*



*Signature of H.E. Kwame Nkrumah  
on OAU Charter*



## CHAPTER 3: AFRICAN UNION ORGANS AND STRUCTURES

- ❖ Organogram of the African Union
- ❖ Functions of the African Union Organs and Structures
- ❖ The Assembly
- ❖ The Executive Council
- ❖ The Permanent Representatives' Committee
- ❖ New Partnership for Africa's Development
- ❖ African Peer Review Mechanism
- ❖ The Pan-African Parliament
- ❖ The African Court of Justice and Human Rights
- ❖ The Specialised Technical Committees
- ❖ The Peace and Security Council
- ❖ The Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)
  - ❖ ECOSOCC Standing Committee
  - ❖ Criteria for Membership
  - ❖ ECOSOCC and the African Court of Justice and Human Rights

A stylized map of the African continent is shown in a light beige color on the left side of the page. To its right, there are several concentric circular lines in light green and light orange. A decorative green vine-like element with small leaves runs vertically through the center of the page, passing through the section headers.

### ❖ The Financial Institutions

- ❖ African Investment Bank
- ❖ African Monetary Fund
- ❖ African Central Bank

### ❖ The African Union Commission

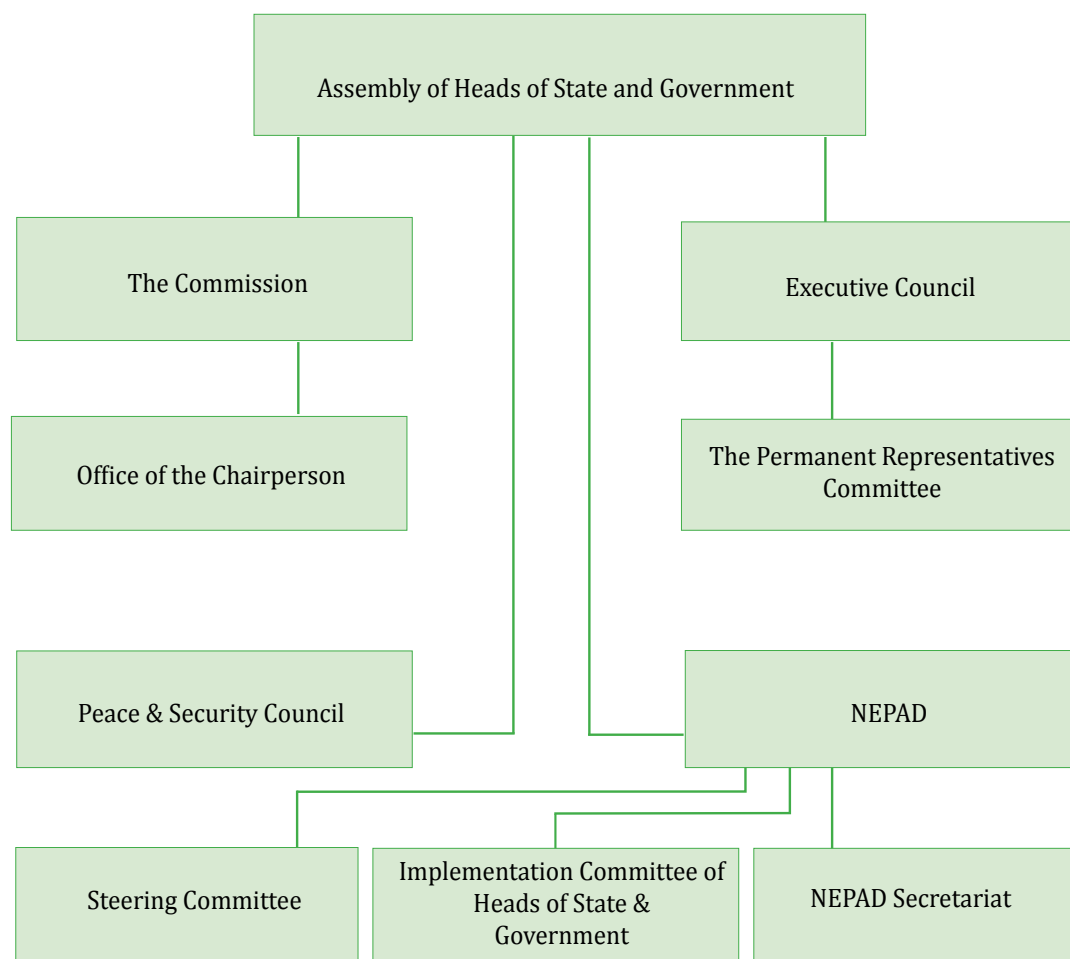
### ❖ The African Union Structures

- ❖ The African Union Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- ❖ The African Union Commission on International Law
- ❖ The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption

## Chapter 3: African Union Organs and Structures

As stipulated in the Constitutive Act, the African Union has nine organs, plus the Peace and Security Council that was created in 2003. These are the Assembly of the Union; the Executive Council; the Pan-African Parliament; the Court of Justice; the AU Commission; the Permanent Representatives Committee; the Specialized Technical Committees; the Economic, Social and Cultural Council; and the Financial Institutions. The Assembly may decide to establish any organ or institution as it considers necessary.

### 1. Organogram of the African Union (Un-Official)



Source: Adapted from  
Civil Society Organisations  
and the African Union  
towards a continental  
advocacy strategy for  
World Vision, 2007

## 2. The Functions of the African Union Organs and Structures

### 2.1. The Assembly

The Assembly is the highest decision making body of the Union. It is composed of all Heads of State and Government and meets twice in ordinary sessions in January and July each year. It can also convene in an extraordinary session at the request of a Member State and on approval by a two-thirds majority of the Member States. A Head of State or Government is elected after consultations among the Member States to hold the Office of the Chairman of the Assembly for a period of one year. Whereas the Chairman of the Union is the representative of the Assembly according to article 6 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission is the 'chief executive officer of the Commission and the legal representative of the Union'.

The Assembly takes its decisions by consensus or, failing which, by a two-thirds majority of the Member States of the Union. However, procedural matters; including the question of whether a particular matter is one of procedure or not, are decided by a simple majority. Two-thirds of the total membership of the Union forms a quorum at any meeting of the Assembly, which also adopts its own Rules of Procedure.

1. The Assembly has the following powers and functions (some of which it may delegate to any organ of the union:

- a. *To determine the common policies of the Union, establish its priorities and adopt its annual programme;*
- b. *To monitor the implementation of policy decisions of the Union as well ensure compliance by all Member States through appropriate mechanisms;*
- c. *To accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent;*
- d. *To give directives to the Executive Council, the Peace and Security Council of*



*the Commission on the management of conflicts, war, acts of terrorism, emergency situations and the restoration of peace;*

- e. To decide on intervention in a Member State in respect of grave circumstance such as war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity;*
- f. To decide on intervention in a Member State at the request of that Member State in order to restore peace and security;*
- g. To determine the sanctions to be imposed on any Member State for non-payment of contributions, violation of the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act and the rules, non-compliance with the decisions of the Union and unconditional changes of government;*
- h. To consider and decide on requests for membership of the Union;*
- i. To adopt the budget of the Union, oversee and direct the financial matters of the Union in accordance with the Financial Rules and Regulations of the Union;*
- j. To establish any other organ of the Union;*
- k. To establish new Committees as it may deem necessary;*
- l. To establish such Specialised Agencies, Ad-hoc Committees and Commissions and temporary working groups, as it may deem necessary;*
- m. To appoint and terminate the appointment of the Chairperson of the Commission, his/her Deputy and the Commissioners;*
- n. To appoint and terminate appointment of Judges of the Court;*
- o. To receive, consider and take decisions on reports and recommendations from the other organs of the Union;*
- p. To elect the Chairperson and other office bearers of the Assembly;*
- q. To decide on the venue of its meetings;*
- r. To amend the Constitutive Act in conformity with the laid down procedures;*



- s. To interpret the Constitutive Act pending the establishment of the Court;*
- t. To determine the structure, functions and regulations of the Commission; and*
- u. To determine the structure, functions, powers, composition and organisation of the Council*

2. The Assembly may delegate any of its powers and functions to any other organ of the Union

## 2.2. The Executive Council

The Executive Council is composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs or such other ministers or authorities as are designated by the governments of Member States. It meets at least twice a year in ordinary session as well as in an extra-ordinary session at the request of any Member State and upon approval by two-thirds of all Member States.

The Executive Council takes its decisions by consensus or, failing which, by a two-thirds majority of the Member States. However, procedural matters, including the question of whether a matter is one of procedure or not; are decided by a simple majority. In addition, two-thirds of the total membership of the Union forms a quorum at any of its meetings. The Executive Council adopts its own Rules of Procedure.

The Executive Council is tasked with coordinating and taking decisions on policies in areas of common interest to the Member States, including the following: foreign trade; energy, industry and mineral resources; food, agricultural and animal resources, livestock production and forestry; water resources and irrigation; environmental protection, humanitarian action and disaster response and relief; transport and communications; insurance; education, culture, health and human resources development; science and technology; nationality, residency and immigration matters; social security, including the formulation of mother and child care policies, as well as policies relating to the disabled and the handicapped; establishment of a system of African awards, medals and prizes.

As an organ responsible to the Assembly, the Executive Council considers issues referred to it and monitors the implementation of policies formulated by the Assembly. It may delegate any of its powers and functions mentioned below to the Specialised Technical Committees.

### *1. The main functions of the Executive Council are to:*

- a. Prepare the sessions of the Assembly;*
- b. Determine the issues to be submitted to the Assembly for decision;*
- c. Coordinate and harmonise the policies, activities and initiatives of the Union in the areas of common interest to Member States;*
- d. Monitor implementation of the policies, decisions and agreements adopted by the Assembly;*
- e. Elect the Commissioners to be appointed by the Assembly;*
- f. Elect members of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and submit to the Assembly for appointment;*
- g. Take appropriate action on issues referred to it by the Assembly;*
- h. Examine the Programme and Budget of the Union and submit them to the Assembly for consideration;*
- i. Promote cooperation and coordination with the Regional Economic Communities(RECs), the African Development Bank (ADB), other African Institutions and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa(UNECA);*
- j. Determine policies for cooperation between the Union and Africa's partners and ensure that all activities and initiatives regarding Africa are in line with the objectives of the Union;*
- k. Decide on the dates and venues of its sessions on the basis of criteria adopted by the Assembly*

- l. Appoint its Chairperson and the other office bearers in conformity with the Bureau of the Assembly;*
- m. Receive, consider and make recommendations on reports and recommendation from other organs of the Union that do not report directly to the Assembly;*
- n. Set up such ad-hoc committees and working groups as it may deem necessary*
- o. Consider the reports, decisions, projects and programmes of the Committees;*
- p. Approve the Rules of the Committees, oversee, monitor and direct their activities;*
- q. Consider the Staff Rules and Regulations, and the Financial Rules and Regulations of the Union and submit them to the Assembly for adoption;*
- r. Approve the agreements for hosting the Headquarters, other organs and offices of the Union;*
- s. Consider the structures, functions and Statutes of the Commission and make recommendations thereon to the Assembly;*
- t. Determine the conditions of service including salaries, allowances and pensions of the Staff of the Union;*
- u. Ensure the promotion of gender equality in all programmes of the union.*

2. The Executive Council may give instructions to the PRC;
3. The Executive Council may assign tasks to the commission.

### 2.2.A. Sub-Committees of the Executive Council

- Ministerial Committee on Candidatures
- Ministerial Committee on the Challenges of Ratification/Accession and Implementation of the OAU/AU Treaties
- Ministerial Committee on the Review of Scale of Assessment

## 2.3. The Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC)

The Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) is composed of Permanent Representatives to the Union and other plenipotentiaries of Member States and is charged with the responsibility of preparing the work of the Executive Council and acting on the Executive Council's instructions. It may set up such sub- committees or working groups, as it may deem necessary.

### *The functions of the PRC are to:*

- a. Act as an advisory body to the Executive Council;*
- b. Prepare its Rules of Procedure and submit them to the Executive Council;*
- c. Prepare the meetings of the Executive Council, including the agenda and draft decisions;*
- d. Make recommendations on the areas of common interest of Member States particularly on issues on the agenda of the Executive Council;*
- e. Facilitate communication between the Commission and the capitals of Member States;*
- f. Consider the programme and budget of the Union as well as administrative, budgetary and financial matters of the Commission, and make recommendations to the Executive Council;*
- g. Consider the Financial Report of the Commission and make recommendations to the Executive Council;*
- h. Consider the Report of the Board of External Auditors and submit written comments to the Executive Council;*

- i. Consider reports on the implementation of the budget of the Union;*
- j. Consider reports on the implementation of the policies, decisions and agreements adopted by the Executive Council;*
- k. Participate in the preparation of the programme of activities of the Union;*
- l. Participate in the preparation of the calendar of meetings of the Union;*
- m. Consider any matter assigned to it by the Executive Council;*
- n. Carry out any other functions that may be assigned to it by the Executive Council.*

2. The PRC may set up such ad-hoc committees and temporary working groups, as it deems necessary, including a sub-committee on Headquarters and Host Agreements, NEPAD and the Cairo Plan of Action of the Africa/Europe Summit.
3. The functioning, mandate, composition and term of office of such ad-hoc committees and temporary working groups shall be determined by the PRC. The quorum for meetings of such sub-committees or temporary working groups shall be a simple majority.

### **2.3. A. Sub-Committees of the PRC**

The sub- committees discuss technical and administrative questions, as delegated by the full PRC

- *Advisory Sub-committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters*
- *Sub-committee on Audit Matters*
- *Sub-committee on Contributions*
- *Sub-committee on Economic and Trade Matters*
- *Sub-committee on Headquarters and Host Agreements*
- *Sub-committee on Multilateral Cooperation*

- *Sub-committee on NEPAD*
- *Sub-committee on Programmes and Conferences*
- *Sub-committee on Refugees*
- *Policy Sub-committee of the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Famine in Africa*
- *Sub-committee on Structural Reforms*

## 2.4. New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

NEPAD was adopted by African Heads of State and Government of the OAU in 2001 and was ratified by the African Union (AU) in 2002 to address Africa's development problems within a new paradigm; as the integrated and comprehensive socio-economic development programme to accelerate Africa's renewal. NEPAD's main objectives are to reduce poverty, put Africa on a sustainable development path, halt the marginalization of Africa and empower women. The NEPAD founding document champions good governance as a basic requirement for peace, security and sustainable political and socio-economic development. The Lusaka Summit (2001) also agreed on the creation of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), which in turn established the NEPAD Steering Committee and the NEPAD Secretariat to coordinate and administer its activities. NEPAD had as its overarching objectives the eradication of poverty, the promotion of sustainable development and the arrest of the marginalisation of Africa under globalisation. In particular, the goal to eradicate poverty in Africa was focused on meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In line with the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AU, the 14th AU Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2010, strengthened the NEPAD programme by transforming the NEPAD secretariat into an implementation

Agency - the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency).

It is also in this regard that the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) was transformed into the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC). In addition, the Summit authorised the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to exercise supervisory authority over the NEPAD Agency.

## 2.4. A. NEPAD Governance Structures

The NEPAD governance structures are:

- *The Assembly of the African Union (AU)*
- *The NEPAD Heads of State & Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC)*
- *The NEPAD Steering Committee*

The Chairperson of the HSGOC reports to the AU Assembly on the activities of HSGOC and makes recommendations for consideration and adoption. In this regard, the NEPAD Agency provides the chairperson with technical support on drafting the Chair's summary report to the Assembly and prepares the draft decision(s) to be tabled in the Assembly for resolution. The other NEPAD related reports are provided to the Heads of State and Government in order to widen understanding, engagement and ownership of NEPAD by all the Heads of State and Government in the Assembly.

## 2.4. B. NEPAD Thematic Areas

NEPAD manages a number of programmes and projects in six thematic areas namely:

- a. *Agriculture and Food Security*
- b. *Climate Change and National Resource Management*
- c. *Regional Integration and Infrastructure*

- d. *Human Development*
- e. *Economic and Corporate Governance*
- f. *Cross-cutting issues, including gender, capacity development and ICT*

## 2.5. African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

Launched in 2003 by the African Union (AU), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by the Member States of the AU as an African self-monitoring mechanism. The APRM is a bold, unique and innovative approach designed and implemented by Africans for Africa.

### *Mandate*

The mandate of the APRM is to encourage conformity in regard to political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards among African countries and the objectives in socio-economic development within the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

### *Objectives*

The objectives of the APRM are primarily to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through experience sharing and reinforcement of successful and best practices, including identifying deficiencies and assessment of requirements for capacity building.

### 2.5. A. APRM Structures:

#### *a. APR Forum*

The Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government is the highest decision-making authority in the APRM. These participating Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union have voluntarily acceded to the APRM. The APR forum has ultimate



responsibility for the oversight of the APRM organisation and processes, for mutual learning, capacity building and for exercising the constructive peer dialogue and persuasion required to make the APRM effective, credible and acceptable.

#### *b. APR Panel*

The Panel of Eminent Persons is appointed to oversee the process to ensure the integrity of the process, to consider review reports and to make recommendations to the APR Forum. The APR Panel meets when required to review and make objective assessments of and recommendations on the country review reports submitted to it by the APR Secretariat.

#### *c. APR Secretariat*

The APRM Secretariat provides the secretarial, technical, coordinating and administrative support services for the APRM. The secretariat has both technical and administrative capacity to undertake and manage the analytical work that underpins the peer review process and also conforms to the principles of APRM.

#### *d. APR Team*

The Country Review Team is appointed to visit the country to review progress with the country's Programme of Action, and produce the APRM report on the country. The APR teams are carefully designed to enable an integrated, balanced, technically competent and professional assessment of the reviewed country and will be approved by the APR Panel.

### *2.5. B. Thematic Areas of APRM*

#### *a. Democracy and good political governance*

This thematic area ensures that the respective national constitutions reflect the democratic ethos and provide for demonstrably accountable governance, and that political representation is promoted, thus providing for all citizens to participate in the political process in a free and fair political environment. The aim is to enforce strict adherence to the position of the African Union (AU) on unconstitutional changes of government and other decisions of our continental organization aimed at promoting democracy, good governance, peace and security. It also aims

at establishing and strengthening appropriate electoral administrations and oversight bodies in our respective countries, and providing the necessary resources and capacity to conduct elections that are free, fair and credible.

### *b. Economic governance and management*

This seeks to promote macroeconomic policies that support sustainable development, to implement transparent, predictable and credible government economic policies, promote sound public finance management and to fight corruption and money laundering. This thematic area also seeks to accelerate regional integration by participating in the harmonization of monetary, trade and investment policies amongst the participating states.

### *c. Corporate governance*

The APRM definition of Corporate Governance involves all aspects that govern a company's relations with shareholders and other stakeholders. The APRM's Objectives, Standards, Criteria and Indicators document defines Corporate Governance as concerned with the ethical principles, values and practices that facilitate holding the balance between economic and social goals, and between individual and communal goals. The aim is to align as much as possible the interests of individuals, corporations and society within a framework of sound governance and common good.

The approved codes and standards have the potential to: promote market efficiency, control wasteful spending, consolidate democracy and encourage private financial flows—all of which are critical in the quest to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development. AU members are encouraged to strive within their capabilities to implement these codes, which have been developed through consultative processes that involved active participation and endorsement by African countries.

### *d. Socio-economic development*

The area promotes key socio-economic thrusts such as gender equality, allocation of appropriate funds to the social sector, as well as promoting new partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society.

## 2.6. The Pan-African Parliament (PAP)

The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) was inaugurated on 18 March 2004 and its permanent seat is in Midrand, Johannesburg; Republic of South Africa. The establishment of the PAP was inspired by a vision of African Heads of State and Government to provide a common platform for African people and their grassroots organisations to be more involved in discussions and decision-making on the problems and challenges facing the continent. The ultimate aim of PAP is to evolve into an institution with full legislative powers, whose members are elected by universal suffrage. At present it has 230 members and exercises advisory and consultative powers.

*The core functions of the Pan-African Parliament are to:*

- a. Facilitate the effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the African Union;*
- b. Work towards the harmonisation or co-ordination of the laws of Member States;*
- c. Make recommendations aimed at contributing to the attainment of the objectives of the AU and draw attention to the challenges facing the integration process in Africa as well as the strategies for dealing with them;*
- d. Request officials of the AU to attend its sessions, produce documents or assist in the discharge of its duties;*
- e. Promote the programmes and objectives of the AU in the constituencies of the Member States;*
- f. Encourage good governance, transparency and accountability in Member States;*
- g. Familiarise the people of Africa with the objectives and policies aimed at integrating the African continent within the framework of the establishment of the African Union;*
- h. Promote the coordination and harmonisation of policies, measures, programmes*

*and activities of the parliamentary fora of Africa.*

## 2.7. The African Court of Justice and Human Rights (ACJHR)

This organ is in charge of civil matters particularly with regards to the protection of human rights and consolidation of good governance in Africa. It serves as a veritable criminal court for the continent. The African Court of Justice was merged with the African Court of Human and People's Rights to become what is now known as 'The African Court of Justice and Human Rights'. The merging was done during the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government on 1 July 2008 in Sharm El Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt. It acts as a jurisdiction in charge of legal matters of the African Union.

*The functions of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights are to:*

- a. Collect documents and undertake studies and researches on human and people's rights matters in Africa;*
- b. Lay down rules aimed at solving the legal problems relating to human and people's rights;*
- c. Ensure protection of human and people's rights; and*
- d. Interpret all the provisions of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.*

## 2.8. The Specialised Technical Committees (STCs)

There are seven Specialised Technical Committees (not yet functional) that are responsible to the Executive Council:

- a. The Committee on Rural Economy and Agricultural Matters;*
- b. The Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs;*
- c. The Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters;*
- d. The Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, Energy, Natural Resources and Environment;*
- e. The Committee on Transport, Communications and Tourism;*
- f. The Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs; and*
- g. The Committee on Education, Culture and Human Resources.*

The Specialised Technical Committees are composed of ministers or senior officials responsible for sectors falling within their respective areas of competence and the Assembly can, whenever it deems appropriate, restructure the existing ones or establish others.

Within its field of competence, each Specialised Technical Committees has the following functions:

- a. To prepare projects and programmes of the Union and submit them to the Executive Council;*
- b. To ensure the supervision, follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of decisions taken by the organs of the Union;*
- c. To ensure coordination and harmonisation of projects and programmes of the Union;*

- d. To submit to the Executive Council, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Executive Council, reports and recommendations on the implementation of the provisions of the Constitutive Act; and*
- e. To carry out any other functions assigned to it for the purpose of ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the Constitutive Act.*

*Subject to any directives given by the Executive Council, each Specialised Technical Committee meets as often as necessary and shall prepare its Rules of Procedure and submit them to the Executive Council for approval.*

## 2.9. The Peace and Security Council (PSC)

The Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union entered into force on 26 December 2003, after being ratified by the required majority of Member States of the AU. It is made up of 15 Member States who are chosen for a term of two to three years and is tasked with intervening in conflicts to protect the security of the continent. The Peace and Security Council is established as a standing decision-making organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and has a collective security and early-warning arrangement (African Peace and Security Architecture) to facilitate timely and efficient response to conflict and crisis situations in Africa.

*The Peace and Security Council performs functions in the following areas:*

- a. Promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa;*
- b. Early warning and preventive diplomacy;*
- c. Peace-making, including the use of mediation, conciliation and enquiry;*
- d. Peace support operations and intervention;*
- e. Peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction;*

- f. *Humanitarian action and disaster management;*
- g. *Any other function as may be decided by the Assembly*

## 2.10. The Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)

The Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) is an advisory organ composed of different social and professional groups of the Member States of the Union and was established in 2005 in order to build partnerships between African governments and civil society. The 150-member General Assembly was launched in September 2008, replacing ECOSOCC's initial interim structure and includes African social groups, professional groups, non-governmental organisations, and cultural organisations.

The Citizens' and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) office in the AU Commission acts as the secretariat for ECOSOCC and its officers have the potential to be a critical link for civil society to the AU. As full delegates to the Summits, they can attend meetings, including closed sessions, and are in a position to brief civil society organisations on key issues tabled. The Assembly of the Heads of State and Government determines ECOSOCC's functions, powers, composition and organisation.

### 2.10. A. ECOSOCC Standing Committee

The standing committee of ECOSOCC is the technical arm of its General Assembly and it ensures that ECOSOCC operationalizes its statutory duties. Currently, the General Assembly of ECOSOCC is fully operational. According to the ECOSOCC statutes, members in the diaspora also sit on the committee. There are ten clusters that are established as the operational mechanisms of ECOSOCC and these are:

- *Peace and Security;*

- *Political affairs;*
- *Infrastructure and Energy;*
- *Social Affairs and Health;*
- *Human Resources, Science and Technology;*
- *Trade and Industry;*
- *Rural Economy and Agriculture;*
- *Economic affairs;*
- *Women and Gender;*
- *Cross-cutting Programmes.*

All civil society organisations (CSOs) working in the various sectors are expected to align themselves with the clusters related to their area of work.

### *2.10. B. Criteria for Membership*

- a. *Be a national, regional, continental or African diaspora CSO without restriction to undertake regional or international activities;*
- b. *Have objectives and principles that are consistent with the principles and objectives of the Union;*
- c. *Be registered in a Member State of the African Union and/or meet the general conditions of eligibility for the granting of observer status to non-governmental organisations;*
- d. *Show proof that the ownership and management of the CSO is made up of not less than 50 per cent of Africans or the African diaspora;*
- e. *Show that the organisation derives at least 50 per cent of its resources from the contributions of the members of the organisation.*



## 2.10. C. ECOSOCC and the African Court of Justice and Human Rights

ECOSOCC as an organ of the AU has access to the proposed African Court of Justice and Human Rights. This is a huge opportunity for CSOs because even though the Court's protocol does not allow CSOs access to the court, CSOs can take matters before the court through ECOSOCC. From the provisions of Article 29(b) of the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights, access to the court is granted to The Assembly, the Pan-African Parliament and other organs of the Union authorised by the Assembly. As such, ECOSOCC is an entry point to the court for CSOs as it is a full organ of the African Union.

## 2.11. The Financial Institutions

The African Union has created three financial institutions in a bid to facilitate trade within the continent. They are the African Investment Bank (AIB), the African Monetary Fund (AMF) and the African Central Bank (ACB).

### 2.11. A. African Investment Bank

The African Investment Bank (AIB) is one of the three financial institutions planned for in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The mandate of the AIB was envisioned to aid in fostering economic growth and accelerating economic integration in Africa in line with the broad objective of the African Union. To achieve these objectives, the Bank will carry out the following tasks:

- a. *To promote investment activities of the public and private sector intended to advance regional integration of the Member States of the African Union;*
- b. *To utilise available resources for the implementation of investment projects contributing to the strengthening of the private sector and the modernisation of rural sector activities and infrastructures;*

- c. To mobilise resources from capital markets inside and outside Africa for the financing of investment projects in African countries; and*
- d. To provide technical assistance as may be needed in African countries for the study, preparation, financing and execution of investment projects.*

The headquarters of the African Investment Bank is in Tripoli, Libya. A formal agreement with the host country to establish a Steering Committee in order to commence technical studies on the institutional and organisation aspects of the Bank was signed. The mission of the technical steering committee is to spearhead studies leading to the setting up of the bank, including working out the fine-print of its sources of funding, management and institutional framework.

### *2.11. B. African Monetary Fund*

The African Monetary Fund (AMF) is stipulated in the Abuja Treaty in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, Article 19, in a bid to facilitate the integration of African economies through the elimination of trade restrictions and enhance greater monetary integration.

#### *The main objectives of the AMF are to:*

- a. Provide financial assistance to AU Member States;*
- b. Act as a clearing house as well as undertake macro-economic surveillance within the continent;*
- c. Coordinate the monetary policies of Member States and promote cooperation between the monetary authorities in these states; and*
- d. Encourage capital movements among Member States; amongst others.*

The Headquarters of the African Monetary Fund is Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon. A Memorandum of Understanding to set up a Technical Steering Committee to undertake the implementation for the hosting of the African Monetary Fund was signed on 30 June 2008 between the African Union Commission and the Cameroon Government, at the margins of the

11th ordinary session of the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government that took place in Sharm El Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt.

### 2.11. C. African Central Bank

The African Central Bank (ACB) was created following the 1991 Abuja Treaty and reiterated by the 1999 Sirte Declaration that called for the speeding up of the implementation process. The ACB, just like the other African financial institutions, is aimed at building a common monetary policy and create the African common currency as a way for accelerating economic integration in Africa.

#### *The objectives of the African Central Bank are to:*

- a. Promote international monetary cooperation through a permanent institution;*
- b. Promote exchange stability and avoid competitive exchange rates depreciation;*
- c. Assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments in respect of current transactions between members and eliminate foreign exchange restrictions, which hamper the growth of world trade.*

The Headquarters of the African Central Bank is Abuja, Republic of Nigeria.

### 2.11. The African Union Commission

The Commission is the Secretariat of the Union and is composed of the Chairperson, his or her deputy and the Commissioners who are assisted by the necessary staff for its smooth functioning. The Assembly determines the structure, functions and regulations of the Commission. (Detailed Information on the AU Commission can be found in Chapter Four).

## 3. African Union Structures

### 3.1. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights was officially inaugurated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, 1987 and its current headquarters is in Banjul, Gambia.

The Commission is composed of 11 members elected by the AU Assembly from experts nominated by the State Parties to the Charter. The members of the Commission serve a six-year term and are eligible for re-election indefinitely.

#### *Mandate:*

The Commission's main mandate is "to promote human and peoples' rights and ensure their protection in Africa" by developing and maintaining constructive and productive relations between the AU and Member States.

#### *The core functions of the ACHPR are:*

- a. *To execute the mandate of the Commission by ensuring the promotion, protection and supervision of the observation of human rights in Member States;*
- b. *To develop instruments and rules aimed at promoting human rights in keeping with the provisions of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights;*
- c. *To cooperate with other African and other International Institutions, including non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations, engaged in the promotion of human rights in Africa;*
- d. *To conduct research to appraise and inform decisions;*
- e. *To collect and gather documentation for dissemination to inform discussions;*

- f. To popularise human and people's rights instruments and in particular, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights in Member States;*
- g. To interpret any provisions of the Charter at the request of a Member State;*
- h. To provide logistical support for meetings;*
- i. To undertake investigations on complaints on human rights violations;*
- j. To provide research framework for data collection in order to monitor and track progress on human rights;*
- k. To provide a monitoring and reporting framework;*
- l. To provide a regulatory framework for monitoring compliance to instruments entered into with Members States;*
- m. To ensure availability of information for increased awareness on human rights.*

### 3.2. The African Union Commission on International Law

The African Union Commission on International Law is an independent advisory organ of the African Union that was formed in accordance with Article 5(2) of the Constitutive Act. The statutes of AUCIL were adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February, 2009. The AUCIL meets twice a year in ordinary sessions. However, the AUCIL may meet in extraordinary sessions at the request of the Chairperson or two thirds of the membership. Its sessions are held at the AU Headquarters.

The AUCIL consists of 11 members of recognized competence in international law and who are nationals of AU Member States, considering geographical and gender representation. Members are elected for a period of five (5) years and they are eligible for re-election only once. However, the term of office of five (5) of the members elected at the first election expires at the end of three (3) years. They are eligible for re-election only once. The members of the AUCIL elect among themselves the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for a period of two years. The elected

Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are eligible for re-election only once.

### *Mandate:*

The mandate of the AUCIL is to promote the universal values and progressive principles of international law, and the peaceful settlement of conflicts. The Commission also serves to promote in the African continent a culture of respect for emerging international norms and rules which have a potential for eventual crystallization into firm rules of international law;

### *The core functions of the AUCIL are:*

- a. To undertake activities relating to codification and progressive development of international law in the African continent with particular attention to the laws of the Union as embodied in the treaties of the Union, the decisions of the policy organs of the Union and in African customary international law arising from the practice of Member States;*
- b. To propose draft framework agreements, model regulations, formulations and analyses of emerging trends in States' practice to facilitate the codification and progressive development of international law;*
- c. To assist in the revision of existing treaties and, in the identification of areas in which new treaties are required as well as prepare drafts thereof;*
- d. To conduct studies on legal matters of interest to the Union and its Member States;*
- e. To encourage the teaching, study, publication and dissemination of literature on international law in particular the laws of the Union with a view to promoting acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, respect for the Union and recourse to its Organs, when necessary.*

### 3.3. The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption

The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption is an autonomous organ established within the African Union, in terms of Article 22 of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. The board comprises of 11 members elected by the Executive Council from a list of experts proposed by the State Parties. These members are appointed for a term of two years; renewable once.

#### *Mandate:*

The main mandate of the Board is to promote and encourage the adoption of measures and actions by State Parties to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption and related offences in Africa.

#### *The main functions of the advisory board on corruption are to:*

- a. Promote and encourage adoption and application of anti-corruption measures in Africa;*
- b. Collect and document information on the nature and scope of corruption and related offences in Africa;*
- c. Develop methodologies for analysing the nature and extent of corruption in Africa, and disseminate information and sensitize the public on the negative effects of corruption and related offences;*
- d. Advise governments on how to deal with the scourge of corruption and related offences in their domestic jurisdictions;*
- e. Develop and promote the adoption of harmonized codes of conduct of public officials;*
- f. Build partnerships with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' rights, African civil society, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental*

*organizations to facilitate dialogue in the fight against corruption and related offences;*

- g. Submit regular reports to the Executive Council on the progress made by each State Party in complying with the provisions of this convention;*
- h. Perform tasks related to corruption and related offences that may be assigned to it by the policy organs of the African Union.*



## The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)



the continent.

*The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) was established by the African Union in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities. Its role is to deal with prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa. Its core organ is the African Union Peace and Security Council.*

*APSA is built around structures, objectives, principles and values, as well as decision-making processes relating to the prevention, management and resolution of crises and conflicts, post-conflict reconstruction and development on*

*The Peace and Security Council (PSC) Protocol, which was adopted in July, 2002, in Durban, and entered into force in December 2003 outlines various components of the APSA and their respective responsibilities. Other documents were subsequently adopted to facilitate and expedite the operationalization of the APSA.*

*The main pillar of the APSA is the PSC, which is supported, in discharge of its mandate, by various structures, namely: the Commission, the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), the African Standby Force (ASF) and the Peace Fund. The relationship between the African Union (AU), which has the primary responsibility for promoting peace, security and stability in Africa, and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) is a key APSA component. Interaction between the PSC and other AU organs, such as the Pan-African Parliament and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as with civil society organizations, is equally vital for the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa. Furthermore, the PSC Protocol provides for partnerships between the AU, on the one hand, the United Nations (UN) and other relevant international stakeholders, on the other hand.*

*The APSA embraces a comprehensive agenda for peace and security in Africa that includes:*

- *Early warning and conflict prevention;*
- *Peace-making, peace support operations, peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction and development;*
- *Promotion of democratic practices, good governance and respect for human rights; and*
- *Humanitarian action and disaster management.*

## The African Standby Force (ASF)

*The African Standby Force is intended for rapid deployment in peace support operations for the AU that may include preventive deployment, peacekeeping, peace-building, post-conflict de-militarization, and humanitarian assistance. It is composed of standby multidisciplinary contingents, with civilian and military components located in their countries of origin and ready for rapid deployment at appropriate notice.*

*The establishment of the ASF started in earnest in 2003, but with the military in the lead. It was not until 2008 that the first police officers were recruited into the African Union (AU) Support Operations Division (PSOD), as part of the strategic level management structure of the Planning Element (PLANELM). Since then, the AU PSOD has undertaken initiatives to develop the policy framework of the police dimension, including guidelines for the AU Formed Police Units (FPU) and the AU Police Rapid Deployment Capability Concept .*

### *Functions of the ASF:*

- a. *Observation and monitoring missions;*
- b. *Other types of peace support missions;*
- c. *Intervention in a Member State in respect of grave circumstances or at the request of*

*a Member State in order to restore peace and security, in accordance with Article 4(h) and (j) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (CAAU).*

*d. Preventive deployment;*

*e. Peace-building, including post-conflict disarmament and demobilisation;*

*f. Humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of civilian population in conflict areas and support efforts to address major natural disasters; and*

*g. Any other functions as may be mandated by the PSC or the Assembly.*

## The Continental Early Warning System (CEWS)

*The Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) is one of the five pillars of the African Peace and Security architecture (APSA). The CEWS is responsible for data collection and analysis and is mandated to collaborate with “the UN, its agencies, other relevant international organizations, research centres, academic institutions and NGOs” with its information to be used by the Chairperson of the Commission” to advise the Peace and Security Council (PSC), on potential conflicts and threats to peace and security in Africa and recommend the best course of action.”*

### Background

*Article 12 of the PSC Protocol provides for the establishment of a Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), in order to facilitate the anticipation and prevention of conflicts in Africa. As stipulated in article 12 (2) of the Protocol, the CEWS consists of;*

- an observation and monitoring centre, to be known as “the Situation Room”, which is located at the Conflict Management Division of the African Union and is responsible for data collection and analysis; and*
- the observation and monitoring units of the Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, which shall be linked directly through appropriate means of communication to the Situation Room and Objectives*
- To anticipate and prevent conflicts on the continent*

- *To provide timely information on evolving violent conflicts based on specifically developed indicators.*

## Mandate

- *data collection and analysis;*
- *engagement with decision makers; and*
- *Co-ordination and collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs).*

## CEWS Information Gathering Tools:

- *Africa Media Monitor: an automated data-gathering software that facilitates the collection of information from a large variety of sources in real time in various languages;*
- *CEWS Portal: a software used for information sharing with the RECs' early warning mechanisms;*
- *Indicators and Profiles Module: a database for the collection and appropriate management of structural information baselines, to enable the development of risk assessments;*
- *Africa Reporter: an analytical tool tailored to the CEWS indicators and templates to facilitate the submission of incident and situation reports from the AU field missions and Liaison Offices;*
- *Africa Prospectus: a tool designed to forecast risk propensity or vulnerability with respect to structural influences and constraints; and*
- *Live-Mon: a new software that performs an automatic geo-localization of news items so that events can be displayed on a map.*

## The Panel of the Wise (PoW)

*The Panel of the Wise (PoW) is one of the critical pillars of the APSA. Article 11 of the Protocol establishing the PSC, sets up a five-person panel of “highly respected African personalities from various segments of society who have made outstanding contributions to the cause of peace, security and development on the continent” with a task to support the efforts of the PSC and those of the Chairperson of the Commission, particularly in the area of conflict prevention.*

### Background

*The first Panel was appointed in December 2007 and composed of Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria, who served as chair, Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania, Elisabeth K. Pognon of Benin, Miguel Trovoadá of São Tomé and Príncipe, and Brigalia Bam of South Africa. At the July 2010 Summit in Kampala, Ben Bella and Ahmed Salim were reappointed for another term ending in December 2013 and three new members were appointed: Mary Chinery Hesse of Ghana; Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia; and Marie Madeleine Kalala-Ngoy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.*

*The Panel has produced some thematic reports on issues relevant to peace and security such as non-impunity, women and children in armed conflicts and electoral disputes.*

### Methods of Work

*The PoW reports to the PSC and through it, to the Assembly. Members are selected by the Chairperson of the AU Commission and appointed through a decision of the Assembly for three year renewable once terms. The Protocol states that the Panel, at the request of the PSC or its own initiative “shall undertake such action deemed appropriate to support the efforts of the PSC and those of the Chairperson of the Commission for the prevention of conflicts”.*

*The Panel meets at least three times annually to deliberate on its work program and to identify regions or countries to visit; it furthermore organizes annual workshops on issues related to conflict prevention and management to assist in producing a thematic report to be submitted to the Assembly of African Heads of State and Governments for endorsement.*

## Mandate

- *Mandated to support and to advise the effort of the chairperson of the commission and the AU PSC, in the area of conflict prevention;*
- *Advice both the Commission and the Council on issues that are necessarily considered by the policy organs of the AU such as the issues of impunity, justice and reconciliation as well as, women and children in arms conflicts and its impact on the most vulnerable ones;*
- *Use its good officers to do conflict mediation and broker peace agreements between warring parties; and,*
- *Help the AU Commission in mapping out threats to peace and security by providing regular advice and analysis and requesting the Commission to deploy fact-finding or mediation teams to specific countries.*

## CHAPTER 4: AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

- ❖ Mission & Values of the Commission
- ❖ Functions of the African Union Commission
- ❖ Organogram of the African Union Commission  
Directorates and their Functions

### The AUC Chairperson

- ❖ Bureau of the Chairperson Office of the Secretary General to the Commission
- ❖ Directorate of Information and Communication
- ❖ Protocol Services Unit
- ❖ Directorate of Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
- ❖ Directorate of Women, Gender and Development
- ❖ Office of the Internal Auditor
- ❖ Citizens' & Diaspora Directorate (CIDO)
- ❖ Office of the Legal Counsel

### **The AUC Deputy Chairperson**

- ❖ Bureau of the Deputy Chairperson
- ❖ Directorate for Administration and Human Resources Development
- ❖ Directorate for Programming, Budgeting, Finance and Accounting
- ❖ Directorate for Conference Services
- ❖ Medical Services Directorate

### **Department and their Functions**

- ❖ Department of Peace and Security
- ❖ Department of Political Affairs
- ❖ Department of Infrastructure and Energy
- ❖ Department of Social Affairs
- ❖ Department of Trade and Industry
- ❖ Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
- ❖ Department of Economic Affairs
- ❖ Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology



### **African Union Representational and Specialized Offices**

- ❖ Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations: New York
- ❖ African Union Permanent Mission to the United Nations: Geneva
- ❖ The African Union Mission to the United States of America: Washington, DC
- ❖ Permanent Mission of the African Union to the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Brussels)
- ❖ African Union Permanent Delegation to the League of Arab States, Cairo
- ❖ African Union Mission to the Southern Africa Region

## Chapter 4 :African Union Commission

The Commission is the Secretariat of the African Union and is entrusted with executive functions. Its structure represents the Union and protects its interests under the auspices of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government as well as the Executive Council. The Commission executes its functions through eight main portfolios, namely Peace and Security; Political Affairs; Trade and Industry; Infrastructure and Energy; Social Affairs; Rural Economy and Agriculture; Human Resources, Science and Technology; and Economic Affairs.

### A. Mission and Values of the Commission

The mission of the Commission is to become 'an efficient and value-adding institution driving the African integration and development process in close collaboration with African Union Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and African citizens'.

The values to guide and govern the functioning and operations of the Commission are:

- *Respect for diversity and team work;*
- *Think Africa above all;*
- *Transparency and accountability;*
- *Integrity and impartiality;*
- *Efficiency and professionalism; and*
- *Information and knowledge sharing.*

The Commission is guided by the following principles:

- a. Subsidiarity and complementarity with other organs, Member States and Regional Economic Communities;*
- b. Results orientation, feasibility and impact focus;*
- c. Close coordination and cooperation with the Regional Economic Communities;*
- d. Coherence of policies and programmes; and*
- e. A networking approach that takes advantage of available resources through other players.*

The Commission is the key organ playing a central role in the day-to-day management of the African Union. Among other functions, it represents the Union and defends its interests, elaborates draft common positions of the Union, prepares strategic plans and studies for the consideration of the Executive Council, elaborates, promotes, coordinates and harmonises the programmes and policies of the Union with those of the RECs, ensures the mainstreaming of gender in all programmes and activities of the Union.

## B. Composition

1. The Commission shall be composed of the following members:

- a) a Chairperson;*
- b) one (1) Deputy Chairperson; and*
- c) eight (8) Commissioners.*

2. The Assembly may, when it deems necessary, review the number of Commissioners.

3. The Members of the Commission shall be assisted by the necessary staff for the

smooth functioning of the Commission.

## 1. Functions of the African Union Commission

1. The Commission shall carry out the functions assigned to it under the Constitutive Act, those specified in Protocols thereto, decisions of the Union as well as those established in these Statutes.

2. The Commission shall:

- a) represent the Union and defend its interests under the guidance of and as mandated by the Assembly and the Executive Council;*
- b) initiate proposals for consideration by other organs;*
- c) implement the decisions taken by other organs;*
- d) organise and manage the meetings of the Union;*
- e) act as the custodian of the Constitutive Act, its protocols, the treaties, legal instruments, decisions adopted by the Union and those inherited from the OAU;*
- f) establish, on the basis of approved programmes, such operational units as it may deem necessary;*
- g) coordinate and monitor the implementation of the decisions of the other organs of the Union in close collaboration with the PRC and report regularly to the Executive Council;*
- h) assist Member States in implementing the Union programmes and policies, including, CSSDCA and NEPAD;*
- i) work out draft common positions of the Union and coordinate the actions of Member States in international negotiations;*
- j) prepare the Union's Programme and Budget for approval by the policy organs;*
- k) manage the budgetary and financial resources including collecting the approved*

revenue from various sources, establishing fiduciary, reserve and special Funds with the appropriate approvals, and accepting donations and grants that are compatible with the objectives and principles of the Union;

- l) manage the assets and liabilities of the Union according to laid down regulations and procedures;
- m) prepare strategic plans and studies for the consideration of the Executive Council;
- n) take action in the domains of responsibility as may be delegated by the Assembly and the Executive Council. The domains shall include the following:
  - i) control of pandemics;
  - ii) disaster management;
  - iii) international crime and terrorism;
  - iv) environmental management;
  - v) negotiations relating to external trade;
  - vi) negotiations relating to external debt;
  - vii) population, migration, refugees and displaced persons;
  - viii) food security;
  - ix) socio-economic integration; and
  - x) all other areas in which a common position has been established.
- o) mobilize resources and devise appropriate strategies for self-financing, income generating activities and investment for the Union;
- p) promote integration and socio-economic development;
- q) strengthen cooperation and co-ordination of activities between Member States in fields of common interest;
- r) ensure the promotion of peace, democracy, security and stability;

- s) *provide operational support to the PSC;*
- t) *elaborate, promote, coordinate and harmonise the programmes and policies of the Union with those of the RECs;*
- u) *prepare and submit an annual report on the activities of the Union to the Assembly, the Executive Council and the Parliament;*
- v) *prepare the Staff Rules and Regulations for approval by the Assembly;*
- w) *implement the decisions of the Assembly regarding the opening and closing down of sections, administrative or technical offices;*
- x) *follow up and ensure the application of the Rules of Procedure and Statutes of the organs of the Union;*
- y) *negotiate, in consultation with the PRC, with the host countries, the Host Agreements of the Union and those of its administrative or technical offices;*
- z) *build capacity for scientific research and development for enhancing socio-economic development in the Member States;*
- aa) *strive for the promotion and popularization of the objectives of the Union;*
- bb) *collect and disseminate information on the Union and set up and maintain a reliable database;*
- cc) *ensure the mainstreaming of gender in all programmes and activities of the Union;*
- dd) *undertake research on building the Union and on the integration process;*
- ee) *develop capacity, infrastructure and maintenance of intra-continental information and communication technology; and*
- ff) *prepare and submit to the Executive Council for approval, administrative regulations, standing orders and Rules and Regulations for the management of the affairs of the Union and keeping proper books of accounts.*

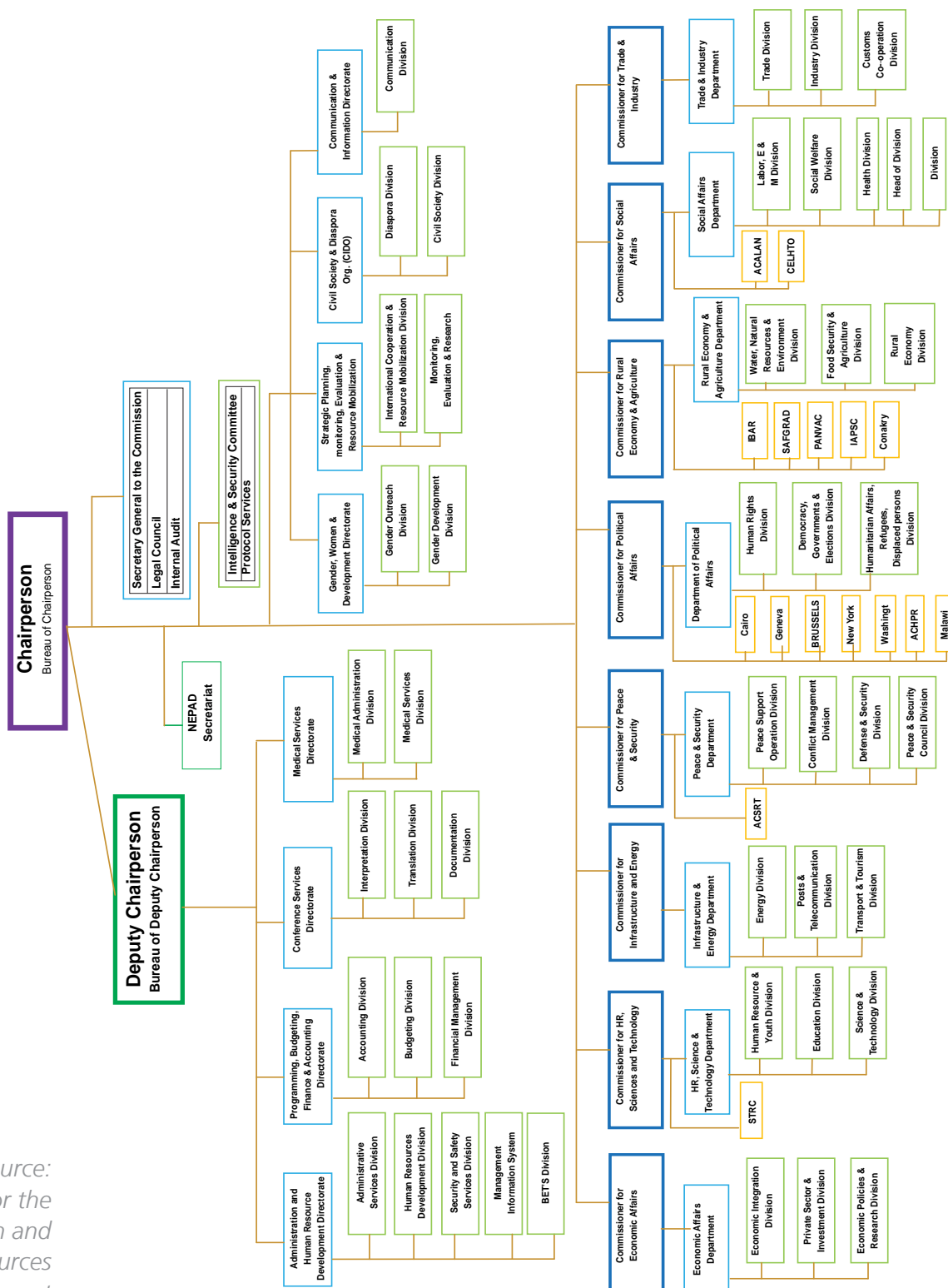
## 2. Portfolios of The Commission

### 1. The portfolios of the Commission shall be as follows:

- a) *PEACE AND SECURITY* (Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, and Combating Terrorism...);
- b) *POLITICAL AFFAIRS* (Human Rights, Democracy, Good Governance, Electoral Institutions, Civil Society Organizations, Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons...);
- c) *INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY* (Energy, Transport, Communications, Infrastructure and Tourism...);
- d) *SOCIAL AFFAIRS* (Health, Children, Drug Control, Population, Migration, Labour and Employment, Sports and Culture...);
- e) *HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY* (Education, Information Technology Communication, Youth, Human Resources, Science and Technology...);
- f) *TRADE AND INDUSTRY* (Trade, Industry, Customs and Immigration Matters...);
- g) *RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE* (Rural Economy, Agriculture and Food Security, Livestock, Environment, Water and Natural Resources and Desertification...);
- h) *ECONOMIC AFFAIRS* (Economic Integration, Monetary Affairs, Private Sector Development, Investment and Resource Mobilization...).

### 2. Considering that gender issues are cross-cutting through all the portfolios of the Commission, a special unit shall be established in the Office of the Chairperson to coordinate all activities and programmes of the Commission related to gender issues.

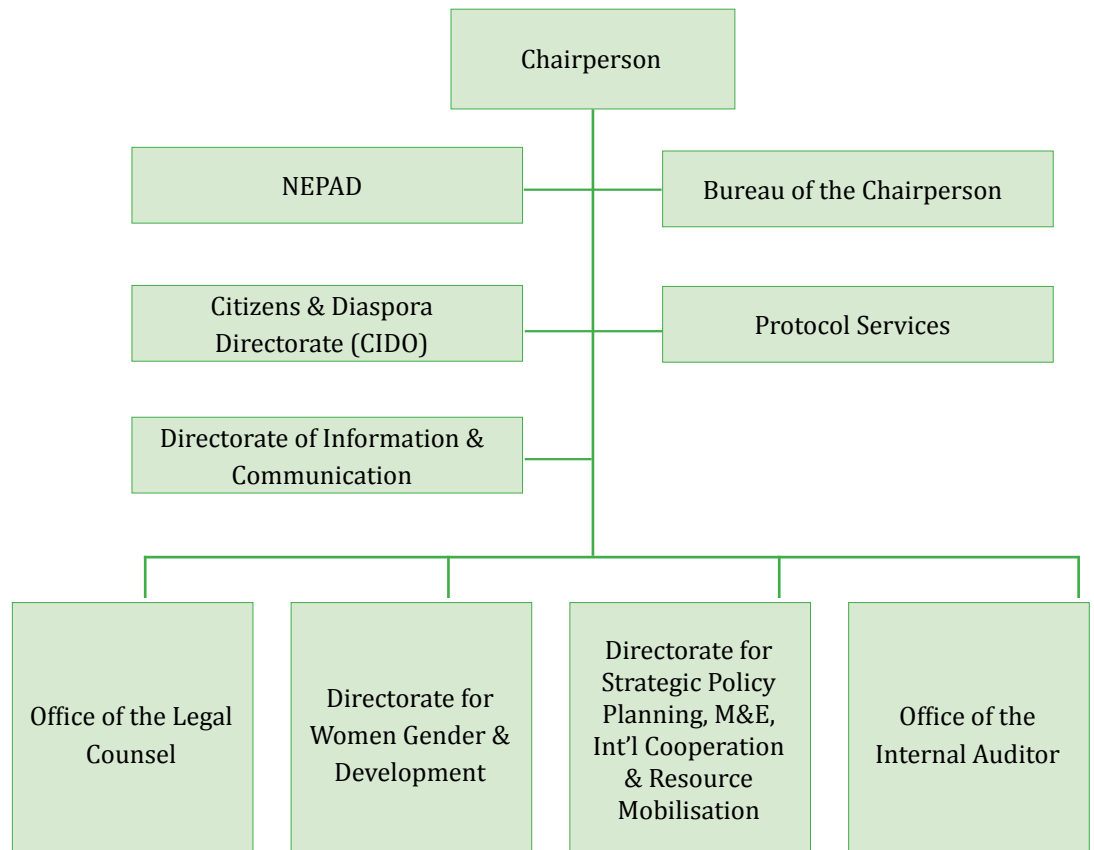
### 3. Organogram of the African Union



Source:  
Directorate for the  
Administration and  
Human Resources  
Development



## 4. Directorates and their Functions



Source:  
Directorate for the  
Administration  
and Human  
Resources  
Development

### 4.1. The AUC Chairperson

1. The functions and responsibilities of the AUC Chairperson shall be:

- a) *Chief Executive Officer;*
- b) *Legal representative of the Union;*
- c) *Accounting Officer of the Commission;*

2. The Chairperson shall be directly responsible to the Executive Council for the effective discharge of his/her duties

### 4.1. A. Functions of the AUC Chairperson

#### 1. The functions of the Chairperson shall be to, inter-alia:

- a. Chair all meetings and deliberations of the Commission;
- b. Undertake measures aimed at promoting and popularising the objectives of the Union and enhancing its performance;
- c. Promote cooperation with other organisations for the furtherance of the objectives of the Union;
- d. Participate in and keep records of the deliberations of the Assembly, the Executive Council, the PRC, the Committees and any other organs of the Union as may be required;
- e. Submit reports requested by the Assembly, the Executive Council, the PRC, the Committees and any other organs of the Union as may be required;
- f. Prepare, in conjunction with the PRC, and submit the Staff Rules and Regulations to the Executive Council for approval;
- g. Prepare, together with the PRC, and transmit to Member States the Budget, Audited Accounts and Programme of Work at least one (1) month before the commencement of the sessions of the Assembly and the Executive Council;
- h. Act as depositary of all Union and OAU Treaties and other legal instruments of the Union and perform depositary functions thereof;
- i. Act as a depositary for instruments of ratification, accession or adherence of all international agreements concluded under the auspices of the Union and communicate information in this respect to Member States;
- j. Receive copies of international agreements entered into between or amongst Member States;
- k. Receive the notification of Member States which may desire to renounce their membership in the Union as provided for in Article 31 of the Constitutive Act;

- l. Communicate to Member States, and include in the Agenda of the Assembly, as provided in Article 32 of the Constitutive Act, written requests of Member States for amendments or revisions to the Constitutive Act;*
- m. Circulate the provisional agenda of the sessions of the Assembly, the Executive Council and the PRC to Member States;*
- n. Receive proposals, together with explanatory notes, for the inclusion of items on the agenda of the Assembly and the Executive Council at least sixty (60) days prior to the session;*
- o. Receive and circulate requests which conform to the correct Rules of Procedure of the Assembly or the Executive Council, from any Member State, for the convening of an extraordinary session of the Assembly or the Executive Council;*
- p. Assess, in conjunction with the PRC, the need for branches, administrative and technical offices as may be considered necessary for the adequate functioning of the Commission, and create or abolish them as necessary, with the approval of the Assembly;*
- q. Consult and coordinate With the Governments and other institutions of Member States and the RECs, on the activities of the Union;*
- r. Appoint the staff of the Commission in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 of these Statutes;*
- s. Assume overall responsibility for the administration and finances of the Commission;*
- t. Prepare an Annual Report on the activities of the Union and its organs;*
- u. Carry out diplomatic representations of the Union;*
- v. Liaise closely with the organs of the Union to guide, support and monitor the performance of the Union in the various areas to ensure conformity and harmony with agreed policies, strategies, programmes and projects;*
- w. Carry out such other functions as may be determined by the Assembly or the Executive Council;*

- x. *Supervise the functioning of the Headquarters and other offices of the Union;*
- y. *Coordinate all activities and programmes of the Commission related to gender issues.*

2. The Chairperson may delegate any of his/her functions to the Deputy Chairperson and in the absence of the latter, to one of the Commissioners.

### 4.1.1. Bureau of the Chairperson

#### Mandate

The Bureau of the Chairperson exists to assist the Chairperson in discharging his or her responsibilities as chief executive and legal representative of the Union and in organising and managing schedules of internal meetings, ceremonies, audiences and travels.

#### Core Functions:

- a. *To manage the office of the Chairperson and to maintain coordination and liaison among the directorates and units (Directorate for Women, Gender and Development; Directorate for Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, International Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation; Office of the Legal Counsel; Office of the Internal Auditor; NEPAD Coordination Unit; CSSDCA Coordination Unit; Communication and Information Unit and Protocol Services Unit ) under the chair person, as well as between all other directorates and units with the office of the Chairperson;*
- b. *To provide advisory services to the Chairperson;*
- c. *To ensure that the Chairperson is informed on developments within and outside the Commission requiring his/her attention;*
- d. *To prepare or review and finalise letters, speeches, statements and addresses to*

*be delivered by the Chairperson;*

- e. To initiate, follow up and coordinate any tasks requested by or intended for the Chairperson;*
- f. To prepare and manage the budget of the office of the Chairperson;*
- g. To prepare and maintain the schedule of the Chairperson;*
- h. To prepare and follow up instructions of the Chairperson;*
- i. To plan, programme and implement the activities of the office of the Chairperson;*

#### **4.1.2. Office of the Secretary General to the Commission**

##### **Core Functions:**

- a. To manage the work of coordinating the preparation and holding of the meetings of the Commission and meetings of other organs of the Union such as the PRC and its sub-Committees, the Executive Council, the Assembly, PAP and STCs;*
- b. To ensure that all documentation for the meetings and the work of the above organs are properly prepared, in line with the vision and mission of the Union, are duly processed and dispatched on time to Member States;*
- c. To ensure that the outcome of meetings, such as decisions and reports are properly finalised, and disseminated on time to Member States;*
- d. To ensure that those documents are properly stored and accessible at any time and to manage a Databank of documentation of the Union;*
- e. To ensure that follow-up to meetings of the Commission and other organs are carried out efficiently and rapidly for timely implementation;*
- f. To establish horizontal linkages between various departments, directorates*

*and units for smooth coordination of programmes and activities and timely implementation of decisions;*

*g. Perform any other relevant duties, as may be assigned by the Chairperson.*

### 4.1.3. Directorate of Communication and Information

#### Mandate

The Communication and Information Directorate has the mandate of developing, planning and conducting activities designed to provide information about the AU and to promote increased awareness about its aims and activities through various information tools and mechanisms.

#### Core Functions:

- a. To serve as the focal point for disseminating information and to act as the spokesperson for the Commission;*
- b. To draft news releases, correspondence or other informational publications and to assist with distribution of information materials;*
- c. To manage, formulate and coordinate development and implementation of outreach as well as advocacy programmes for the Commission;*
- d. To establish and maintain lines of communication with constituencies, non-governmental organisations, policy institutions, academia, foundations and associations, as well as identify and coordinate action on opportunities to foster support for the objectives and activities of the AU;*
- e. To formulate and advise on promotional strategies for press conferences, meetings and other activities planned for the outreach and advocacy programmes;*
- f. To organise research and drafting of materials related to issue-oriented campaigns and events;*

- g. To ensure development and maintenance of the website as well as relevant automated databases;*
- h. To provide editorial advice, statements, speeches and replies to frequently asked and anticipated questions for use by senior management;*
- i. To serve as the focal point for relations with, and support for, departments and programmes on communication and public information strategies and information dissemination;*
- j. To coordinate implementation of the decisions of the meetings of the African Ministers of Information;*
- k. To explore the possibility of establishing and managing a television and radio station for the African Union and a newspaper.*

#### 4.1.4. Protocol Services Unit

##### Mandate

The Protocol Services Unit of the African Union Commission is mandated to provide protocol services to the Commission and other organs of the AU such as privileges, immunities, ceremonial and consular services.

##### Core Functions:

- a. To develop and maintain rules and procedures relating to protocol services, including implementation of Host Agreement;*
- b. To continuously keep staff of the Commission informed of the rules and protocol procedures;*
- c. To initiate congratulatory messages to Member States as appropriate;*
- d. To provide protocol services as appropriate to the members of the Commission*

- and the entire staff of the Commission;*
- e. To ensure appropriate conduct of ceremonies and public functions;*
  - f. To process documents for diplomatic privileges;*
  - g. To process applications for exit and entry visas on behalf of the staff of the AU;*
  - h. To process laissez-passer applications;*
  - i. To keep flags and national anthems of AU Member States;*
  - j. To compile information on AU Member States and their leaders;*
  - k. To assist representatives/delegations of Member States during AU meetings and other functions, in close collaboration with the host countries.*

#### **4.1.5. Directorate of Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation**

##### **Mandate**

The mandate of the directorate is to develop and maintain constructive and productive institutional relationships between Africa and the rest of the world as well as to coordinate the mobilisation of extra budgetary resources. The Directorate of Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation also ensures inter-departmental coordination in strategic planning for continuous monitoring and evaluation of programme outputs against action plans, as well as to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes in realising organisational goals and objectives. In addition, it shall provide and maintain research and statistical services that will cater for the needs of the entire Commission, other organs of the Union, RECs as well as Member States.



### Core Functions:

- a. To prepare rules and procedures for policy formulation, coordination and evaluation;*
- b. To promote internal best practices concerning strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation;*
- c. To survey and propose overall operational priorities of the Commission;*
- d. To assist directorates and offices to develop strategic planning skills;*
- e. To organise coordination meetings on policy formulation and strategic planning;*
- f. To lead and provide support for sectoral research projects and ensure their effective implementation;*
- g. To develop and manage a research and statistics services for the Union;*
- h. To prepare the annual report of the Commission;*
- i. To produce an approved annual statement on general orientations and priorities relating to operational and administrative programmes and activities;*
- j. To propose training programmes relating to programme designing and programme coordination;*
- k. To ensure that the statistics unit is easily accessible to all organs and the Member States are able to provide updated statistical information;*
- l. To design and implement monitoring and evaluation procedures for assessing programme achievements and programme effectiveness;*
- m. To strengthen existing relations and develop relations with other world regions;*
- n. To seek new areas of cooperation with international partners;*
- o. To promote a positive image of Africa within the international arena;*
- p. To popularise the African Union and market its programmes and activities;*

- q. To initiate, develop and manage policy for international cooperation and resource mobilisation;*
- r. To coordinate and develop strategies for resource mobilisation;*
- s. To coordinate the process of proposal and project formulation;*
- t. To coordinate the process of project and programmes monitoring and evaluation;*
- u. To develop outlines for progress reports;*
- v. To initiate, develop and manage strategies for sustainability, self-financing, income generation and investment;*
- w. To facilitate logistical support to coordinate interaction with partners.*

#### *4.1.6. Directorate of Women, Gender and Development*

##### *Mandate*

The mandate of this directorate is to promote gender equality within and throughout the Union as well as within Member States by translating policy agreements and instruments into measurable programmes and projects. It shall provide oversight by facilitating development and harmonisation of policy, facilitating co-ordination and initiating gender mainstreaming strategies.

##### *Core Functions:*

- a. To harmonise gender policies in the AU organs and Member States;*
- b. To initiate and manage the gender analysis of policies emanating from the Commission and the AU organs;*
- c. To design gender sensitive indicators for AU Commission and the AU organs;*
- d. To develop and manage a gender mainstreaming strategy and promote its implementation;*

- e. To develop, implement and monitor a gender policy;*
- f. To design and maintain an efficient coordination framework;*
- g. To provide training for the uniform application of gender policy and gender mainstreaming strategy within the Commission and AU organs;*

#### **4.1.7. Office of the Internal Auditor**

##### **Mandate**

To ensure that financial rules and procedures of the African Union are sound, efficient and implemented accordingly.

##### **Core Functions:**

- a. To ascertain the completeness, authenticity and proper maintenance of the Commission's financial records in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures;*
- b. To review by examination, inquiry and observation the Commission's financial control systems, including those for safeguarding assets and preventing and detecting fraud and theft in order to determine whether additional procedures might be required;*
- c. To obtain sufficient reliable evidence to constitute a reasonable basis for audit conclusions on the effectiveness of controls and the degree of compliance with them, using discussion, observation, inspection and analytical review techniques;*
- d. To record the planning, supervision and conduct of audits and control systems review, the evidence relied upon and the reasons for any significant audit decisions taken;*
- e. To report conclusions regarding operational efficiency, effectiveness and recommend improvements in control systems or other action considered*

*desirable;*

- f. To propose and implement internal auditing policies, rules and procedures for the Commission of the African Union;*
- g. To prepare and implement an annual auditing programme;*
- h. To liaise and cooperate with external auditors*
- i. To prepare and submit an annual report of audited activities, comprising recommendations made and reactions thereon;*
- j. To draw the attention of programme managers to required improvements;*
- k. To prepare a report on each audit mission or activity and to submit it to the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson and, as and when appropriate, to other Commissioners;*
- l. To undertake any special mission and conduct any investigation as and when requested by the Executive Council and/or the Chairperson.*

#### **4.1.8. Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO)**

##### **Mandate & Function:**

The Constitutive Act of the African Union is explicit in its intention to create a ‘people-oriented African community’ in the African Union based on partnership between governments and all segments civil society. The Citizens and Diaspora Directorate will serve as the operational arm for the implementation of this programme. Its mandate is to focus on the implementation of directives related to partnership with African Citizens in general including the African Civil Society and the African Diaspora including faith based groups.

Taking into account the bilateral engagements, relationship with networks and other processes occurring outside ECOSOC, CIDO has a mandate to follow up on such processes as well.

CIDO also has responsibility for mainstreaming the participation of the African Diaspora in the work of the Union and currently serves as the Secretariat of ECOSOCC. The facilitation and support work given to ECOSOCC is in addition to its own set of priorities and actions within the framework of the Commission.

CIDO comprises of three divisions namely:

- a. Civil Society Division*
- b. Diaspora Division*
- c. ECOSOCC Secretariat*

#### **4.1.9. Office of the Legal Counsel**

##### **Mandate**

To provide legal advisory and representational services, serve as a depository, as well as to ensure legality in decision-making and compliance with the AU Constitutive Act and all existing legal instruments of the AU.

##### **Core Functions:**

- a. To assist and advise the Commission and AU organs on legal matters;*
- b. To provide legal opinions relating to interpretation of all protocols, rules and regulations of the AU as well as other legal instruments;*
- c. To assess the legal implications of the activities and decisions of all deliberative, advisory and administrative bodies and to participate in the meetings of these bodies;*
- d. To draft contracts, host agreements, cooperation agreements and rules of procedure of the various organs, treaties and other legal instruments as well as*

*prepare election documents, including materials for elections at the level of the Executive Council and the Assembly;*

- e. To represent the Commission and all organs of the AU in judicial proceedings, negotiations or other procedures for the conclusion of agreements or the settlement of disputes;*
- f. To follow-up on issues concerning implementation of headquarters and host agreements;*
- g. To ensure that the privileges and immunities of the Commission and its staff and representatives accredited to it are assured, respected and protected as provided for in the headquarters agreements and the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the AU;*
- h. To follow up issues relating to international legal matters;*
- i. To ensure that the legal interaction between the organs of the Union and Member States, other organisations, individuals and other legal entities are regulated in such a manner that the interests of the AU are safeguarded;*
- j. To undertake investigations and prepare reports on special legal problems.*

#### **4.1.10. The Deputy Chairperson**

The Deputy Chairperson shall, in the discharge of his/her responsibilities, be accountable to the Chair person. He/she shall have, inter alia, the following functions:

- (a) To assist the Chairperson in the exercise of his/her functions;*
- (b) To exercise the functions delegated to him/her by the Chairperson;*
- (c) To shall be in charge of the administration and finance of the Commission;*
- (d) To act as Chairperson in case of death or permanent incapacity of the latter, pending the appointment of a new Chairperson;*
- (e) To act as Chairperson in the absence or in case of temporary incapacity of the latter.*

2. In case of absence, death, temporary or permanent incapacity of the Deputy Chairperson, the Chairperson shall, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Assembly, appoint one (1) of the Commissioners to act as the Deputy Chairperson, pending the return of the incumbent or the appointment of a new Deputy Chairperson, as the case may be.
3. The office of the Deputy Chairperson is composed of: the Bureau of the Deputy Chairperson; Directorate for Administration and Human Resources Development; Directorate for Programming, Budgeting, Finance and Accounting and; Directorate for Conference Services.

#### *4.1.11. Directorate for Administration and Human Resources Development*

##### *Mandate*

The mandate of the directorate is to plan, develop and manage human resources for optimal organisational performance and to implement action on staff policies and regulations; provide efficient and timely core services, procure and manage human resources for all directorates and offices of the Commission in order to facilitate their smooth functioning.

##### *Core Functions:*

- a. To initiate and develop administrative rules and procedures;*
- b. To promote awareness of best practices in administrative procedures;*
- c. To initiate, propose and manage human resource policies, taking into account gender and other considerations;*
- d. To ensure a fair and efficient performance appraisal system, including enforcement of staff discipline;*

- e. To develop and manage policy on medical services as well as provide effective outpatient clinical services drawing on adequate diagnostic services;*
- f. To initiate, develop and manage a reliable management information system policy;*
- g. To design and manage a reliable transport system;*
- h. To design and manage a current and reliable inventory system;*
- i. To refurbish, build and maintain buildings;*
- j. To initiate, manage and maintain an effective security system for property and staff;*
- k. To initiate, design and manage modern library services;*
- l. To design and maintain an archival system for the AU Commission and other AU organs;*
- m. To provide an efficient registry service;*
- n. To ensure a smooth coordination framework for the administrative staff.*

#### **4.1.12. Directorate for Programming, Budgeting, Finance and Accounting**

##### **Mandate**

The mandate of the Directorate is to mainly deal with planning, developing and implementing financial accounting policies and policy to execute budgetary programmes, rules, regulations and procedures. The directorate also collects and manages statutory and other funds owed to the African Union to ensure inter-departmental coordination in programming and the budgetary process, as well as to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes in realising organisational goals and objectives.



### Core Functions:

- a. To prepare integrated programmes of overall operational activities and projects;*
- b. To prepare and issue instructions relating to budget preparation;*
- c. To conduct and monitor the process of budget preparation;*
- d. To prepare the programme budget of the Commission and follow up its implementation;*
- e. To organise coordination meetings on programming and budgeting;*
- f. To propose training programmes relating to programme designing, programme coordination and budget preparation;*
- g. To manage the programme budget of the Commission;*
- h. To initiate, propose, manage and implement financial policies;*
- i. To develop and maintain financial and accounting rules and procedures;*
- j. To promote awareness of best practices in financial management and internal financial control systems;*
- k. To initiate and take necessary actions to collect funds of and for the African Union;*
- l. To control budget execution and process payments;*
- m. To invest excess liquidity as authorised;*
- n. To facilitate the conduct of external audit;*
- o. To ensure effective implementation of Financial Rules and Regulations;*
- p. To ensure safe custody of all liquid assets of the Union;*
- q. To ensure prompt recovery of all receivables owed to the Union;*
- r. To produce periodic financial and budget execution reports and annual financial*

*statements, in accordance with Financial Rules and Regulations.*

### **4.1.13. Directorate for Conference Services**

#### **Mandate**

The mandate of the Directorate is to provide, plan and manage conference services for the AU Commission and, when necessary, for other organs of the Union as well as to print and reproduce all documents of the AU Commission.

#### **Core Functions:**

- a. To plan, organise and service conferences and meetings of the AU and its organs;*
- b. To determine and provide such conference needs as interpretation, translation, editing and proof-reading of policy and technical documents, as well as reports;*
- c. To print and reproduce all documents of the Commission;*
- d. To develop a system for the efficient storage, control and distribution of documents before, during and after conferences and meetings of the AU;*
- e. To identify the technical and material resources needed to service conferences;*
- f. To ensure that there are venues and documents for meetings;*
- g. To circulate documents for meetings and conferences;*
- h. To ensure safe keeping of documents.*

#### 4.1.13. Medical Services Directorate

##### Mandate

The Directorate of Medical Services is under the Bureau of the Deputy Chairperson and is an outpatient polyclinic that provides curative, preventive, and acute care/ observation services to the AU staff and registered dependents, AU consultants, African diplomats accredited to Ethiopia and the AU, AU delegates and consultants. It also administers the Medical Assistance Plan and/or medical insurance within the AU Commission and regional offices.

##### Core Functions:

- a. To provide continuing, comprehensive full-person curative, health promoting and preventative services for employees and dependents of the AU, African diplomats in Addis Ababa and delegates to AU meetings;*
- b. To provide medical coverage to participants during AU conferences, meetings and Summits;*
- c. Medical examinations for pre-employment and assessment for AU Commission, biennial medical assessment of AU personnel prior to renewal;*
- d. Technical assistance in planning, running and maintaining health services for AU peacekeeping missions.*

## 5. Departments And Their Functions

### 5.1. Department of Peace and Security

##### Mandate

The Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the Commission of the African Union

provides support to the efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability on the continent. Currently, the PSD's activities focus on the following areas:

- a. Implementation of the Common African Defence and Security Policy;*
- b. Operationalization of the Continental Peace and Security Architecture as articulated by the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the AU, including the Continental Early Warning System and the African Standby Force;*
- c. Support to the efforts to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts;*
- d. Promotion of programmes for the structural prevention of conflicts, including through implementation of the African Union Border Programme;*
- e. Implementation of the AU's Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development;*
- f. Coordination, harmonisation and promotion of peace and security programmes in Africa, including with the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, the United Nations and other relevant international organisations and partners.*

*The Department comprises of four divisions namely:*

#### *a. The Conflict Management Division*

The Conflict Management Division (CMD) focuses on the operationalization of some of the aspects of the African Peace and Security Architecture (Continental Early Warning Systems, the Panel of the Wise, the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution). The CMD supports and coordinates activities relating to conflict prevention and management, as well as to post-conflict reconstruction and development. The CMD supervises and coordinates the work of the AU Liaison Offices on the ground.

### *b. The Peace Support Operations Division*

The Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) works towards operationalization of the African Standby Force and the Military Staff Committee, including elaboration of relevant policy documents and coordination with relevant African structures and AU partners. The (PSOD) also plans, mounts, manages and supports AU peace support operations.

### *c. The Peace and Security Council Secretariat*

The Peace and Security Council Secretariat provides the operational and administrative support required by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to enable it and its subsidiary bodies to perform their functions effectively. The Secretariat also acts as the builder and custodian of the institutional memory on the work of the (PSC) and facilitates its interaction with other organisations/institutions on issues of peace and security.

### *d. The Defence and Security Division*

The Defence and Security Division is in charge of issues relating to arms control and disarmament, counter-terrorism and other strategic security issues, including security sector reform. This division also addresses long-term crosscutting security issues.

## *5.2. Department of Political Affairs*

### *Mandate*

The Department of Political Affairs has remained the core department in the Organisation of Africa Unity (and the African Union) since its inception in 1963. The mandate of the department is to contribute to the emergence of a political environment within and among African countries as well as at the international level that is conducive to bringing about sustainable development and accelerating economic integration of the continent.

### *The main objectives of the Department of Political Affairs include to:*

- a. Advocate for and assist in ensuring that all African countries respect human rights;*
- b. Work towards emergence of democratic institutions and sustained popular participation throughout the continent;*
- c. Encourage transparency and accountability in public affairs, political, economic and cultural areas with a greater involvement of the civil society and the private sector;*
- d. Devise ways and means of finding durable solutions for problems of refugees and addressing the causes and symptoms of humanitarian crises;*
- e. Monitor election processes on the continent.*

### *Core Functions:*

- To develop common positions in the political field for use in international negotiations;*
- To monitor implementation of common policies by Member States;*
- To prepare reports for monitoring and tracking progress on democratisation, good governance and electoral processes;*
- To disseminate reports and share best practices;*
- To develop an effective early warning system for predicting population displacements;*
- To gauge the socio-political impact of international developments on Africa;*
- To develop and monitor policy on popular participation in the activities of the Union;*
- To monitor implementation of international humanitarian law by Member States;*
- To monitor the situation and flow of refugees and displaced persons in Africa;*

- To collaborate with other AU institutions to ensure harmonisation of activities.

*The department comprises of two divisions and one unit namely:*

### *a. Democracy, Governance, Human Rights and Elections Division*

The Division of Democracy, Governance, Human Rights and Elections strengthens the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and to strengthen capacity for supporting democratic processes in AU Member States

### *b. Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons Division*

The Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced persons has a core mandate of providing assistance in collaboration with other departments and relevant agencies/ organisations to refugees, displaced persons and victims of humanitarian crises;

### *c. African Union Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit (DEAU)*

The mandate of the DEAU is to promote Democracy and democratic Elections within the Continent by coordinating and organizing African Union election observer missions to Member States of the Union; and by enhancing the national electoral processes of Member States through the provision of direct technical and electoral assistance to Election Management Bodies in Africa.

*The department also has four other offices namely the:*

1. Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations in New York whose mandate is to develop and maintain constructive and productive institutional relationships between the African Union and United Nations institutions as well as to promote a common view within the 'African Group' in

*international negotiations;*

2. *The African Union Representational Mission to the United States of America in Washington whose mandate will be to develop, maintain and undertake resource mobilisation and consolidate constructive and productive institutional relationships between the African Union and Africans in the diaspora, the Bretton Woods institutions as well as with the Government of the United States of America through marketing of the AU;*
3. *The African Union Mission to the Southern Africa Region in Lilongwe, Malawi with a mandate of representing the AU in the Southern Africa Region as well as developing and maintaining constructive and productive relationships between the AU and Member States in the region as well as SADC and COMESA;*
4. *The African Commission on Human and People's Rights in Banjul, The Gambia, whose mandate is to monitor, promote and protect human and people's rights in Member States by developing and maintaining constructive and productive relations between the AU and Member States.*

## 5.3. Department of Infrastructure and Energy

### *Mandate*

The mandate of this department is to enhance regional and continental efforts for accelerated integrated infrastructural development and effective and sustainable deployment of energy resources.

### *Core Functions:*

- a. *To coordinate and harmonise policies on road, air and maritime transport;*
- b. *To monitor and track implementation through the RECs;*
- c. *To harmonise communication policies on telecommunication, Integrated*



*Compliance Information Systems, post and meteorology;*

- d. To promote common policies for development of private sector initiative in the tourism industry;*
- e. To coordinate and harmonise policies and programmes on energy development;*
- f. To ensure availability of research findings on the improvement of infrastructure and services;*
- g. To ensure logistical support for workshops, seminars and meetings of Member States on sector matters;*
- h. To ensure availability of reports on developments in the infrastructure and energy sectors;*
- i. To collaborate with AFREC and other specialised agencies;*
- j. To collaborate with NEPAD and CSSDCA in order to ensure harmonisation of activities.*

*The Department of Infrastructure and Energy has one division namely:*

#### *a. The Division of Information Society (INFOSOC)*

The Division of Information Society mandate covers all aspects of coordinating Communications and Information Technology areas notably Telecommunication/ICT, Postal and Broadcasting. The **ISD** is in charge of all continental activities related to the development, the harmonization, the coordination and the implementation of Policies, Regulations, Strategic frameworks and infrastructure development for the Communications and Information Technologies sector.

## 5.4. Department of Social Affairs

### Mandate

To serve as a focal point for planning, developing and harmonising continental and regional policies, programmes and projects concerning labour, social development and culture with the view to building up capacities and promoting African integration and solidarity.

### Core Functions:

- a. To initiate and harmonise the social policies of Member States;*
- b. To monitor and track implementation of programmes and projects emanating from common policies in health, labour and social issues in Africa;*
- c. To formulate and harmonise policies on matters of population and development as well as to assist Member States in developing and implementing appropriate population policies and strategies;*
- d. To develop and harmonise policies on health, nutrition and environmental hygiene;*
- e. To identify emerging social issues that may have an impact on the overall development of Africa;*
- f. To establish modalities that will assist Member States address challenges posed by migration;*
- g. To prepare common strategies and compile best practices for combating major health challenges;*
- h. To develop and harmonise common labour policies in order to enhance productivity in Africa;*
- i. To develop strategies for establishing an African Labour Market and Labour*

*Exchange;*

- j. To initiate action for formulating common drug control and related crime prevention policies and strategies as well as to implement the AU plan of action on drug control;*
- k. To promote the African and international drug conventions and related legal instruments on drug control and crime prevention;*
- l. To integrate drug control measures and other social programmes into the NEPAD strategy;*
- m. To promote alternative programme development to stem the cultivation of Cannabis;*
- n. To develop, harmonise and monitor activities relating to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases.*

*The department of social affairs comprises of six divisions namely:*

- 1) Division of Health, Nutrition and Population*
- 2) Division of HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis*
- 3) Division of Labour, Employment and Migration*
- 4) Division of Social Welfare, Vulnerable Groups and Drug control*
- 5) Division of Culture and Sport*

## 5.5. Department of Trade and Industry

### *Mandate*

The mandate of this department is to contribute towards making Africa a significant

and competitive trading partner in the global economy as well as an integrated trading bloc within the continent. Furthermore, by initiating policy measures and strategies, the portfolio will also contribute to the structural transformation of the continent by diversifying and modernising production structures through self-sustained industrial development.

### *Core Functions:*

- a. To coordinate formulation and implementation of trade policies with the RECs and to promote inter and intra African trade including reform and follow up of all African trade;*
- b. To harmonise policies on industry, trade, tariffs and non-tariff barriers and immigration across the RECs;*
- c. To network with non-governmental entities such as the chambers of commerce at regional level, industrial associations, exporters, importers and NGOs in order to ensure fair trade;*
- d. To provide backstopping support for AU Member States in global trade negotiations;*
- e. To monitor global trends in trade and analyse their impact on Africa;*
- f. To organise, develop and maintain a trade policy data-base and documents on common positions taken by RECs with the aim of harmonising these positions at the continental level;*
- g. To develop and harmonise policies and instruments for the free movement of persons within the Union and work towards a common African Union citizenship and residency status among Member States;*
- h. To encourage and support the participation of civil society organisations in trade and industrial activities;*
- i. To promote inter and intra African trade.*

*The Department of Trade and Industry is made up of three divisions namely:*

*a. The Division of Trade*

The objective of the Division is to build Africa's trade capacities and enhance the competitiveness and diversification of its economy for the attainment of sustainable economic growth and development, eradication of poverty, continental unity and integration, as well as effective integration of Africa into the global economic and trading systems as strong and respected partners.

*b. The Division of Industry*

The objective of the Division is to build Africa's industrial capacities and enhance the competitiveness and diversification of its economy for the attainment of sustainable economic growth and development, eradication of poverty, continental unity and integration, as well as effective integration of Africa into the global economic and trading systems as strong and respected partners.

*c. The Division of Customs Cooperation*

The Division of Customs Cooperation exists to support and coordinate the efforts of Customs administrations of Member States in the process of regional and continental integration and to advise, make recommendations to, elaborate and implement strategies for and on behalf of the Commission on Customs issues as well as follow-up on the implementation of regional and continental programmes at Member States and RECs level.

## 5.6. Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture

### Mandate

The mandate of the department is to initiate and promote policies and strategies that can contribute to the development of rural economy, particularly through improvement of agricultural productivity and growth of the sector as a whole. It is also charged with promoting measures that will contribute towards enhancing environmental sustainability.

### Core Functions:

- a. *To promote and coordinate strategies as well as initiatives for development of the African rural economy among the RECs and specialised institutions and centres working in this field;*
- b. *To initiate, propose and coordinate policies and programmes for the development of production capacities (agriculture, livestock, and fisheries) with the aim of ensuring food security in the African continent;*
- c. *To promote and facilitate development initiatives of rural communities, as well as coordinate efforts towards transfer of technologies;*
- d. *To organise and provide technical assistance to specialised institutions in the fight against desertification, drought and management of natural resources and environment;*
- e. *To coordinate RECs in their efforts towards harmonisation of initiatives to eradicate poverty and alleviate conditions faced by rural women and rural communities such as those pertaining to infrastructure and energy and processing of agricultural products by small-scale producers;*
- f. *To ensure effective and constructive participation of the Commission in regional and continental efforts towards sustainable development of the*

*rural economy, as well as uplifting the standards of living and production capacities of rural communities;*

- g. To follow up agricultural policies and strategies at RECs level and to promote their harmonisation;*
- h. To organise and ensure participation of the Commission in agricultural research and the propagation of extension services in African countries;*
- i. To initiate studies on climate change as well as promote collaboration among Member States in these activities;*
- j. To initiate and coordinate cross-border water management projects.*

*The department comprises of three divisions namely:*

### *a. The Agriculture and Food Security Division*

The Division of Agriculture and Food Security; in collaboration with NPCA facilitates the implementation of the CAADP agenda, strengthens the resilience of African food production system through the value chain approach in the context of climate change and facilitates the harmonization of agricultural policy and knowledge support in synchrony within the Framework of CAADP.

### *b. Environment and Natural Resources Division*

The Division of Environment and Natural Resources is geared towards the facilitation of actions and programmes in Africa designed to achieve sustainable development of Member States across the continent.

### *c. Rural Economy Division*

The Division of Rural Economy focuses on actions to promote an enabling policy

environment and mobilize political support and financial resources for achieving improved performance of the rural economy. The division focuses its activities on advocacy and support to the formulation and adoption of continental level frameworks and guidelines for policy development and implementation in key sectors of land, pastoralism, rural infrastructure and market access. Capacity building activities are also supported in order to empower rural producers, which will lead to improved rural incomes, livelihoods, and creation and expansion of rural wealth. This will be achieved through promotion of value addition, income diversification and improved market access.

## 5.7. Department of Economic Affairs

### *Mandate*

The mandate of the department is to initiate and promote policies and strategies that can enhance the coordination, harmonisation and facilitation of continental collective initiatives in economic integration. It also undertakes measures to support investment promotion, mobilisation of development financing, building of common financial institutions. The department is also mandated to undertake econometric research and analysis as well as provide econometric statistics.

### *Core Functions:*

- a. To develop policies and strategies for the acceleration of economic integration;*
- b. To coordinate activities that relate to the promotion and development of the process of regional economic integration;*
- c. To assist in promotion and development of the private sector and investments within and among Member States and RECs;*
- d. To promote domestic savings in Africa as well international financial inflows to develop and establish continental financial institutions, including a common*



*African monetary Union;*

- e. To develop monetary and fiscal policies, including strategies that address the debt problem;*
- f. To ensure coordination of development planning for African economies at both national and regional levels;*
- g. To promote and facilitate economic policies affecting various stages of development among African RECs with a view to achieving the African common market;*
- h. To interact with ECOSOCC and civil society;*
- i. To mobilise resources for economic development and integration projects.*

*The Department of Economic Affairs comprises of four divisions namely:*

#### *a. Economic Integration and Regional Cooperation Division*

The Division of Economic Integration and Regional Cooperation ensures the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) through coordination and harmonization of activities of RECs; which are the pillars of the AEC. The division also monitors the implementation of the relevant Africa Union Assembly Declarations and Decisions on integration, especially the Sirte Declaration on the acceleration of the integration process.

#### *b. Economic Policies and Research Division*

#### *c. Private Sector Development/ Investment & Resource Mobilization*

The Private Sector Development/ Investment and Resource Mobilization Division aims at mobilizing development financing and improving the conditions for private sector activity and increasing Africa's share of global investment flows as a means of attaining growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation. This is achieved by devising strategies and promoting policies that enhance the development of Africa's private sector, supporting Member States in embarking on reforms that could help improve the business climate and attract both domestic and foreign investments, as well as assist in mobilizing development funding, including through alternative sources of financing and other innovative means of financing.

#### *d. Statistics Division*

The statistics division generates timely, reliable and harmonized statistical information, covering all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural integration for Africa. It also identifies specific statistical data related to all AU and its organs' activities, formal policies for statistical development and capacity building for the AU and its member states. The statistics division coordinates the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics as regulatory continental framework for statistics development and capacities building of members of the African Statistics System as well as building networks and promote cooperative programs with partners and foster effective institutional linkages between the AU and other institutions.

### 5.8. Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology

#### *Mandate*

The mandate of the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology is promotion and coordination of human resources development and science and technology policies, particularly the use of ICTs by youth and all groups for the social

and economic development of Africa. These policies will enhance the integration process through programmes and activities that are perceived by Member States as reflective of their priority developmental objectives and political stability.

### **Core Functions:**

- a. To coordinate policies relating to human resources development, science and technology in Member States;*
- b. To promote research in science and technology;*
- c. To promote integration of ICTs into research and development;*
- d. To strengthen cooperation in the field of education and training;*
- e. To coordinate advancement of the development of the continent by promoting research in science and technology;*
- f. To ensure promotion and strengthening in the use of information and communication technologies in socio-economic and socio-cultural development in Africa;*
- g. To provide logistical support for science and technology;*
- h. To participate in scientific research and make available reports emanating from this research;*
- i. To promote the use of principles gleaned from best practices;*
- j. To promote integration of youth in the development process of the continent;*
- k. To encourage the interest of youth in science and technology;*
- l. To provide secretarial services for the Scientific Council for Africa.*

*The department of human resources, science and technology comprises of three divisions:*

#### *a. Education Division*

The Education Division of Human Resources Science and Technology seeks to promote research and original knowledge production, to promote quality in African higher education and development of Continental Frameworks and to increase the involvement of universities in the continent's development efforts. The main goal of the education division is to revitalize higher education in Africa.

One of the initiatives of the AU to revitalize higher education and research is the establishment of the Pan African University.

#### *Pan African University:*

Its intention is to enhance global competitiveness of African higher education and research as well as to establish an African University at the core of Africa's development. The Pan African University was established to boost the population and retention of high level human resources and quality knowledge outputs and be able to attract the best intellectual capacity from all over the world. Based on thematic areas, the first four institutes of the Pan African University will be hosted as follows:

- *Western Africa PAU Institute of Life and Earth Sciences at University of Ibadan, Nigeria*
- *Eastern Africa PAU Institute of Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology*
- *Central Africa – PAU Institute of Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences at University of Yaoundé*
- *Northern Africa - PAU Institute of Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change)*

### *b. Human Resources and Youth Division*

The Youth Division under the Department of Human Resource Science and Technology (HRST) is responsible for Africa's Youth Agenda in the African Union Commission (AUC). The Division is in charge of addressing issues concerning:

- *Youth policy development, participation and capacity building;*
- *Legal framework development: African Youth Charter;*
- *Institutional framework: African Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009–2018);*
- *Implementing Youth Programs: African Union Youth Volunteers Corps (AU-YVC);*
- *Partnerships and Resource Mobilization;*
- *Organizing Youth Forums and Celebrating the African Youth Day;*

### *c. Science, Technology and ICT*

## 6. African Union Representational and Specialized Offices

These offices are reflected as part of the commission because they are an extension of the Commission and they represent the African Union outside of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### *6.1. Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations; New York, USA*

### *Mandate:*

The mandate of the Permanent Observer Mission of the AU in New York is to develop and maintain constructive and productive institutional relationships between the AU and the UN institutions as well as promote a common view within the African group in international relations.

### *Core Functions:*

- i. To assist in coordinating the activities of the African Group;*
- ii. To advise headquarters' on strategies for addressing emerging issues at the UN;*
- iii. To assist member states to adopt common positions in the UN;*
- iv. To circulate information on the AU and the UN;*
- v. To assist the Commission to prepare for UN activities especially for the UN General Assembly;*
- vi. To maintain contacts with UN agencies based in New York; including the UNDP and UNICEF;*
- vii. To follow-up on issues related to NEPAD at the UN level;*
- viii. To assist with procurement for the commission and other organs;*
- ix. To facilitate the exchange of information between the AU and the UN;*
- x. To provide logistical and technical support to the African Group.*

## 6.2. African Union Permanent Mission to the United Nations; Geneva, Switzerland

### Mandate:

To develop and maintain constructive and productive institutional relationships between the African Union and the United Nations institutions as well as to promote a common view within the African Group in international negotiations.

### Core Functions:

- i. To assist in coordinating activities of the African Group;
- ii. To advise Headquarters on strategies for addressing emerging issues at the UN;
- iii. To assist Member States adopt common positions in the UN;
- iv. To circulate information on the AU and UN;
- v. To assist the Commission in preparing for the UN activities in Geneva;
- vi. To follow-up on AU/UN Programmes of Cooperation;
- vii. To maintain contact with UN agencies based in Geneva;
- viii. To follow-up on issues relating to NEPAD;
- ix. To assist with procurement for the Commission and other Organs;
- x. To inform on AU activities;
- xi. To facilitate the exchange of information between the AU and the UN;
- xii. To facilitate follow-up and work in all related agencies;
- xiii. To assist in liaising with the African Diaspora in Europe.

### *6.3. The African Union Mission to the United States of America; Washington, DC, USA*

#### *Mandate:*

To develop, maintain, undertake resource mobilisation and consolidate constructive and productive institutional relationships between the African Union and Africans in the Diaspora, the Bretton Woods Institutions, as well as with the Government of the United States of America through marketing of the AU.

#### *Core Functions:*

- i. To assist in coordinating activities of the African Group in the Americas;*
- ii. To advise headquarters on strategies of addressing emerging issues in the Americas;*
- iii. To assist Member States adopt common positions in their relationship with the Americas;*
- iv. To circulate information on the AU in the Americas;*
- v. To assist the Commission prepare for meetings with Congress, Bretton Woods Institute and the Organisation of American States;*
- vi. To build a political constituency and support for Africa in the Americas;*
- vii. To establish working relationships with the Organisation of American States;*
- viii. To maintain contact with the various political pressure groups and pro-Africa Groups;*
- ix. To coordinate activities of the African Group in Washington, DC; regarding contacts with the Congress of the United States, the World Bank and IMF; and to mobilise support for Africa's development efforts;*



- x. *To constantly liaise with the Congressional Black Caucus and other groups that are sympathetic to Africa in their activities to advocate for policies that will help shape and influence progressive policies towards African countries;*
- xi. *To submit briefs on the activities of the AU, and of their African Group in Washington, DC;*
- xii. *To inform on a constant basis, American popular opinion about Africa, and about its issues of concern;*
- xiii. *To provide regular information which influence Congressional decisions and other decision-makers on Africa;*
- xiv. *To counter when necessary, media distortions of developments and events in Africa;*
- xv. *To disseminate information on activities of the AU, and of its Member States;*
- xvi. *To follow-up on the activities and programmes of the World Bank and IMF that are of interest and concern to Africa;*
- xvii. *To assist with procurement for the Commission and other organs;*
- xviii. *To follow-up on issues relating to NEPAD, CSSDCA, Gender and other cross-cutting programmes;*
- xix. *To support the African course;*
- xx. *To sensitise the communities in the diaspora;*
- xxi. *To promote a positive image of the AU in the Americas.*

#### *6.4. Permanent Mission of the African Union to the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP); Brussels*

##### *Mandate*

To develop and maintain constructive and productive institutional relationships between the African Union and the European Union institutions, and the ACP Secretariat as well as to promote a common view within the African Group in international negotiations.

##### *Core Functions:*

- i. To assist in coordinating activities of the African Group to build a political constituency and support for Africa in Europe;*
- ii. To advise AU Headquarters on strategies for addressing emerging issues at the EU;*
- iii. To monitor matters of concern to Africa in Europe;*
- iv. To assist member states adopt a common position with the EU;*
- v. To follow-up on AU/EU programmes of cooperation;*
- vi. To assist the Commission prepare for meetings with the EU;*
- vii. To follow-up activities of other international organisations based in Brussels;*
- viii. To follow-up on issues relating to NEPAD;*
- ix. To assist with procurement for the Commission and other organs;*
- x. To ensure regular consultations with stakeholders;*
- xi. To circulate information on the AU and EU;*
- xii. To facilitate the exchange of information between the AU and the EU;*

- xiii. *To provide logistical and technical support for the African Group;*
- xiv. *To assist in liaising with Africans diaspora in Europe.*

## **6.5. African Union Permanent Delegation to the League of Arab States; Cairo, Egypt**

### **Mandate**

To represent the AU to the League of Arab States, foster closer cooperation between the AU and the League in the political, economic, cultural and social fields, as well as update the AU on developments at the League and vice versa.

### **Core Functions:**

- j. *To work towards the development and strengthening of cooperation between the AU and the League of Arab States in the political, economic, cultural and social fields;*
- k. *To forge closer links between the AU and the African diplomatic missions as well as other international organisations in Cairo;*
- l. *To produce periodic reports on major issues bearing interests to African countries;*
- m. *To increase the awareness about the AU and its activities to the League of Arab States and the African missions in Cairo;*
- n. *To build a political constituency and support for Africa;*
- o. *To follow-up and monitor political developments of concern to Africa in Arab countries;*
- p. *To follow-up on issues relating to NEPAD;*
- q. *To assist with procurement for the Commission and other organs;*

- r. To ensure regular consultations with stakeholders;*
- s. To facilitate the exchange of information between the AU and the League of Arab States;*
- t. To participate in Africa-related consultations;*
- u. To coordinate the activities of the African Group;*
- v. To advise Headquarters on strategies for addressing emerging in the Arab League;*
- w. To assist Members States for adopting common positions with the League of Arab States;*
- x. To assist the Commission to prepare for meetings and consultations with the Arab League;*
- y. To assist in liaising with Africans Diaspora in the Arab world.*

### *6.6. African Union Mission to the Southern Africa Region; Lilongwe, Malawi*

#### *Mandate:*

The AU Southern Africa Regional Office in Lilongwe, Malawi was established in 2001 as a representational office of the AU to develop and maintain constructive and productive relationships between the AU and Members States in the region as well as SADC and COMESA.

#### *Core Functions:*

- i. To represent the AU in the Southern Africa region;*
- ii. To increase awareness about the AU, its mission and its work in the region;*
- iii. To establish working relationships with the Southern Africa region;*

- iv. To monitor political development of concern to African countries in the Southern Africa region;*
- v. To ensure that Southern Africa activities on refugees, health, immigration and natural disasters receive quick attention from the AU;*
- vi. To support the exchange of info between Southern Africa countries and the AU and ensure regular consultations with the RECs in the region;*
- vii. To counter, when necessary, media distortions about development and events in Southern Africa;*
- viii. To follow up on issues relating to early warning systems in Southern Africa;*
- ix. To deal with issues that foster and promote cohesion, solidarity and unity;*
- x. To liaise on and harmonise specific policies in geopolitical and socio-economic activities of the AU in the Southern Africa region;*
- xi. To spearhead, initiate and review the AU activities and policies taking into account the constant changing world trends;*
- xii. To promote unity, solidarity and enhance pan-African spirit in the Southern Africa region;*

## POPULARIZING THE AFRICAN UNION: The AU Branding Campaign



*The past 10 years has shown the importance of the African Union as a continental organization. The Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) declares its desire to be a 'people-driven' organization that includes all youth, women and various forms of organizations. In this spirit, in 2012; the AU began a branding campaign to make the AU more relatable to African peoples of all backgrounds.*



## CHAPTER 5: THE AFRICAN UNION DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

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- ❖ Initiation of decision making process-overview
  - ❖ The Permanent Representatives Committee
  - ❖ The Executive Council
  - ❖ The Assembly
  - ❖ Authentication of Decisions
  - ❖ Types of AU Decisions
  - ❖ The AU Policy Cycle

## Chapter 5: African Union Decision-making Process

Decisions of the African Union are normally the result of a long process initiated as a policy proposal by the Commission of the AU, a Member State or a group of Member States or other organs of the Union. Proposals are normally debated in an expert meeting followed by meetings of the Ministers in charge of the particular issue before it gets to the Executive Council through the PRC then to the Assembly of the Union.

Not all decisions follow exactly the same process or pattern. Some simple or urgent items can be put on the AU Summit agenda without going through the usual process. There are two principal decision-making organs within the African Union i.e. the Executive Council and the Assembly of the Union. The Assembly, which is composed of the Heads of State and Government, is the supreme decision-making organ of the Union. Some decisions are made at the level of Executive Council, while others are made at the level of the Assembly. Decisions made at the level of the Executive Council include decisions on the budget and all other proposals with financial implications and decisions on legal instruments and appointment of elected officials, which are endorsed thereafter by the Assembly.

### 1. Initiation of decision-making process: Overview

Before the policy organs take any decision, the process starts either within the African Union Commission (the secretariat of the Union), other AU organs or from the Member States as policy proposals. The Commission can initiate proposals for consideration by other organs in accordance with Article 3 (2) (b) of the Statutes of the Commission. The Commission prepares all the necessary documents that elaborates on that policy or proposal including the agenda and programme of work and convenes a meeting



of experts from the African Union Member States from the relevant sectors in their respective countries.

The experts meeting, which takes four to five days, will debate extensively on the proposals and make recommendations that are submitted to the Ministers responsible for that particular sector. For instance, if the policy that is debated upon deals with health issues, the recommendations will be forwarded to Ministers of Health. The Ministers will then deliberate on the recommendations of the experts and may or may not agree with the recommendations, after which day they will be tabled before the Executive Council for approval. Most of the reports from ministerial meetings are submitted to the Executive Council for adoption however some proposals have to go through the Permanent Representatives Committee, which submits its recommendations to the Executive Council. Thereafter, the Executive Council tables the recommendations before the Assembly.

## 2. The Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC)

The PRC, which is composed of permanent representatives from all AU Member States acts as an advisory body to the Executive Council and prepares the work of the Executive Council. Its subcommittees prepare the work of the PRC. The PRC meets at least once every month at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Chairperson of the PRC, in consultation with its Bureau and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, prepares the provisional agenda of the PRC. However, Member States and other organs of the Union may also propose items for discussion. All PRC meetings are conducted in closed sessions, but from time to time, the PRC may decide to hold open sessions. The Permanent Representative whose country is the Chair of the Assembly chairs the sessions. The Chairperson is assisted by other members of the Bureau i.e. the four Vice Chairs whose countries are members of the Bureau of the Assembly and a Rapporteur. The same Member States who constitute the Bureau of the Assembly will also constitute the PRC and

Executive Council Bureaus. The PRC takes decisions by consensus, or where there is no consensus by a two-thirds majority of Member States eligible to vote. Decisions on procedural issues are taken by simple majority of the Member States eligible to vote. The PRC makes recommendations, which only become decisions when they are adopted by the Executive Council.

### 3. The Executive Council

The Executive Council is composed of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of all AU Member States and meets twice a year in ordinary session. The Executive Council reports to the Assembly, prepares the sessions of the Assembly and determines the issues to be submitted to the Assembly for decision. Reports for ministerial meetings are adopted by the Executive Council without discussion unless there are contentious issues that require debate.

All draft decisions are submitted to the Executive Council for consideration. Initially they are submitted to its drafting Committee composed of 15 Member States which examines and amends them where appropriate before submitting them to the whole Executive Council for consideration. Decisions are taken by consensus or where there is no consensus by a two-thirds majority of the Member States eligible to vote.

The agenda of the Executive Council consists of two parts: items that are adopted without discussion in which the PRC or relevant Ministers has reached agreement on and the items that require discussion before approval. After deliberation, the draft decisions and recommendations of the Executive Council are submitted to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for consideration and adoption.

The Commission is expected to provide the financial implications before a draft decision is adopted. Ministerial meetings come up with reports and draft decisions, declarations or resolutions, which the Executive Council examines and adopts or submits to the Assembly for consideration and adoption

Decisions adopted by the Executive Council are authenticated by its Chairperson and

Chairperson of the Commission and published in 'Official Journal of the African Union' in all AU official languages within fifteen days after signature and transmitted to all Member States, AU organs and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

## 4. The Assembly

The Assembly is composed of all Heads of State and Government and meets twice in ordinary sessions in January and July each year. It can also convene in an extra ordinary session at the request of a Member State. Sessions of the Assembly are preceded by the Ordinary Sessions of the Executive Council and the Permanent Representatives Committee. The agenda of the Assembly consists of items decided upon by the Assembly at its previous session, items proposed by the Executive Council, Member States and other organs of the Union. The Provisional agenda of the Assembly consists of two parts, Part A and Part B (Rules of Procedure of the Assembly):

Part A- items which are adopted without discussion in which the Executive Council has reached agreement on, such as ministerial meeting reports;

Part B- Items that require discussion before approval by the Assembly.

The Assembly also takes all its decisions by consensus or where there is no consensus, by a two-thirds majority of the Member States who are eligible to vote. The African Union Commission implements and follows up on the implementation of all the decisions. Before every session of the PRC, Executive Council and Assembly, the Commission prepares progress reports and an implementation table indicating the status of implementation of decisions, constraints and challenges encountered in implementing the decisions. The progress reports are submitted to the Executive Council and Assembly through the PRC. However, there is no consistent mechanism to track the implementation of the AU decisions by Members States at national levels.

The signatures of the Chairperson of the Assembly and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission authenticate decisions adopted by the Assembly. Those decisions are then published in all working languages of the Union i.e. Arabic, English, French

and Portuguese in the 'Official Journal of the African Union' within 15 days after the signatures and are transmitted to all Member States, other organs of the Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Decisions taken by the policy organs are binding on all the AU Member States, organs of the Union and the RECs.

### 4.1. Authentication of Decisions

The signatures of the Chairperson of the Assembly and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission authenticate decisions adopted by the Assembly. Those decisions are then published in all working languages of the Union i.e. Arabic, English, French and Portuguese in the 'Official Journal of the African Union' within 15 days after the signatures and are transmitted to all Member States, other organs of the Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Decisions taken by the policy organs are binding on all the AU Member States, organs of the Union and the RECs.

### 4.2. Types of AU Decisions

- ➔ *Charters, Treaties, Conventions and Protocols are legally binding if ratified by a Member State. They enter into force only after they have been ratified by a sufficient number (15) of Member States;*
- ➔ *Decisions are binding on all Member States or relevant organs or individuals;*
- ➔ *Regulations are procedures and rules that govern the implementation of a decision. They are applicable to all Member States that implement the decisions;*
- ➔ *Declarations and resolutions are not binding but intend to guide and harmonise viewpoints of Member States.*

Failure of any Member State to comply with any obligation under any instrument of the AU attracts sanctions that can be economic or political. They include, but not limited to:

- ➔ *Sanctions for failure to pay contributions;*

- ➔ Sanctions for engaging in unconstitutional change of government;
- ➔ Sanctions for failure to comply with policies.

## 5. The African Union Policy Cycle

Stage	Forum	Description	Possible NGO Actions
1.	Member State or AU Commission proposal	Proposals are introduced by Member States or a department or directorate of the AU Commission, or other organs are referred to the Commission by the Executive Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Familiarise yourself with annual plans and Summit decisions;</li> <li>•Suggest proposals to Member States;</li> <li>•Offer technical assistance and relevant information to draft documents;</li> <li>•Organise brainstorming sessions.</li> </ul>
2.	Experts meeting group	Most AU policy documents, treaties and programmes of action are scrutinised by a panel of experts appointed by the governments and the AU Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Seek for invitations or nominate experts;</li> <li>•Interact with individual experts;</li> <li>•Offer to write short briefing papers;</li> <li>•Facilitate meetings;</li> <li>•Volunteer to draft reports;</li> <li>•Brief ACHPR special rapporteurs.</li> </ul>
3.	Ministers meeting	After the panel of experts, a proposal is submitted to ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Seek invitation to be part of delegation or lobby in the meeting's margins;</li> <li>•Brief ministers and officials while in home country;</li> <li>•Share position papers;</li> <li>•Talk to the press at national level what the proposal means.</li> </ul>

Stage	Forum	Description	Possible NGO Actions
4.	PRC full meeting or subcommittee	After the ministerial meeting, policy documents with budgetary implications go to the PRC and its subcommittees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Brief chair, members and regional caucuses;</li> <li>•Offer suggestions on ways to fund the proposal;</li> <li>•Give regular briefings on your issues to PRC members to establish credibility</li> </ul>
5.	Executive Council	After the ministerial meeting, policy documents with budgetary implications go to the PRC and its subcommittees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Highlights negative consequences of not adopting proposals;</li> <li>•Brief the press on importance of issues;</li> <li>•Brief regional caucus meetings;</li> <li>•Brief delegations and regional caucuses</li> </ul>
6.	Assembly	If approved by the Executive Council, and where necessary, a decision will be sent to the Assembly for final adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•If issue not decided, continue to gather support;</li> <li>•If agreed, congratulate governments for taking bold and positive steps;</li> <li>•Set up a monitoring mechanism</li> </ul>

Source: Adapted from  
*Strengthening Popular  
 Participation in the  
 African Union: A Guide  
 to AU Structures and  
 Processes; Afrimap &  
 Oxfam 2010*



*20th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government*

*15th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council*



*Meeting of the Permanent Representatives Council*

## CHAPTER 6: THE UNION GOVERNMENT DEBATE





## *Chapter 6: The Union Government Debate*

Since the OAU was founded there has been debate among Member States over the framework for continental institutions and the balance between political and economic integration and national sovereignty. The early drive for a 'Union Government' for Africa led by President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana was defeated at the 1965 Accra Summit of the OAU, and a quarter-century later the 1991 Abuja Treaty establishing the AEC endorsed a 'gradualist' approach, creating a distant time-table for the achievement of full integration. However, some Member States – and some African citizens – continued to lobby for integration to progress more rapidly.

These debates contributed to the establishment of the African Union to replace the OAU – and have if anything become more demanding since the AU Constitutive Act was adopted. Pressure for a more integrationist legal framework for the AU led to the appointment of a committee of seven Heads of State, who presented a report to the July 2006 Banjul Summit. The AU Commission was then mandated to produce a more detailed report on the issues, and produced a 'Study on Union Government: Towards a United States of Africa', presented to the January 2007 Addis Ababa Summit. The Assembly then decided that there would be one central theme and agenda item at the Accra Summit in July 2007, a 'Grand Debate on the Union Government'. Ahead of the Accra Summit, members of the PRC and Executive Council met in May for a retreat, culminating in an extraordinary session of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in Durban, South Africa, where the Union Government proposals were discussed. The delegations did not reach consensus.

The Assembly discussed the Union Government at the Accra Summit on 1–3 July 2007. The 'Accra Declaration' noted the need for common responses to the challenges of globalisation, for a consensus on shared values, and for the involvement of Africa's people and the African diaspora in the debate. In a compromise between those states

that wanted to move quickly to the creation of a 'United States of Africa' and those that were more cautious, the Assembly agreed to accelerate the economic and political integration of the African continent, and accelerate the rationalisation of the RECs, and also to conduct an audit of the institutions and organs of the AU to review the challenges they already faced and make proposals on how best to move forward. A ministerial committee was appointed to work on these issues.

A panel of eminent persons was set up to conduct the 'Audit Review' and presented a long and detailed report to the January 2008 Summit on the functioning of the existing AU organs. Among the many recommendations made were that:

- *The Assembly should return to one annual meeting of Heads of State and Government and the term of the Chairperson should be two years.*
- *The Executive Council should be renamed the Council of Ministers and be composed sectorally, with different ministers attending according to what is on the agenda.*
- *The Commission should be reorganised to strengthen the authority of the chairperson. The chair and deputy chair should be elected six months ahead of the rest of the commissioners, and the chair should assign portfolios to the individual commissioners.*
- *Implementation of AU decisions should be improved by ensuring that the first item on the agenda of each Assembly session is a review of previous decisions, by the establishment of National Commissions on AU Affairs and by the imposition of sanctions for noncompliance.*

At the January and July 2008 Summits, the Assembly decided to postpone decisions once again. In January 2008, the election of a new Chairperson and Commissioners of the AU Commission went ahead according to the previous system, and the Assembly appointed a Committee of Twelve Heads of State and Government (Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda) to review the proposals made by the audit review. At the July 2008 Summit, the Assembly requested the AU Commission to present a report on the

modalities for implementing the recommendations of the Committee of Twelve to the February 2009 Assembly, 'with a view to bringing the debate to a final conclusion' at that meeting. At a special session of the Assembly held on 1 February 2009, however, the Assembly decided only to transform the AU Commission into an AU Authority, with strengthened resources and powers, and to refer further decisions (such as a proposed reorganisation of departments) once again to the next Summit after further study of the necessary amendments to the Constitutive Act by an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council met in Libya in April 2009, to consider the functions of the new AU Authority, the size of the Authority, the functions of the secretaries who would head the new departments, and the financial implications of establishing the Authority.

The Conclusions of the Executive Council's Extraordinary Session were modest. Ministers endorsed an expansion of the areas of competence of the AU Authority, which would replace the AU Commission, but left the structure of the Authority mostly unchanged from that of the Commission and did not follow the recommendations of the AU Audit Review to strengthen the powers of the chairperson. The Extraordinary Session also emphasised that the AU is 'a Union of independent and sovereign States; as such, it is an inter-governmental organisation and all its organs are of an inter-governmental nature. In all cases, the Assembly shall retain its right to delegate any function and/or power to any organ of the Union including the Authority'. The Authority has, however, been given the role of coordinating the AU position on key issues. These conclusions were endorsed by the Assembly during the June–July 2009 Summit, also held in Libya.

The long delays in finalising the proposals for the restructuring of the AU reflect not only technical differences about the best way of configuring the secretariat of the African Union and the powers that should be given to its different organs, but also philosophical differences among African leaders about the future direction of the continent, including concerns about the role of state sovereignty in a more integrated Africa. Almost all Africans welcome the drive for greater African integration, but some also fear that the creation of new institutions without broad consultation among Africa's

people could result into less rather than more space for democratic participation in the work of the premier continental body.

African civil society organisations and parliaments need to engage in this debate. Fundamental questions remain unresolved about the structure and reach of Africa's continental institutions and the degree of protection for national sovereignty. The revision of the Constitutive Act that is underway provides opportunities for advocacy on issues such as when and how the AU structures may intervene in a Member State; on the priorities among the various challenges the continental structures should address; on the relationships between different AU executive organs and between those organs and the Pan-African Parliament; on the participation of civil society in the activities of the executive organs, including especially the PRC; on the legislative authority of the Pan-African Parliament, the system by which its members are chosen, and the participation of civil society in its work; and on the structure of ECOSOCC and its relations both with the AU executive organs and with other civil society organisations. These issues are too important to be left to technocrats and governments.

## *New Names of Departments within the reform of AUC*

### *Peace and Security*

#### *New Name: Peace and Common Defence*

Conflict prevention and management, peacekeeping, terrorism, transitional crime

### *Political Affairs*

#### *New Name: Political Affairs and coordination of common position on External Relations*

Political cooperation, governance, elections, human rights, humanitarian affairs, free movement of persons, financial crimes

*Source: Adapted from Strengthening Popular Participation in the African Union A Guide to AU Structures and Processes, Part Three, The Union Government Debate, Afrimap & Oxfam 2010*

### Infrastructure and Energy

*New Name: Transport and energy infrastructure*

### Social Affairs

*New Name: Health and Social Affairs*

Children, crime prevention, human trafficking, population, migration, labour and employment, sports and culture, epidemics including HIV and AIDS

### Trade and Industry

*New Name: Trade, Industry and International Cooperation*

International trade negotiations, trade, industry, customs and immigration, free movement of goods and services, tourism

### Rural Economy and Agriculture

*New Name: Rural Economy, Agriculture and Environment*

Agriculture and food security, livestock, water, desertification, natural resources, climate change

### Economic Affairs

Economic integration, international economic cooperation, monetary affairs, private sector development, investment and resource mobilisation, poverty reduction, statistics

## CHAPTER 7: THE PROCESS OF ORGANISING MEETINGS AND THE AU SUMMIT

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- ❖ Introduction
  - ❖ Mandate to Convene a Meeting
  - ❖ Agenda of the Meeting
  - ❖ Development of the Work Programme Preparatory
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- ❖ Notice of Meeting
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to the African Union, in the preparation of the  
Ordinary AU Summits

## *Chapter 7: The Process of Organising Meetings and the AU Summit*

### *1. Introduction*

Different departments of the AUC in the execution of their technical and facilitation role continuously conduct meetings with Member States, development partners, various stakeholders and experts. This chapter outlines set procedures that guide these meetings. Some of these meetings are statutory, having been approved by the organs of the African Union, others, such as Experts meetings are non-statutory and are held as directed by the needs of the Departments' Annual Work Plans. This chapter deals mostly with the statutory meetings, which may be ordinary, extra-ordinary or special meetings. Where it is relevant and appropriate, procedures for preparing Ordinary AU Summits will also be discussed in details.

### *2. Mandate to Convene a Meeting*

Statutory meetings are meetings that are sanctioned by the organs of the African Union and are approved by the Chairperson of the Commission. They are usually pre-set with dates and venues agreed upon at similar previous meetings. They are usually pre-set with dates and venues agreed upon at similar previous meetings. Extra-ordinary meetings, in contrast to pre-set ordinary meetings, may be held at the request of a Member State which nonetheless requires the agreement of two-thirds of the Member States of the African Union to the holding of such a meeting. The convening of these too will be processed through the organs of the African Union as usual.

Approval for holding an Extraordinary Session shall be obtained at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the meeting. A Special Meeting may also be held at the request of a Member State, without the requirement of the quorum as in extra-ordinary meeting mentioned above.



*African Union Ordinary Summits are held twice a year and each Summit consists of three two-day meetings that always take place in the same sequence. Usually, there is a one-day break between these meetings. The Permanent Representatives Committee meets first, followed by the Executive Council of Ministers and then the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.*

*The decision to hold two Summits, which was taken at the June 2004 Summit, was meant to attend to issues that were not discussed in the previous Summit. As a rule, the January Summit takes place at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The June – July Summit is held in a different Member State each year. The AU can also convene extraordinary Summits at the request of the Chairperson or a Member State with approval by a two-thirds majority of the Member States.*

### 3. Agenda of the Meeting

The provisional agenda of an Ordinary Session shall be proposed by the concerned/ implicated Department (of the particular theme) in consultation with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, based on the intended outcome of the meeting, however, relevant Development Partners and Member States shall be consulted and offered the opportunity to include items on the agenda which are relevant to the objectives of the meeting or conference. Items proposed by Member States shall be accompanied by relevant background documents as a requirement. As a policy, the agenda shall be made to consist of just enough items to permit adequate time to discuss them in the time available, thereby lead to a few decisions and recommendations that can be implemented, to a large extent, before the next meeting. There are however standard items including the following: Opening Ceremony, Election of the Bureau and Adoption of the Agenda, Adoption of the Work Programme, Any Other Business, Date and Venue of the Next Meeting and Closing Ceremony.

The agenda of an ordinary session shall be communicated to Member States no later than thirty (30) days before the opening session of the meeting. The agenda of an extraordinary session shall be communicated to Member States no later than fifteen

(15) days before the opening session of the meeting, and shall comprise of only those items submitted for consideration in the request to convening the session.

*The key organs that are involved in the preparation of Summits include the AU Commission and the PRC through their extensive collaboration to ensure the smooth running of the Summit. There are two aspects to the preparation of these meetings, i.e. the logistics at the proposed location and the substantive issues to be discussed.*

*The agenda for an ordinary session of the Assembly is in principle drawn up by the Executive Council. In practice, the PRC led by the 15-member bureau, which comprises the president of the AU and representatives of Member States elected by PRC, will direct logistical preparations and draw up a provisional agenda for the Summit meetings.*

*It is the responsibility of the AU Commission to distribute the draft agenda to Member States through their representatives in Addis Ababa at least 30 days before the Summit.*

***A typical agenda has the following items:***

- a. Official Opening Ceremony*
- b. Adoption of the Agenda and Organisation of Work*
- c. Presentation and Discussion on the Theme of the Summit*
- d. Reports (of the Executive Council, PSC, NEPAD, President of the Union, and any other representative of the Union that reports back)*
- e. Item proposed by Member States*
- f. Adoption of Decisions and Recommendations of the Executive Council*
- g. Adoption of Decisions and Declarations of the Assembly*
- h. Any other Business*
- i. Date and Venue of the next Summit*
- j. Closing Ceremony*

## 4. Development of the Work Programme

The relevant department shall group items on the agenda in logical sequence into sessions that will form the Work Programme. The work programme shall then be discussed with the Chairperson of the meeting

before finalisation and dissemination. The Department shall select, and inform in good time, all facilitators on the work programme, including panel discussants. Facilitators will be provided with relevant back- ground documents to guide their facilitation.

## 5. Preparatory Arrangements for the Meeting

At the beginning of each year all departments shall produce a calendar of meetings to ensure adequate preparation for their conduct. As a matter of principle the number of meetings shall be kept to a minimum. The Ministers' conference is commonly a two-day session. It is preceded by a 2-day Experts' meeting. The Experts' meeting will deliberate the technical issues and set the agenda for the Ministers' conference, which in turn deliberates on the issues and comes up with decisions. Decisions from the Ministers' meeting are taken to the Summit of Heads of State and Government for endorsement as official decisions of Member States.

Arrangements of the meeting or conference shall be made well in advance of the date of the meeting to ensure that adequate notice is given to participants and that all logistics and resources for the meeting are mobilised. A Note Verbale, confirming the holding of the meeting, its objectives and the expected out- come shall be produced for ministerial meetings six months before the meeting to confirm the holding of the meeting. It shall be finalised three months before the meeting. This shall be translated into the official languages of the African Union and posted on the African Union Commission website.

For meetings held outside the African Union Commission secretariat, a Hosting Agreement shall be pre- pared three months before the meeting. Once the agenda has been agreed upon, the technical team of the particular department shall produce

the Work Programme and a list of background documents, including Reports, to guide the meeting. A roadmap indicating deadlines for the production of the documents shall be produced five months before the meeting. These documents shall be finalised three months before the meeting and referred for translation into the four official languages of the African Union two months before the meeting. Each document shall be placed on the African Union Commission website as soon as it is completed.

The responsible Department shall collaborate with the Host Government to produce an Information Bulletin for participants which shall be translated into the official languages of the Commission and shall be posted on the AUC website at least three months before the holding of the meeting. In addition to placing them on the website the meeting documents, agenda and work programme shall be sent out to the invited participants at least 30 days before the meeting to ensure that they have enough time to read them and thereby facilitate their informed participation in the meeting.

An Aide Memoire shall be produced by the technical team of the department outlining the theme of the meeting, the objectives and expected outcome of the meeting. This shall be sent out to Member States at least three months before the meeting is held. Speeches and statements for the meeting shall be drafted and submitted at least ten days before the meeting.

## 6. Hosting Agreement

Meetings held outside the Commission's premises are held with the collaboration of the Commission and the Member State in whose country the meeting takes place. Normally the Member State will have offered to host the meeting. In this case a Hosting Agreement is signed between the African Union Commission and the hosting country. A standard agreement document exists in the Commission, which is processed by the relevant Department responsible for the particular meeting, in collaboration with the AUC legal counsel, through the hosting country's diplomatic representative to the Commission. The Department, through its Director will ensure that the hosting country is aware of its obligations as outlined in the agreement, and is in agreement thereof.

Where there are any queries, these will be discussed with the department and an agreement reached and signed. This process shall be completed at least three months before the meeting to allow for a second country to host the meeting if the original country was in any way constrained to execute the agreement.

*For Ordinary AU Summits, additional logistical arrangements provided for by the host country include:*

- a. Reception of all official delegates, starting from the Heads of State and Government and their delegations;*
- b. To provide enough accommodation for all official delegates and other independent individuals attending the Summit;*
- c. Ensure security, primarily of all Heads of State and Government and their delegations;*
- d. Clearance of state/official aircrafts carrying Heads of State and Government and their delegations;*
- e. Provide media facilities for journalists covering the Summit; The AU Commission and the host country usually set up media facilities to be used by the members of the press who are covering the Summits. In addition, different delegates and officials can use the media facilities to hold press conferences or to update and or give their views to the members of the press regarding the issues of the Summits.*
- f. Make sure that there are enough health facilities for the delegates among other measures.*

## 7. Preparatory committee

A multi-disciplinary, inter-departmental committee shall be set up two months before the meeting to coordinate the arrangements of holding the meeting under the leadership of the Director of the Department in charge. This committee shall regularly

brief the Commissioner of the organising department on progress made.

## 8. Protocol Arrangements

The Department in charge of organising the meeting, through its Director, shall inform the Protocol Department of the AUC, in good time, about the nature, venue and dates of the meeting, including the kind of participants expected, to ensure that necessary arrangements are made by Protocol Department.

## 9. Press Coverage

The Department in charge of organising the meeting will liaise with the Press Department of the AUC and also with the Hosting Country to ensure that necessary press coverage for the meeting is provided.

## 10. Visa Processing

The department or the hosting country, where the meeting is held outside the AUC, will inform participants and facilitate the processing of visas for all official participants of the meeting, including external support staff. Normally participants will be informed where to obtain their visas before departure from their countries of origin. Arrangements for obtaining visas on arrival in the country of the meeting will be communicated where such facilities exist.

## 11. Security Arrangements

General security shall be provided for all participants and special security arrangements made for VIPs by AUC when the meeting is held at the AUC secretariat. For meeting held outside the African Union Commission secretariat, the security arrangements shall be the exclusive responsibility of the Government. The Government shall provide such protection, as it may deem necessary, for the security of the participants and the

smooth running of the Conference. Regarding the internal security of the Conference Centre, the local security officers shall work in accordance with the established AU security procedures. Staff members of the Commission, in particular, shall be given freedom of movement within the Conference Centre in order to facilitate their work.

## 12. Evaluation Mission to Hosting Country

The AUC shall undertake an Evaluation Mission to the hosting country a month before the meeting to assess the availability of the facilities and other arrangement described in the Hosting Agreement to ensure that the meeting runs smoothly. Such evaluation mission will, among other things look at the adequacy of the meeting place, allocation of space for the secretariat and the press, protocol and reception facilities, hotel accommodation, transport system, and security arrangements. Visa requirements for participants will be discussed, and an agreement made to ensure the smooth movement of delegates and participants. A second visit may be made after the first if the findings of the first meeting so dictate.

## 13. Secretarial Services

The AUC will make arrangements for necessary secretarial services as required by the agreed languages of the meeting in accordance with the rules and regulations of the AUC. Where the meeting is held outside the AUC the cost of this service will be to the hosting country.

## 14. Criteria for Participation in Meeting

Depending on the nature of the meeting a profile of participants will be produced by the department to guide the invitation of delegates to the meeting. Member states will be encouraged to stick to the guidelines to ensure relevant persons participate in the meeting. The Commission may admit to its meetings observers representing organisations that enjoy observer status at the African Union Commission or have a cooperation agreement with the African Union.

## 15. Invitation of Participants and Delegates to the Meeting

Invitation to the meeting shall be done by the hosting country. When the meeting is held at the AUC Headquarters, the Department will, in consultation with the Chairperson of the meeting, send out invitations.

## 16. Notice of Meeting

Meetings will normally be done in the work plan of the Departments and are normally placed on the AUC website. In addition, the relevant organising department in this case, will place the notice of the meeting on the AUC website in the official languages of the AUC, at least 60 days before the meeting is held. Such notice shall include the profile of the expected participants, the venue of the meeting, the dates of the meeting, and a list of hotel accommodation available, including current rates and details. Confirmation on whether the meeting will still hold consists of a Note Verbale posted on the AUC website and also sent to relevant member state authorities, at least 30 days before the meeting for an ordinary session and at least 15 days before the meeting for an extraordinary session.

## 17. Registration and Accreditation of Participants

All delegates, participants, support and security staff for all meetings will be registered and provided with colour-coded identity passes. They will all be required to wear lapel-pins and identity passes for the entire duration of the meeting for security reasons. Apart from the official participants, only those members or organisations accredited to the African Union shall attend the meeting. The Legal Department of the AUC will guide the Department on which organisations are qualified to have observers at the meeting.



*For ordinary AU Summits, the host country issues all accreditations to the Summit after security checks done by its national security and intelligence departments. As such, it prepares a final list of the heads and members of delegations from each member state and other participants in order to make necessary preparations for all logistics.*

### **17.1. Accreditation to Summits**

*Accreditation is the official process of getting authorization to attend AU Summits. There are six types of accreditation.*

#### **17.1.a. Delegate Accreditation**

*This is the authorization given to AU Member States. Each Member State is entitled to one head of delegation, usually the Head of State or Government including four other people. However, it is common practice for Member States to bring larger delegations of officials from different ministries, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the President. These delegates can attend other meetings and be present during different parts of the Summit.*

#### **17.1.b. Observer Accreditation**

*Non-governmental organizations, non-African governments, UN agencies and other international partner organizations and institutions may be given accreditation to the AU summits as observers. With observer status at the AU Summits, delegates do not have the right to speak nor the right to attend more than the opening and closing ceremonies of the Executive and Assembly sessions.*

*Civil society organizations wishing to obtain accreditation as observers to a summit must send their requests to CIDO many weeks in advance of the meeting so that the names of the individuals seeking access can be put on the list of those invited by the AUC held by the protocol department at the Summit venue. However, this practice is not typically advertised anywhere and the numbers who may be granted such assistance are likely to*

*be limited. Luckily, other AU directorates and departments may also forward names of selected organisations to be given accreditation.*

### **17.1.c. Staff Accreditation**

*Delegates of the host country as well as the staff of the AUC are given this type of accreditation.*

### **17.1.d. Media Accreditation**

*This type of accreditation to attend the summit is given to national and international press and other media institutions that wish to cover the proceedings of the summits.*

### **17.1.e. Security Accreditation**

*Security accreditation is given to the members of security that are charged with ensuring the safety of all summit delegates, especially the Heads of State and Government and their delegation.*

### **17.1.f. Selection of a Hosting Partner**

*Protocol accreditation is issued to officers in charge of all protocol services during the summit.*

## **17.2. Badges**

*To ensure security and ease of identification of the participants, all delegates are given unique badges. Apart from high-level delegates, there are two types of badges that are required during the summits. One is a security badge bearing the delegate's photograph; the other indicates the meeting that it is being attended.*

***In general, the following types of badges are used:***

- *Heads of State and Government as well as Heads of delegations are issued with special golden pins that give them access to all venues and events;*
- *Foreign ministers are issued with silver pins in order to give them access to relevant venues and events;*
- *Other ministers are issued with special ministerial badges to give them access to relevant venues and events;*
- *Members of the PRC are issued with special PRC badges to identify them and allow them access to relevant venues and events;*
- *Other delegates are issued with delegate badges to give them access to relevant venues and events;*
- *Security officers are given specified security badges to give them access to areas allowed for the press;*
- *Members of observer delegations are issued with observer badges to give them access to venues and events allowed for observers;*
- *Support staff from diplomatic missions are issued with support staff badges to give them access to areas allowed for support staff.*
- *Host country support staff are issued with designated badges.*

## 18. Selection of Hosting Partner

Any member state may offer to host a meeting of the department. Development partners recognized by the AUC may also host meeting of the department at an agreed place. The Legal Department of the AUC will advise the department on the eligibility of the country or partner to host the meeting based on the rules and regulations of the AUC. Where there is more than one country offering to host the meeting, the regional rotation formula will apply. Where neither country qualifies on the rotation basis, the department in charge of organising the meeting will arrange for the offering countries to agree among themselves as to who should host the meeting.

## 19. Responsibility of Hosting Partner

These are indicated in the Hosting Agreement and made known to hosting partner before the signing of the Agreement. They include conference premises and necessary equipment, flags and badges, communication facilities, hospitality and transportation, both International and local. The AUC will provide all other requirements of the meeting that are not within the Hosting Agreement unless the hosting partner offers to provide them. The hosting Government shall bear the additional expenses incurred by the Commission arising from the holding of the conference outside the secretariat of the AUC. For meetings co-hosted with a development partner, a Memorandum of Understanding shall be produced with the assistance of the legal counsel and signed by the AUC and the partner.

## 20. Responsibilities of Departments of the AUC

The Commission shall be charged with the overall responsibility of organizing, conducting and managing in accordance with the rules and regulations of the AUC, provide background documents of the meeting, direct and participate in the production of the report of the meeting. The Commission shall provide all other resources, which are not provided by the hosting partner as agreed in the Hosting Agreement, unless the hosting partner offers to provide the same.

## 21. Medical Services

The hosting government shall ensure that the venue has taken up, at its expense, a special accident insurance policy for all the staff members of the Commission covering the entire duration of the Conference as well as during transportation from Addis Ababa to the hosting country and back. The hosting government shall provide medical facilities, adequate for first aid.

For emergencies, the Government shall ensure immediate transportation and

admission of the participant to a hospital. The participant shall however be responsible for the payment of any medical expenses incurred. Where the meeting is held at the AUC secretariat, the AUC medical facilities will be available to participants in the circumstance indicated above.

## 22. Financial Arrangements for Participants

The hosting partner will arrange accommodation and prerequisite financial resources as indicated in the Hosting Agreement. The financial obligations for participants will be made known to participants by the department, indicating as to whether the participant, the AUC, or the hosting partner will bear the cost of the meeting.

## 23. The Conduct of Meetings

***a. Election of Bureau:** this item shall normally be on the agenda of the meeting. The Legal Department of the AUC will guide the chair in the conduct of this election according to the set rules of the AUC. The Legal Department of the AUC will provide information on who is eligible for election or re-election, as set out in the rules and regulations of the AUC. The Bureau shall be composed of a Chairperson, three vice-Chairpersons, and a Rapporteur. Official participants of the meeting will conduct the election in a closed session. For Ministerial meetings, members shall be elected on a regional basis, having earlier agreed on which region will take which office on a rotational basis. Normally the country selected to host the meeting shall take the chair.*

***b. Chairpersons:** The persons elected to that position during the election of the Bureau shall chair meetings. These persons will chair the meetings until the election of the next Bureau. In the absence of the elected Chairperson, the person holding the position of first vice-chair will chair the meeting.*

*In the absence of both the Chairperson and the three vice-Chairpersons, the bureau will elect a Chairperson from among themselves for that meeting. For meetings of the department that do not have an elected bureau, the Commissioner of the department or his/her assistant, normally the Director of the department will*

chair the meeting or make arrangement for the same with the delegates of the meeting.

- c. **Rapporteur(s):** For a meeting that has an elected bureau, the person elected as rapporteur will be the official recorder of that meeting. In his or her absence the bureau will elect a rapporteur from among itself or among the official delegates of that meeting, for the recording of that meeting. For meetings of the department, the Director of the department shall provide a rapporteur for the meeting from among the secretariat or from among the official delegates of the meeting.
- d. **Official Language(s) of the Meeting:** For Ministerial meetings of a continental coverage, the four official languages of the African Union, notably; English, French, Arabic and Portuguese will be used. For regional meetings, only those languages common to the region concerned will be used. In either case, the African Union or the hosting country or both will provide translation resources. For meetings other than Ministerial meetings, official languages used will depend on the needs of the participants. Where more than one language is used the department in charge of organizing the meeting will arrange for translation resources as necessary.
- e. **Quorum of the Meeting:** Decisions and recommendations of the meeting shall only be binding if the meeting attained a quorum of two-thirds of the member states officially registered at the meeting. The Rapporteur, in consultation with the legal counsel of the AUC shall record and report to the meeting the quorum status of the meeting.
- f. **Opening ceremony:** A separate official opening ceremony programme will be produced. This programme will be at the beginning of the meeting unless circumstances require it to be rescheduled.
- g. **Official Announcements and Procedural Matters:** The secretariat of the department in charge of organizing the meeting will communicate with the Chairperson any announcement and procedural matters designed to guide the smooth running of the meeting. It will be the responsibility of the Director of the department or his/her designated assistant to guide the chair on procedural matters relevant to the meeting. A Note Verbale shall be prepared by the

department and sent to all member states and shall be posted on the official website of the AUC in the official languages of the African Union. The Note Verbale shall indicate the theme of the meeting, the expected delegates to the meeting, the place where the meeting was scheduled to be held and the dates of the meeting.

- h. Adoption of the Agenda:** The adoption of the agenda shall normally be the second item on the provisional agenda of the meeting, after the election of the bureau. The Chairperson will present the proposed agenda to the delegates at the beginning of the meeting for a brief discussion and then adoption. Items on the agenda may be deleted or modified. Normally no new items will be added to the agenda. Where modifications are proposed on the agenda, the Department will guide the chair as to whether or not there was enough background documentation to permit informed discussion of the modified topic(s). Member States shall be encouraged to comment on the provisional agenda communicated to them to ensure the department prepared background documents for any revisions proposed.
- i. Presentation of the Work Programme:** The Chairperson will present the proposed Work Programme, including procedural matters to the delegates at the beginning of the meeting for a brief discussion and then adoption. Normally no new items will be added to the Work Programme. Where modifications are proposed, the Department will guide the chair as to whether or not the modifications were feasible within the agreed period of the meeting.
- j. Presentation of the Work Programme in the Meeting:** Items on the agenda shall be presented in the meeting as oral presentations, with effective use of visual aids, panel discussions, which may be preceded by an introductory presentation, which may be oral or film/video. These will be followed by plenary session discussion from which decisions and recommendations will emerge.
- k. Points of Order:** During discussion of any matter, an official delegate may, at any time, raise a point of order. The Chairperson shall immediately rule upon the point of order. Any appeal against the ruling of the point of order shall immediately be put to the vote; otherwise the ruling of the Chairperson shall stand. A member raising a point of order may not speak on the substance of the subject matter under discussion.

- l. Adjournment of Debate:** During discussion of any matter, an official delegate may move for the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the person who proposes the motion, one other delegate may speak in favour and one against the motion, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote.
- m. Closure of debate:** An official delegate may, at any time, move for the closure of debate on an item under discussion, whether or not any other delegate had signified the wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded to only two delegates opposing the closure, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote.
- n. Suspension or Adjournment of a Meeting:** During the discussion of any matter, an official delegate may move for the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such a motion shall be permitted. The motion shall immediately be put to the vote.
- o. Order of Motions:** The following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:
- (i) To suspend the meeting;
  - (ii) To adjourn the meeting;
  - (iii) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
  - (iv) To close the debate on the item under discussion.
- p. Consideration of Reports:** The department in charge of organising the meeting shall prepare relevant reports of the meeting for presentation and discussion at the meeting. These will normally be an update on actions on the subject matter since the previous report if any. The reports will have been prepared by officers of the department directly related to the subject matter and, will be presented by the Commissioner or his/her representative.
- q. Voting Procedures:** Should any vote be required for the adoption of report or opinion, the legal counsel of the African Union shall guide the meeting on the procedure to be followed and which people were eligible to vote as per rules and regulation of the AUC. Each Member State shall have one vote. Unless



otherwise decided, voting shall be by show of hands. After the voting process has commenced, there shall be no interruption of the voting, except on a point of order by a delegate in connection with the actual conduct of the voting.

- r. **Any other Business:** Any official delegate to the meeting may raise items for discussion under Any Other Business. The department will guide the chair on the relevance of the raised item to the current meeting. Where the item may need to be referred to another forum for discussion the secretariat will advise the chair accordingly.
- s. **Selection of Venue and Date of the next Meeting:** The legal counsel of the African Union will guide the meeting on the selection of the venue of the next meeting. The secretariat will guide the chair on the most appropriate dates based on the rules and regulations of the African Union, and also based of commitments already on the calendar for the concerned persons and the secretariat.
- t. **Adoption of the Report of the Meeting:** The official rapporteur of the meeting will present a summary of the report of the meeting to the delegates towards the end of the meeting for adoption. Any corrections made and verified by the delegates will be made and presented to the secretariat for finalization and dissemination.
- u. **Closing Ceremony:** A programme for the official closing ceremony will be produced by the secretariat of the department and circulated to the delegates a day before the closure of the meeting.
- v. **Immediate Follow-up Action**
  - i. **Finalisation of the Report:** The Secretariat shall finalize the report of the meeting within two days of closing the meeting at the site of the meeting. To minimise expenses, the head of the secretariat will identify the relevant persons to finalise the report and release the rest to travel back home. The report shall then be translated into the official languages of the African Union within three days of concluding the meeting.
  - ii. **Distribution of Harmonized Report or Outcome of the Meeting:** This shall be done within one week of concluding the meeting

*iii. Evaluation of Meetings:* These meetings shall be conducted and attended by all departments involved in the meeting within two weeks of concluding the meeting. The meetings shall analyse and document the strengths, weaknesses; opportunities encountered and prepare comprehensive recommendations to be implemented to improve on the next meeting.

*iv. Follow-up on Meeting Recommendations and Decisions:* Relevant officers of the department shall commence follow-up actions on the decisions and recommendations of the meeting and regularly brief the Commissioner on progress made.

## How Member States Prepare for the Ordinary AU Summits<sup>1</sup>

*The sequence of events in the preparation for AU Summits in civil law countries is usually as follows, with small variations.*

*The ministry of foreign affairs receives the agenda from its mission in Addis Ababa, and immediately organises, through its African Union branch, an internal consultation that is generally attended by the legal affairs branch, the international organisations branch and, according to the importance of the Summit, the general secretariat of the ministry and the office of the minister. The aim of this initial consultation is to provide the ministry with a more complete vision of the issues to be discussed during the Summit.*

*At the outcome of the consultation, a document is produced and presented to the minister. It contains the comments and suggestions made by the ambassador in Addis Ababa at the time of sending of the agenda. Following that, the ministry of foreign affairs dispatches the various technical documents to the technical ministries covering the proposed topics for their written comments.*

*An inter-ministerial consultation is then organised by the ministry of foreign affairs, in close collaboration with the office of the president of the republic and the concerned departments of the office of the prime minister, with a view to preparing a fact sheet for*

<sup>1</sup> Towards A People-Driven African Union: Current Obstacles and New Opportunities, 2007. Chapter 3, page 19-20.

*each item on the agenda and ensuring that the other ministries cover all the technical aspects of the items on the Summit agenda.*

*At the outcome of these two consultations, the fact sheets are gathered into a single file containing the draft position papers on each agenda item or, at least, on the items of particular interest to the country in question. The file is presented to the minister for approval.*

*After such approval is obtained, it is submitted to the president of the republic who provides a clear political orientation on each of the proposals contained in the file. (It may happen that the president gives instructions that are in total contradiction with the proposals put forward by the consultations organised under the aegis of the ministry of foreign affairs.) While the file is being prepared, the ministry remains in regular contact with the ambassador accredited to Addis Ababa for updates on the items on the agenda and opinions on the proposed positions. After it is prepared, the document is presented to the president for approval. The president submits it to his staff for an in-depth review, following which it is formally approved.*

*In common law countries, the process is not dissimilar: Officials at the diplomatic mission in Addis Ababa transmit documents to the department of foreign affairs. The documents will be accompanied by a briefing document from the ambassador in Addis Ababa who also sits on the PRC. This briefing document contains observations on positions of other Member States on particular issues on the agenda.*

*At the department of foreign affairs, the document is referred to the relevant official who heads the AU/Africa affairs desk. The Africa affairs desk may comprise a team of six officers. They will be responsible for drafting the briefs. A director within the foreign affairs department holds a meeting within the department to chart a strategy. This includes identification of relevant departments to make inputs under the agenda items.*

*Depending on the issues, lead government agencies such as the department of justice/ attorney general's office will be requested to submit the government's position on the relevant agenda item. The AD Department will give the governments agencies requested to make submissions a period by which inputs should be received.*

*An inter-departmental meeting is held to discuss the submissions. The permanent secretary (or deputy) of the ministry of foreign affairs or director general/director within the department of foreign affairs will lead these meetings.*

*On an ad-hoc basis, the officials at the AD/Africa desk may meet with civil society to discuss specific issues that may be discussed at the Summit.*

*The Africa desk coordinates responses from other government agencies into a consolidated document.*

*This document is then transmitted to a senior official, either a director general or permanent secretary for approval; the minister of foreign affairs (but not usually the president) will sign off on the final document.*

*The foreign affairs ministry/department coordinates the delegation to represent the state at the Summit.*

*Once approved identical sets of documents are then transmitted to those who will be representing government at the Summit. Ideally, this is done approximately two weeks before departure to the Summit. Where documents are outstanding, this will be indicated in the prepared briefing documents.*

*In the case of the president attending the Summit, an advance team will visit the location to view premises.*



## AU Headquarters

*The former base of the OAU at the African Union headquarters*

*The new African Union  
Headquarters in Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia*



*The main conference room in the African Union  
Conference Centre*

## CHAPTER 8: CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

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- ❖ The African Union and Civil Society Organizations
  - ❖ Engagement with the African Union
  - ❖ The Institutional Spaces
  - ❖ The Joint Spaces
  - ❖ The Self-Created (Autonomous) Spaces
  - ❖ The Invited Spaces
  - ❖ Other Opportunities

## *Chapter 8: Civil Society Engagement*

### *1. The African Union and Civil Society Organizations*

The nature of CSOs in development work is changing from the traditional direct and efficient service delivery. There currently is growing need for civil society to participate in policy processes, in order to bring about sustained long-term development and change alongside governments and other stakeholders. The increased attention on issues of governance, human rights, social inequality and poverty amongst others in Africa, has been the motivation for civil society to work on enlarging space for advocacy. Continued policy influence CSOs are beginning to yield especially at the National and Regional level in Africa, is a strong reason to build on the African CSOs' capacity to play a stronger role in the policy making forum at the Continental level.

The emergence of reformed and reform-minded institutions such as the African Union and bodies such as the Pan-African Parliament, processes such as the Africa Peer Review Mechanism and bold steps at consolidating democracy have all opened new opportunities and challenges for Africa's civil society.

Over the last few years, there has been the emergence of pan-Africa civil society organisations (NGOs, networks, alliances, coalitions and movements as well as think tanks and research centres) that have tried to engage directly with the AU on a diverse set of policy issues (HIV/AIDS, women's rights, trade, food security, agriculture, climate and environment and peace and security). As the role and influence of these groups increase and become more important, maintaining and expanding future space for autonomous and direct civil society interaction with the AU will become critical. Due attention and space needs to be given in the debate to identify opportunities and challenges for CSOs when using evidence to inform policy, share best practice, and build capacity in order to achieve better collaboration amongst CSO actors and the policy-makers.

In its preamble, the Constitutive Act of the African Union stresses a “common vision of a united and strong Africa” and the “the need to build a partnership between governments and all segments of civil society”<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the AUC (the secretariat of the Union), seeks to achieve an efficient and value adding institution that drives the African integration and development process. This is done in close collaboration with different stakeholders, including Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and African Citizens.

Furthermore, the decision by African leaders to establish the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)<sup>3</sup> was a demonstration of the African Union’s “response to the calls for democracy and development from Africa’s vibrant civil society institutions”. Aware of rich and diverse human and institutional resources of the grassroots level, the continent’s leaders were determined to build a “Union that is people-oriented” and based on strong partnerships between the governments and all segments of the society.

However, AU policy makers have recognized that the AU CSO relations cannot be limited to ECOSOCC; as such various bilateral forms of engagement are also utilized. These include the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between civil society organizations and the AUC or specific departments within it; granting of observer status to observe AU processes and meetings; pre-Summit consultative forums, and consultative meetings on specific agendas (Ikome 2008). Furthermore, the AU’s “Livingstone Formula” has made it possible for civil society organizations to contribute to the efforts of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to foster peace and stable societies and to protect civilians. Article 20 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC of the African Union

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- 2 *The African Union understands civil society organizations as those entities, including but not limited to:*
- a. *Social groups such as those representing women, children, the youth, the elderly and people with disabilities and special needs;*
  - b. *Professional groups such as those associations of artists, engineers, health professionals, social workers, media, teachers, sports associations, legal professionals, social scientists, academia, business organizations, national chambers of commerce, workers, employers, industry and agriculture as well as other private sector interest groups;*
  - c. *Non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and voluntary organizations;*
  - d. *Social and professional groups in the African diaspora in accordance within the definition approved by the Executive Council. (Source: ECOSOCC statutes)*
- 3 *The African civil society’s legitimacy of engaging the African Union is found in the mandate of the ECOSOCC detailed in Chapter 2 or 3 for additional information.*



stipulates that “the PSC shall encourage non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability in Africa. When required such organizations may be invited to address the Peace and Security Council”. In addition, the protocol states that “Civil Society Organizations may provide technical support to the African Union by undertaking early warning reporting, and situation analysis which feeds information into the decision-making process of the PSC”.<sup>4</sup>

The African Citizens’ and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO), located within the Office of the Chairperson of the AUC; is responsible for following up on such participatory activities. It also serves as the official liaison office for civil society wishing to interact with the AUC. As well, CIDO serves as the secretariat for ECOSOCC.

## 2. Engagement with the African Union

As the AU tries to understand the unique nature of African civil society organizations, the civil society also needs to understand the structures, as well as the challenges of engaging the AU while maintaining its uniqueness as an independent stakeholder.

There are various levels of engagement with the African Union, and one aspect of it was described in detail in Chapter 5 in the attempt to influence the ultimate decision making forum, known as the AU Heads of State and Government Summit held bi-annually. The level of engagement and participation of African as well as international NGOs go beyond the above mentioned type of engagement. The process of collaborating with the Commission’s different departments, the individual Member States whether through their Addis based representatives or at the national level; the different forums (experts, ministerial and/or other capacity building initiatives)- in all, these constitute engagement in the broader and multi-pronged sense, and various avenues exist with the continental institution to conduct these engagements.

There are four spaces/categories that members of civil society can use to influence, impact and contribute to the African Union’s decision-making process. They are:

<sup>4</sup> Source: PSC/ PR/(CLX), 5 December 2008, *Conclusions of a Retreat of the PSC on a mechanism of interaction between the Council and CSOs*.

### a. *The Institutional Space*

This is a space created by the AU itself. Any civil society organization may be invited to attend AU activities. Invitations can come from organs and institutions such as ECOSOCC, CIDO, the Pan-African Parliament and other African Union Commission departments.

**CIDO:** CIDO is tasked with facilitating CSO affairs and ensuring their participation in the activities of AU organs through the various departments and forums among other tasks.

**ECOSOCC:** ECOSOCC was established as a vehicle for building a strong partnership between governments and all segments of the African civil society, ECOSOCC is an advisory organ of the African Union composed of different social and professional groups of the Member States and its members have official status in the structures of the Union. By sending a delegation of five members to the AU Summits, ECOSOCC becomes an important channel to influence policies at the AU.

**The Pan-African Parliament (PAP):** PAP is an advisory and consultative organ to the Union and has its secretariat in Midrand, South Africa, where it holds its regular sessions in November and March each year. Sessions are open to non-state actors and they organise direct interaction between parliamentarians and CSOs every year, which is an open discussion on any chosen topic.

**The Peace and Security Council (PSC):** Article 20 of the Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council states that the PSC “shall encourage non-governmental organisations, community-based and other civil society organisations, particularly women’s organisations, to participate actively in the efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability in Africa. When required, such organisations may be invited to address the Peace and Security Council”. As such, this is the main instrument calling for the participation of civil society actors in the AU’s peace and security architecture. The said article 20 was operationalized by the development of the Livingstone Formula in 2008, which set out the modalities for interaction between the PSC and civil society.

Article 10 of the *Protocol on the Rights of Women* also establishes that the right to peace encompasses the right to participate in the creation and maintenance of this peace. Moreover, of note are policy documents such as the Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development policy which explicitly highlight the role of civil society.

### *b. Joint Spaces*

Some civil society organizations jointly or in close cooperation organize activities with the relevant AUC department and organs based on different thematic areas. For example, any organization together with the AU can agree to come together and hold an event targeted at other CSOs and maximize the collaboration by working closely with the department in the AUC, with additional support from the particular division and/or cluster of ECOSOCC, and representatives of the Member States who are chairing a particular division and a period of time, or have championed the issue at hand. This is a great way to give exposure for civil society organizations working nationally to continental platforms for engagement; understanding of value addition of engaging at the AU level and bring together civil society members and interlocutors to discuss and come to a consensus on various models, mechanisms and strategies for input and engagement with policy components.

## *CASE STUDY*

### *International Peace Day Celebration*

Oxfam International Liaison office with the AU (OI-AU) participated in the International Peace Day celebrations organized in collaboration with the AU Commission on September 19th, 2013. This was within the context of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the OAU/AU. In partnership with the AU Peace and Security Department (PSD) and the "Make Peace Happen Campaign", OI-AU organized a public seminar themed "Education for Peace". The seminar was organized in commemoration of Peace Day; in recognition of the importance

*of addressing the challenges of peace and security. It emphasized the need for education and public awareness on issues related to peace. It provided a forum for Addis Ababa-based stakeholders to celebrate Peace Day by engaging in discussions on peace and solidarity, the culture of peace within the context of African renaissance, the role of youth in promoting peace as well as a vibrant discussion on the work of the Peace and Security Council. The event enjoyed active online participation from African citizens from all over the world. This also demonstrated how the AU is embracing new platforms of social media.*

### *c. Self-Created Spaces*

These are spaces created by CSOs themselves in organizing autonomous activities related to AU issues and processes. For instance, activities can be organized around themes such as peace and security, democracy and good governance, women's rights, freedom of movement among others. They can also prepare detailed analytical reports for the various policy organs of the AU.

## CASE STUDY

### *African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty*

*Oxfam International Liaison office with the AU (OI-AU) organised a series of bi-lateral meetings with a number of African Ambassadors on the need for a globally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as well as a strong African Common Position ahead of the 2012 United Nations diplomatic conference to negotiate the ATT. These meetings were conducted together with the African Forum on Small Arms (AFONSA). In addition to policy recommendations, requests were made to Ambassadors to ensure civil society space at the subsequent Lomé meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the African Common Position in September 2011. In addition to these bi-lateral meetings, a roundtable bringing together a wider group of AU Member States' representatives was organised to collectively discuss some of the challenges in arriving at an African Common Position as well as the key issues and considerations that should be included in the common position such as risk assessment criteria for arms transfers.*

#### d. Invited Spaces

Special committees (i.e. African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child) invite expert CSO actors to input in the technical debate as necessary and by invitation only. This level of involvement, however limited and dependent on the invitation and goodwill of the members of the particular entity, allows for a positive step in the right direction regarding contribution of invaluable information to the betterment of the final policy document. A similar process once instituted would be the associate ad-hoc participation of non-qualifying members of the African and wider civil society in the ECOSOCC Clusters' work, as per invitation and need.

#### e. Other Opportunities

In addition to the previously mentioned avenues, members of civil society organizations can also influence the AU decision-making process in the following ways by:

- (i) *Staying updated on activities of the AU by looking at the AU calendar of events and seeking information pertinent to the particular lobbying opportunity; Analysing each AU decision which will help them to know what is going on; Focusing on specific issues and have accurate information to be strategic and relevant; Knowing the countries that are influential and the countries that will be interested in the issues they propose to talk about (Power Analysis); Identifying countries in the relevant committees so as to do targeted advocacy and last but not least, checking the level of compliance by the various countries of the AU documents and use these documents for advocacy.*

The African Union is made up of member states; and engagement with the Union should go beyond the African Union Commission or other organs of the Union, such as with national governments in the various member states:

- (i) *CSOs can monitor the decisions taken at the various Summits and determine whether these decisions are being complied with. They can then hold their governments accountable for commitments made, instruments signed and ratified but not complied with. The role of civil society has for long been*

*proven to be very important in pushing for compliance with policies through identification of weaknesses and encouragement to governments to improve on their performances;*

*(ii) Civil society organisations can also carry out independent monitoring of the activities of AU organs as well as those of AU Member States through a series of surveys and comparative analyses (see below).*

## CASE STUDY

### *State of the Union Coalition (SOTU)*

#### *The Purpose*

The lack of effective implementation of international or continental standards and policies has a direct impact on human development and economic indicators. Thus impact is also the consequence of poor governance in Africa as well as weak capabilities of African citizens and civil society organisations to hold their Governments accountable for the decisions they take in multi-lateral spaces, particularly the AU.

The State of the union Coalition was formed in 2009 by ten organizations<sup>5</sup> in ten countries. It is a unique multi-sectoral monitoring group that is holding African Governments accountable for the ratification and implementation of African Union decisions. A key factor in their interest in the coalition is their frustration with the slow speed of integration of AU decisions and declarations into national policies, laws and budgets.

Currently, important policy debates concerning the livelihoods of African citizens do not involve broader public participation. Concerted public pressure and united political will are needed at both continental and national levels to make the AU a reality in the lives of ordinary citizens.

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<sup>5</sup> For more information on the organizations please visit [www.sotu-africa.org](http://www.sotu-africa.org)

It urges compliance with fourteen specific policies<sup>6</sup> and standards adopted by the African Union. These policies and standards offer the greatest promise for fighting poverty, discrimination and injustice. The ten AU legal instruments and four policy frameworks have been selected in recognition of the tremendous opportunities they offer for eradicating poverty, promoting justice and realising political, economic and social rights in Africa. Unless the gap between policy and practice is addressed, the policies developed at the level of the African Union will have no impact on the development, fundamental freedoms and human rights enjoyed by African citizens.



*The AU and Mary Robinson partner with the "Gender Is My Agenda Campaign" (GIMAC) on the 21st GIMAC Pre-Summit meeting*

<sup>6</sup> The ten legal instruments are: The African Youth Charter; African Charter on Human and People's Rights in Africa; African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community; Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament

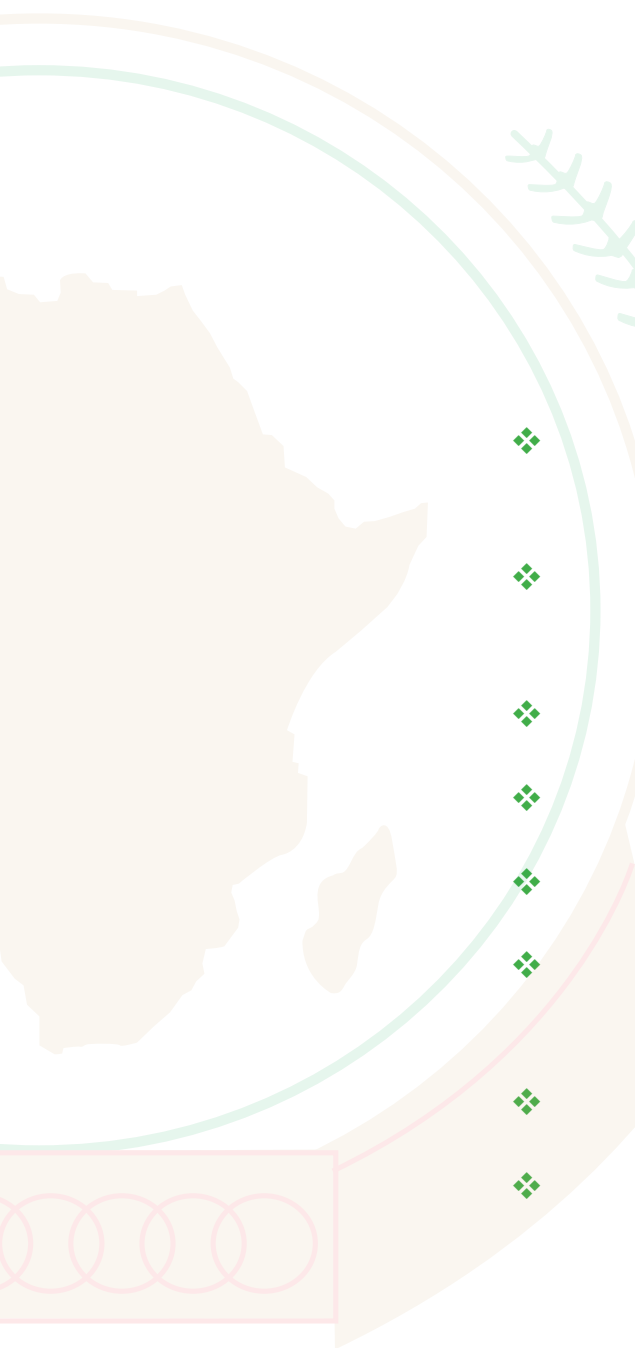
The four policy frameworks are: The African Health Strategy 2007-2015; NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Plan (CAADP); Abuja Call for Acceleration Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services by 2010; Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalization of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2007-2010

## CHAPTER 9: NON-STATE ACTORS

### ENGAGING THE AFRICAN UNION

- 
- ❖ Fahamu
  - ❖ Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)
  - ❖ Institute for Peace and Security Studies
  - ❖ Institute for Security Studies
  - ❖ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
  - ❖ International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
  - ❖ International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
  - ❖ The Open Society Foundations of African Union Advocacy Program
  - ❖ Oxfam International
  - ❖ Plan International
  - ❖ Save the Children



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- ❖ The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR)
  - ❖ Centre for Citizens' Participation on the African Union (CCP-AU)
  - ❖ State of the Union Coalition (SOTU)
  - ❖ Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)
  - ❖ Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)
  - ❖ Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA)
  - ❖ All Africa Conference of Churches
  - ❖ Disclaimer

## Chapter 9: Non-State Actors Engaging the African Union

Since the African Union was created in 2002, there have been a growing number of non-state actors trying to establish relationships with different organs and institutions of the African Union in order to influence, in one way or the other, the decision-making processes of the continental organisation.

The increasing number of non-state actors engaging with the African Union has had an impact not only on development of policies and their implementation but also in popularising the AU among African citizens. This chapter looks at selected examples of organisations with AU-related programmes.



### *Oxfam International Liaison Office with the African Union*

Oxfam International Liaison Office with the African Union (OI-AU) works primarily to raise citizens' awareness of the African Union and engagement with its Commission. As an advocacy office, OI-AU is mandated to undertake the following:

1. *Active citizenship in the Affairs of the African Union: To support, facilitate and enable access to the African Union for partners, African civil society organizations as well as Oxfam affiliates and their partners in their engagement with the AU. This role includes running a secondment programme and other capacity building functions as well as information sharing programmes to strengthen African civil society partners*
2. *Peace & Security: Direct Policy and Campaign engagement with the African Union on Oxfam's Rights in Crisis work (peace, security and humanitarian issues) in Africa.*
3. *Representation of Oxfam Confederation: Representation to the African Union and management of relationship with the AU and its organs and member states.*

OI-AU, formally established in 2007 in Addis Ababa after the signing of a MoU with the African Union and through a host agreement with the Ethiopian Government, has many programmes aimed at AU engagement. Since its establishment, OI-AU, in partnership with the AUC has spearheaded the “Understanding of the African Union” training workshops as its flagship capacity building activity to foster knowledge of African civil society on the African Union’s key structures, organs and policy space. In the same vein, OI-AU has facilitated and conducted media and advocacy sessions to train African CSOs in the use of media together with advocacy techniques for an effective policy advocacy campaign with the African Union and its organs as well as the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). This is on the understanding that many civil society actors across the continent do not have the physical access to the AUC and the know-how to influence policy at the AU. Oxfam International has also been offering the Pan-African-in-Residence (Secondment) Program, which allows selected candidates to come to Addis Ababa and gain first-hand experience in engaging the African Union for a period of three months. At the policy level, OI-AU has facilitated access for CSOs and other partners to AU Summits, Ministerial and Experts meetings at the AU by providing accreditation support, policy analysis insight, documentation and financial and material support. The office also engages in post-AU summit analysis with key stakeholders for knowledge-sharing and mapping of future influencing moments. Apart from its many other policy-influencing activities, OI-AU has supported various organizations to hold face-to-face lobby and advocacy meetings with Addis Ababa-based ambassadors on various issues including peace and security, economic justice, gender justice and governance. In all these efforts, OI-AU works mainly with the Peace and Security Department (PSD), CIDO, the Directorate of Information and Communication (DIC), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) among others.

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**Facebook:** Oxfam International Liaison Office with the African Union: OI-AU



## FAHAMU

Fahamu is a non-governmental organisation that seeks to strengthen and nurture the movement for social justice in Africa by generating knowledge to serve activism, bridging the gap between theory and practice – Tuliwaza; creating learning for, by and across movements – Adilisha; amplifying Africa-centred voices, perspectives and solutions in policy and decision making at all levels – Utetezi and creating platforms for analysis and debate – Pambazuka. Fahamu's work is consistently inter-connected, for instance, as the organisation works on creating platforms for Africa-centred advocacy through Utetezi, it continues to generate analysis through Pambazuka that spurs in-depth thinking and knowledge generation through Tuliwaza, in turn contributing to learning by and from the movements through Adilisha. It is this cycle and synergy that makes Fahamu uniquely placed to continue to grow networks for social justice and position itself to support change.

Established in 1997, Fahamu is distinctively placed as a pan-African organisation supporting and working collaboratively with social movements over the long term. Rather than imposing generic solutions to address the needs of and to strengthen movements, Fahamu is committed to ensuring that its interventions are relevant, timely and significant to the movements it serves. In addition, Fahamu's approach respects the collective leadership, self-determination and self-sustainability of its partners. Furthermore, Fahamu seeks to provide diverse and innovative approaches, tactics and resources to the social movements that it works with. With its expertise, access to information and networks, it seeks to enhance the access of transformative social movements to each other as well as to the processes, knowledge, skills, experience and

platforms to strengthen their work.

Fahamu has made a significant contribution to media and freedom of expression in Africa, using information and communications technologies. Its award-winning online publication, Pambazuka News, carries an in-depth analysis of African current affairs and provides a platform for social justice issues across the continent. In terms of its engagement with the African Union, Fahamu established in 2007 the AU Monitor Initiative to enable African civil society organisations to engage constructively with the African Union and its organs in the interests of promoting justice, equity and accountability through the provision of high-quality and timely information.

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*Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) - AU Liaison Program*

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) was founded in 1925 as a political legacy of Germany's first democratically elected president with the following aims: furthering political and social education of individuals from all walks of life in the spirit of democracy and pluralism, facilitating access to university education and research for gifted young people by providing scholarships and contributing to international understanding and cooperation.

FES's Addis Ababa office is the focal point for continental issues and the contact office to the African Union with which it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Since 2007 FES Addis Ababa has been conducting series of training workshops for African Journalists and Editors on the African Peace and Security Architecture

(APSA) and AU transformation. The aim of these workshops is to improve the awareness of African media and to provide first-hand information on the AU and its security architecture. FES hopes that this will lead to a better perception of key issues by the public through better and critical reporting and, in the long run, to a more dynamic interaction between African journalists and key actors, based on contacts at AU headquarters. It is expected these capacity building activities will incite citizen discussion on the African Union developments. FES has also been conducting Inter-parliamentary dialogues bringing together national, regional and pan African parliamentarians to discuss issues related to the AU. The engagement with Members of Parliament is aimed at strengthening the democratic participation of Parliamentarians in the AU transformation processes and amplifying their role in the implementation/ domestication of AU instruments. Furthermore, FES – AU has commissioned research resulting in various publications on key African Union topics. Following the signing of the MoU in 2011, FES is now working to broaden the scope of its AU work to include issues relating to achieving social & economic rights, fair trade, fighting poverty, promoting good governance and gender equality. To this effect, FES collaborates with the Department of Peace and Security, Communication and Information, the Pan African Parliament and the Office of Legal Counsel of the African Union Commission.

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### *Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS)- AU Liaison Program*

The IPSS vision is to be a premier institute of higher education for peace and security studies in Africa. Its mission is to promote peace and security in Ethiopia and Africa at large through education, research and professional development. The Institute enables skills development in conflict prevention, management and resolution as well as in peace building, and promotes the values of a democratic and peaceful society, by offering Masters and PhD programmes.

In addition to these programmes, the IPSS through its outreach programme, hosts conferences and panel discussions to disseminate research findings in the areas of conflict prevention, management and resolution, peace culture, peace building, security and related issues. It is engaged in promoting the spirit of cooperation and sharing of information between policy/decision makers, academia, civil societies and other stakeholders. The work of the IPSS emphasizes linking scholarly research with policy development through networking, educating for peace, developing and enriching students' inquisitive abilities, and fostering their creativity and personal interest in peace and security.

The IPSS also runs a joint programme with the African Union. The Africa Peace and Security Programme (APSP), is a joint initiative of the IPSS and the African Union Commission, Peace and Security Department, as endorsed by the AU Executive Council in February, 2010 (EX.CL/567 XVI). With the aim of building the capacity of the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and member states, the APSP conducts research and provides training, to take up the intellectual challenge of peace and security in Africa. The programme also brings together research centres and institutions to support the African Union in its endeavour of African-led solutions to peace and security challenges on the continent.

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### *Institute for Security Studies (ISS) - Addis Ababa Office*

The ISS is a pan-African applied policy research institute headquartered in South Africa with offices in Kenya, Ethiopia and Senegal. The ISS is an established think tank working in the area of African human security. It seeks to mainstream human security perspectives into public policy processes and to influence decision makers within Africa and beyond.

The objective of the Institute is to add critical balance and objectivity by providing timely, empirical research and contextual analysis of relevant human security issues to policy makers, area specialists, advocacy groups, and the media.

In line with its objective, the ISS conducts research and compiles reports for the African Union and the African community in general. ISS is also known for facilitating public discussions and seminars on pre and post African Union Summit agenda items and other major African issues. ISS also provides technical support in the areas of peace and security to the African Union, mainly to the Peace and Security Department as the need arises by resourcing different meetings and providing reports. Although ISS has other offices in Africa, its Addis office coordinates all the other offices in order to ensure that the ISS is constantly working to address AU requests. In order to attain this, ISS works with the Peace and Security Council, Peace Support Operation Division and Political Affairs Department of the African Union Commission.



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*International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)  
Liaison Office with the AU*

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

The ICRC Delegation to the African Union (AU), based in Addis Ababa, works closely with the different organs of the AU and all its member states to draw attention to the needs of those affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence, to promote greater recognition and much wider implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) throughout Africa and raise awareness of ICRC's role and activities on the continent. The ICRC has also further strengthened its partnership with the AU through the secondment, since end 2009, of an IHL expert to support the activities the Peace and Security Department and related Divisions. Since the signature of the cooperation agreement in 1992, the ICRC has an official observer status to the AU, which has been granted by the organization of the African Unity (OAU).

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### *International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) - Representation to the AU*

FIDH is an international NGO established in 1922. It aims at defending all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It acts in the legal and political fields for the creation and reinforcement of international and regional instruments for the protection of human rights and for their implementation. FIDH is a federalist movement that acts through and for its 164 member organisations in more than 100 countries. FIDH has some areas of prime concern including Freedom and capacity to act of human rights defenders; Universality of rights, in particular those of women and migrants; The effectiveness of human rights, in particular ensuring that all violators are called to account or Respect for human rights in times of conflict. The work in these areas occurs at national, regional and international levels through coordinated efforts between FIDH's national members and partner organisations.

FIDH deploys a large range of actions that have proved to be effective: urgent reactions, both public and confidential; international fact-finding, trial observation and defence missions; political dialogue; advocacy; litigation and public awareness campaigns.

In terms of advocacy, FIDH focuses on international and regional intergovernmental bodies such as the UN, EU, ASEAN, or AU. Along with offices in Geneva, New York, Brussels, The Hague, Bangkok and Cairo, FIDH has opened an office in Nairobi with a view to strengthen its interaction with AU institutions and NGOs' access to them. For

many years now, FIDH advocates for the strengthening of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the main body in charge of promoting and protecting human rights on the continent. To this end, FIDH constantly supports the participation of human rights defenders in the ACHPR's ordinary sessions, produces well-documented shadow reports, organises briefings on the human rights situation in Africa, provides Commissioners with its expertise on specific topics or uses the quasi-judicial mandate of the Commission. At the AU level, FIDH concentrates its efforts on increasing the interaction between human rights defenders and AU representatives and advocates for the development of a strong AU human rights strategy/approach reflected in its main decisions. FIDH, which is at the origin of one of the pending cases before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, also focuses on the strengthening of this Court, in particular by lobbying States for the ratification of its Protocol and for the guarantee of an effective access to the Court by individuals and NGOs. FIDH also intends to increase its advocacy towards Regional Economic Communities (REC) including ECOWAS and SADC.

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***International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) Liaison Office with the AU***

International IDEA has a long standing relationship with the African Union. Such relationship has culminated with the signing of a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organizations in Accra, Ghana, 30 June 2007. The MoU contains a detailed five-year Joint Action Plan which outlines the key programs of collaboration including: support

to the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance and its provisions, as well as the provisions of previous Charters and Declarations, promotion of democratic elections, strengthening of political parties, support to constitution building, and mainstreaming gender issues to promote the involvement of women. The focal points for IDEA-AU relationship is the Liaison office in Addis Ababa and for the AU-IDEA is the Department of Political Affairs. However, the adopted flexible framework of JAP calls for wide range of partnerships, involving all relevant AU departments and partners in the implementation of the plan.

The Liaison Office to the African Union: The mandate of International IDEA Liaison Office to the African Union is to ensure the smooth running of JAP. The office also shapes the relationship between IDEA at large and the African Union Commission and engages in dialogue with IDEA Member States and civil society organizations located in Addis Ababa, on how best to support the African Union.

IDEA Input: DPA/AU and IDEA Liaison Office jointly define needs, skills and resources which will contribute to the implementation of specified tasks. Together they develop coordination mechanisms, detail targets, work plans and timetables. IDEA inputs consist of human, financial, information, knowledge and technical resources, among others. Support to AU is based on IDEAs areas of specialization and the comparative experience and knowledge base.

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### *The Open Society Foundations- African Union Advocacy Program*

The Open Society Foundations (OSF) works to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. To achieve its mission, OSF seeks to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights. OSF implements a range of initiatives to advance justice, education, public health, and independent media.

The AU Advocacy Programme of the Open Society Foundations plays the role of policy advisor to and an interface for the foundations and their partners on issues related to the AU. It promotes concerted African Civil society participation at the AU and works to promote domestic knowledge and understanding of AU policies and standards. The programme has been supporting a number of initiatives aimed at ensuring unified continental policies and guidance documents addressing widespread human rights and democracy concerns in line with OSF strategies and priorities, including:

**Crisis response and early warning:** OSF works with Civil Societies Organisations across Africa to bring to the attention of AU organs and institutions, potential and actual crises situations occurring in Africa.

**Democracy, Governance, Human Rights and Accountability:** We work on holding African governments accountable to the commitments they have made with regard to human rights, rule of law and democratic governance. In this regard we have been working towards the ratification and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), on the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and Platform and Human Rights Strategy for Africa (HRSA), as well as the 2012 Year of Shared Values.

**Citizenship, Statelessness, Migration, Freedom of Movement, IDPs and Refugees:** OSF raises awareness and provides expertise on these issues, towards ensuring continental standard setting to protect vulnerable Africans. OSF has also published studies in these areas and we are working with our partner the Centre for Citizen's Participation in the African Union (CCP-AU) on a study of migration in Africa.

**Civil Society and the AU:** We work to capacitate civil society organisations to better

engage with African Union organs and institutions.

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***Plan International - Liaison office with the African Union***

Plan International is an International NGO which is working with children, families, communities, government and civil society directly in 24 African countries. It can confidently claim to be the largest international NGO facilitating Child Centred Community Development in Africa. Plan International has a robust and long working relationship with the African Union and other African Regional Inter-governmental institutions. This relationship was rewarded in 2009 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Plan International and the AU. It also has an enriching working relationship with the AU African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), with an observer status with the ACERWC and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR). Plan International is strategically engaging the African Union and institutions on Child Rights, Child Protection, Education and Youth Empowerment. Plan International has just signed a hosting agreement with the Ethiopian government to set up its Pan Africa Program & AU Office which focuses on policy, advocacy and campaign on its strategic themes and drawing from its presence on the ground across Africa.

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### *Save the Children- Africa Advocacy Office*

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organization working for children to create a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Save the Children has one of the largest presence of any NGO in Africa. Its engagement with the African Union is premised on its Pan-African Advocacy Initiative supported by 13 Save the Children members. Its Pan Africa Advocacy office headquartered in Addis Ababa through a host agreement with the Ethiopian government is led by the Africa Advocacy Director and a skilled team of Save the Children advocates and experts from Africa. Save the Children's Pan-Africa Advocacy Initiative helps organisations look beyond their national border and collectively work together to promote and protect children's rights across Africa. Save the Children helps to influence African policies, mechanisms and standards and encourage governments to implement and fund policies related to Save the Children's six global priority areas: Child Rights Governance, New Born and Child Survival (Every One), Humanitarian (ACE) , Child Protection, Education and HIV and AIDS.

For the past three years, the Pan-Africa Advocacy Initiative has been working with the African Union, child focused organizations and activists. In doing so, Save the Children rallies civil society throughout Africa on key issues at key moments such as at AU Summits and the Day of the African Child; participate in AU and Pan-African task forces, network and committees to lobby for children's rights; Train activists on how to use the AU instruments to hold governments accountable; Share learning and good practice and inform organizations on how they can advocate; Lobby and support the AU and the Commission by working together with the Department of Social Affairs and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Save the Children has over time supported local civil societies in writing of alternative reports

on child rights and linking the AU and national governments. Save the Children has positioned itself to enhance its work with the departments of; Peace and Security, Human Resource, Science and technology and Political Affairs on integrating child rights into their policy documents and initiatives.

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### *The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR)*



The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) is a continental network of more than 39 national, regional and international organisations and development partners

committed and working to ensure the promotion and protection of women's human rights in Africa.

Established in 2004, the coalition has focused on enhancing the organisational capacity to advocate for the universal signing, ratification and implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Adopted in July 2003 and entered into force in November 2005, it is a critical African Policy document outlining the human right of women and girls in Africa. It became the fastest African Union instrument to enter into force due to efforts of various stakeholders including the SOAWR coalition. The Protocol is a powerful complement to other international and regional women's rights conventions, treaties and resolutions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.



Considering the reality of the negative position and condition of women in Africa, SOAWR believes the Protocol provides a strategic tool for reversing the power relations, gender inequality and impoverishment of women in Africa for the betterment of all. The coalition's strength lies in the diversity of its membership and their expertise, which they lend to the coalition through active individual and collective actions such as advocacy and lobbying at different levels all over the continent.

Those actions at the African Union level include the following:

- *To work closely with the AU's Women, Gender and Development Directorate to organise high profile lobby visits and meetings with Heads of State and Government, the AU Commission, Permanent Representatives Committee, the Pan African Parliament and Ministers to amplify voices of rural and urban women directly affected by poverty, exclusion and discrimination;*
- *To organise lobbying and consultations with relevant government officials, especially at the side-lines of AU Summits, for actions to be taken that mainstream the provisions of the Protocol in all national policy decisions, legislation, development plans, resource allocation, programs and activities*



### *The Centre for Citizens' Participation on the African Union (CCP-AU)*

The Centre for Citizens' Participation on the African Union was established in 2007 as an independent network of citizens and civil society organizations that aspires to broaden and strengthen opportunities for substantive engagement between the African Union (AU) and citizens. CCP-AU was established with the mandate to coordinate and facilitate citizens' engagement with the AU so that it can be a Union that delivers to African people and addresses their issues.

CCP-AU was established with a vision of a people driven African Union; that is accountable and accessible to its citizens. While it initially was set up to increase

Ethiopian CSOs' engagement with the AU its mandate was expanded to also facilitate African civil society's access and engagement with the African Union. Most civil society actors had limited understanding of the operations, structures and processes of the AU; civil society faced challenges in accessing officials, processes and getting accreditation to Summits and also there were challenges with practical aspects such as getting visas into Ethiopia and any other countries hosting a Summit including practical information on accommodation and other logistical support. As more CSOs across the continent got more involved, the membership, mandate and scope of the organization broadened.

CCP-AU focuses on the organs and institutions of the AU including but not limited to the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments, the Executive Council, the PRC, the Peace and Security Council, the Pan African Parliament, ECOSOCC, NEPAD and many others. Thematically, CCP-AU works with civil society organizations that focus on regional integration, gender equality and women's rights, peace and security, economic justice as well as democracy, governance and human rights.

From 2007, the CCP-AU organized Citizens' Conferences which brought together civil society actors from across the five regions of the continent. The organization also holds training workshops on understanding the AU in countries hosting AU Summits and coordinates pre-Summit dialogues with ambassadors/ members of the PRC and mobilized hundreds of national, regional and continental networks, coalitions and organizations into its membership.

A Task Force was put in place in 2009 with the mandate to drive the agenda of institutionalizing the CCP-AU. The Task Force succeeded in drafting a Constitution for the organization, registering the CCP-AU in Kenya, recruiting an Executive Director and organizing the first CCP-AU General Assembly. The Task Force thus carried the work of the CCP-AU until the February 2011 General Assembly.

As of March 2011, the CCP-AU elected a new Board comprising of African civil society leaders and a newly founded secretariat. The CCP-AU secretariat is in Nairobi, Kenya and has a presence in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Midrand, South Africa.

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*The State of the Union Coalition (SOTU)*

The State of the Union is a coalition of 10 civil society organizations working together to hold African Governments accountable for the ratification, domestication and implementation of key African Union decisions and standards. SOTU is committed to establishing a democratic culture, effective public institutions and meaningful citizens' participation in public affairs to demand the delivery of key political, social, and economic rights and standards that directly impact on the lives of African Citizens.

Since the establishment of OAU/AU, African Governments have developed and acceded to several instruments in the form of protocols, conventions, treaties and declarations. These instruments were developed to accelerate the integration of African Government policies and programmes at the national level. Collectively, these new protocols, rights based policy standards and legal instruments hold African states to higher standards of performance.

However lack of effective implementation of these key instruments continues to deny African Citizens the opportunity to enjoy the rights promised to them in these instruments. SOTU was therefore set up as a unique multi-sectoral monitoring group to respond to the frustration with the slow speed of integration of AU decisions and declarations into national policies, laws and budgets. Currently, important policy debates concerning the livelihoods of African citizens do not involve broader public participation. Concerted public pressure and united political will are needed at both continental and national levels to make the AU a reality in the lives of ordinary citizens.

SOTU tracks the performance of the African governments and promotes compliance of fourteen key policies and laws adopted by the African Union. The ten AU legal instruments and four policy frameworks have been selected in recognition of the

tremendous opportunities they offer for eradicating poverty, promoting justice and realising political, economic and social rights in Africa. Unless the gap between policy and practice is addressed, the policies developed at the level of the African Union will have no impact on the development, fundamental freedoms and human rights enjoyed by African citizens.

Combined, the ten AU legal instruments and four policy standards significantly raise the bar for most African Governments in the areas of political, social and economic rights.

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***Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)***

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), created in 1996, seeks to foster, strengthen and promote the leadership role of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution on the African continent. Its conceptual framework is the UN Resolution 1325. FAS's work in this regard is set in the context of a wider campaign to protect and promote women's human rights in Africa. For FAS, engendering the peace process is vital to achieving the lasting absence of conflict on the African continent. Efforts to resolve conflict and address its root causes will not succeed unless we empower all those who have suffered from it—including and especially women who suffer its impact disproportionately. Only if women play a full and equal part can we build the foundations for enduring peace: development, good governance, human rights and justice.

FAS has initiated and has been organizing Women's AU Pre-Summit Consultative

Meetings since 2002 to give a stronger voice to women interested in advancing African women's agenda. They represent a core strategic component of FAS overall regional programme on mainstreaming gender in the African Union (AU), organized so far in partnership with: AU Gender Directorate (AUGD), AWDF, UNECA and UNWOMEN, OSIWA, Government of Finland, GTZ, ACTIONAID, DFID, Government of the Netherlands, and UN Agencies and most recently, OI-AU.

Along the years, FAS has gained in credibility and has been fulfilling an increasing number of functions and member positions. FAS is the Vice-President of the African Union Women's Committee (AUWC) located in the Addis Ababa and CONGO (500 NGOs) located in Geneva. FAS is a member of the African Union ECOSOCC, NEPAD Gender Task Force, the AU Gender Directorate/UNDP Steering Committee of the Network on Gender, Peacebuilding and Governance, the African Women's Foresight Group, the 6<sup>th</sup> ICRC International Group of Advisers, and the CAUX Foundation, CONGO NGO-CSW, the NY Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security. In addition, FAS has the observer status with the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) since many years, as well as with IOM and OIF, and more recently the UN/AU Conference on the Great Lakes Region. Furthermore, FAS is the coordinator of the "Gender Is My Agenda Campaign". The GIMAC was launched in 2002 in Durban, South Africa, in the year that the OAU became the AU. GIMAC is a women's platform that was formed to create space for civil society organizations to formulate and promote a gender agenda for Africa. The GIMAC has contributed to the adoption and implementation of the Gender Parity Principle in the AU, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003), known as the Maputo Protocol, including the "Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa" (SDGEA) in 2004

To consolidate its presence at the international level, FAS has a permanent representative stationed in New York; USA, Addis Ababa; Ethiopia and Dakar; Senegal.

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### *The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)*

Established in February 1991, ACBF is the outcome of collaboration between African governments and the international donor community. Its mission is to build sustainable human and institutional capacity for sustainable growth and poverty reduction in Africa. ACBF's vision is for Africa to be recognized for its socio-political and economic capabilities and endowments – a continent with effective institutions and policies acquired through sustained investment in people and institutions. The Foundation aims to become a leader, major partner, and centre of excellence for capacity building in Africa.

The creation of ACBF was in response to the severity of Africa's capacity needs, and the challenge of investing in indigenous human capital and institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. ACBF was also designed to serve as a coordinating mechanism for donor support to capacity building on the Continent, through the pooling of resources and common governance and reporting system. Until January 2000, ACBF interventions focused on building and strengthening capacity for macroeconomic policy analysis and development management, its initial niche in capacity building. In 2000, this focus was expanded as a result of the integration of the Partnership for Capacity Building in Africa (PACT) initiative into the Foundation's fold. PACT aims at mobilizing greater support for capacity building in Africa. The expansion broadened the Foundation's scope to cover the following areas:

- *Support to projects and programs designed to strengthen the core public sector and its interface with the private sector and civil society in order to enhance their contributions to good governance, poverty reduction and sustainable development.*

- *Support to regional initiatives in the areas of training, policy analysis, applied policy research, trade policy development and negotiations as well as policy advocacy.*
- *Support for the emergence of institutional frameworks for country ownership and coordination of capacity-building activities as well as for participatory development.*
- *Knowledge generation and sharing for the transformation of the Foundation into a knowledge-based institution and to support the emergence of knowledge-based economies in Africa.*

ACBF and the AU signed an MOU to cement their strategic partnership in 2010. The partnership was enforced to enhance and expand the existing collaborative arrangements between the two organizations, with a view to building the capacity of African countries in the areas of economic policy analysis, policy formulation, policy implementation and the overall management of economic policy for poverty reduction on the continent. Furthermore, the AU serves as an Observer on the ACBF Board of Governors.

ACBF continues to complement the AU in capacity building, by investing in the human and institutional development required to address and develop effective policies for the continent.

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### *The African Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA)*

ANCEFA is a Pan African civil society campaign education network, with a mission to promote, enable and build the capacity of African civil society to advocate and campaign for access to free, quality and relevant education for all. ANCEFA works with national education coalitions from at least 35 countries across Africa and cooperates with like-minded regional, continental and international organizations in advancing the right to education on the continent. ANCEFA's program priorities include advocating for increased education financing for quality inclusive education, promoting national accountability, advocating for quality teaching and learning, and building the institutional capacity of its various structures including staff and board to enhance policy engagement. The network is based in Dakar, but with Program Offices in Nairobi, Lusaka, and Lome.

ANCEFA is recognised as a partner and stakeholder engaged in policy dialogue at continental and global levels through organisations such as ECOWAS, SADEC, the African Union, UNESCO, Global Campaign for Education and the Executive Committee of the Fast Track Initiative. ANCEFA's work is supported by a number of partners, notably Global Campaign for Education, Government of the Netherlands, Oxfam, Open Society Institute, Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, Action Aid International, IBIS (Danish international education NGO), Plan International, Aide et Action and Save the Children.

In July 2013, an MoU was signed between the AUC and the Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA). Recognizing the mutual interests of the Commission and ANCEFA especially those related to the right to education at national, regional and continental levels, and promoting the implementation of the plan of action for the African Union Second Education Decade for Africa (2006-2015), particularly in the thematic areas of Gender and Culture, Education Management Information System, Teacher development, Technical Vocational and Training (TEVET), Curriculum and Teaching and learning Material, Quality Management, and Early Childhood development



(ECD) as being critical for achieving the collective African Union vision ANCEFA and AU formed a partnership.

It is hoped that this partnership will enable both the AU and ANCEFA to pursue collaborative activities and projects that will assist in promoting the right to education in general and in particular, in supporting the implementation of the African Union Second Decade on Education for Africa plan of action 2006- 2015), and other continental frameworks developed by the AUC.

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***The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)  
Ecumenical Liaison office to Africa Union (AU)***

The AACC is a continental Faith-Based Ecumenical Organization with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. It spans 50 years of active service on the continent and brings together Christian Churches from 40 African Countries that have over 120 million members. Since its inception in 1963, the AACC and the AU have had an active collaboration. Having officially been established in April 1963, a month prior to the creation of the Organization of African Unity, AACC has been involved in peace mediation and peace building work in different countries on the continent, in cooperation with the different Civil Society Organizations advocating for African peoples dignity.

The AACC has continued to partner/cooperate with the Africa Union on issues relating to peace on the continent. AACC has institutionalized its relationship with the African Union Commission by establishing a Liaison Office in Addis Ababa and by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Commission.

The purpose of the Liaison Office is to facilitate the AACC/AU partnership linking African Churches to the Africa Union - focused on supporting the cause of socio-economic development, good governance, conflict prevention and resolution across the African continent. The main objectives of the Liaison Office is to enable African churches and councils to contribute to the development and sustained unity, peace and human dignity in the African Continent, and to advocate for the rights of people who are suffering to help ensure their safety and protection.

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***Disclaimer***

*It is also important to note that this does not represent an exhaustive list of non-state actors engaging the AU. There are many more non-state actors including coalitions who engage the AU in their respective line of work but are not listed here.*

# *Appendix*

## Appendix 1: AU Regions

The Member states of the five regions of the AU are as follows:

**EAST**

Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Somalia, Seychelles, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

**CENTRAL**

Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Equitorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

**NORTH**

Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Tunisia

**SOUTH**

Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**WEST**

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d' Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

## Appendix 2: Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Recognized by the AU

Both the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action for the Development of Africa and the 1991 Abuja Treaty to establish the African Economic Community proposed the creation of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as the basis for African integration, with a timetable for regional and then continental integration to follow.

There are eight RECs recognized by the African Union, each established under a separate treaty. The membership of many of the communities overlaps, and their rationalisation has been under discussion for several years, and formed the theme of the 2006 Banjul summit. At the July 2007 Accra summit the Assembly adopted a Protocol on the Relations between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities. This protocol was intended to facilitate the harmonisation of the policies and ensure compliance with the Abuja Treaty and Lagos Plan of Action time frames.

The eight RECs recognised by the AU are:

<i>Regional Economic Communities</i>	<i>Member States</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Activities/ Programmes</i>
<i>Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)* www.maghrebarabe.org</i>	<i>Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco**, Tunisia</i>	<i>Promote trade and economic cooperation</i>	<i>Infrastructure, security and food safety</i>

<i>Regional Economic Communities</i>	<i>Member States</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Activities/ Programmes</i>
<p><i>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.comesa.int">www.comesa.int</a></p>	<p><i>Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe</i></p>	<p><i>Attain trade and economic cooperation</i></p> <p><i>promote peace and security in the region</i></p>	<p><i>Trade and investment; Trade liberalisation and facilitation; Agriculture and food; Private sector support and infrastructure; Women in business; Peace and security; Multilateral negotiations and monetary harmonisation</i></p>
<p><i>Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.cen-sad.org">www.cen-sad.org</a></p>	<p><i>Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, and Tunisia</i></p>	<p><i>Strengthen peace, security and stability; achieve global economic and social development</i></p>	<p><i>Agriculture, industry, energy, trade liberalisation, transport and communication, education and security</i></p>
<p><i>East African Community (EAC)</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.eac.int">www.eac.int</a></p>	<p><i>Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda</i></p>	<p><i>Attain socio-economic cooperation, development and integration; maintain peace and Security; attain political federation</i></p>	<p><i>Trade liberalisation, natural resources management; peace and security; energy, infrastructure, environmental management, science and technology</i></p>
<p><i>Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.ceeac-eccas.org">www.ceeac-eccas.org</a></p>	<p><i>Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe</i></p>	<p><i>Achieve collective autonomy and maintain economic stability; develop capacities to maintain peace and security; attain economic and monetary integration</i></p>	<p><i>Peace and security; agriculture, energy cooperation, natural resources cooperation, tourism, trade liberalisation, industrial development, transport and communications, science and technology</i></p>

<i>Regional Economic Communities</i>	<i>Member States</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Activities/ Programmes</i>
<i>Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)</i> <a href="http://www.ecowas.int">www.ecowas.int</a>	<i>Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo</i>	<i>Attain trade and economic cooperation; promote peace and security in the region</i>	<i>Trade and investment; trade liberalisation and facilitation; agriculture and food, private sector support, infrastructure, women in business, peace and security, multilateral negotiations and monetary harmonisation</i>
<i>Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)</i> <a href="http://www.igad.org">www.igad.org</a>	<i>Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda</i>	<i>Attain regional economic cooperation and integration; promote regional security and political dialogue; promote trade and social economic development and cooperation</i>	<i>Conflict prevention; management and resolution and humanitarian affairs; infrastructure development (transport and communications); food security and environment protection</i>
<i>Southern African Development Community (SADC)</i> <a href="http://www.sadc.int">www.sadc.int</a>	<i>Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe</i>	<i>Cooperation and integration in the socio-economic arena, as well as political development</i>	<i>Food, agriculture and natural resources; trade, industry, finance and investment; infrastructure and services, social and human development</i>

\*Morocco withdrew from the OAU in 1984 when the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic was admitted as a member.

\*\* UMA currently remains inactive due to deep political and economic disagreements between countries

The RECS are important to civil society organisations because of their regional significance and because they are the 'building blocks' of the African Union. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has the most formalised parallel civil society body; known as the West Africa Civil Society Forum (WACSOF).

ECOWAS, SADC and the EAC are some of the RECs with their own courts. Ordinary citizens and civil society organisations can bring cases directly to these courts, and there have been important decisions from both the ECOWAS and SADC courts in favour of human rights principles. The East African Court of Justice has also ruled on issues relating to the composition of the East African Legislative Assembly.

## Relationships between the African Union and the RECs

As mentioned before, the July 2007 Accra summit had the AU Assembly adopting a Protocol on the Relations between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities. The objective of the protocol was to formalize, consolidate and promote closer co-operation among the RECs and between them and the Union through the coordination and harmonization of their policies, measures, programmes and activities in all fields and sectors. The protocol also aimed at implementing the Sirte Declaration with regard to the acceleration of integration process.

In 2008, the AU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the RECs and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) on the Cooperation in the Area of Peace and Security between the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and the Coordination Mechanisms of the Regional Standby Brigades of Eastern Africa and Northern Africa. The MoU sought to contribute to the full operationalization and effective functioning of the African Peace and Security architecture. It also aimed at fostering a closer partnership between the AU, the RECs and RMs in the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability on the continent, as well as to enhance coordination between their activities.



To achieve its objectives, the AU, RECs and RMs agreed to cooperate in all areas relevant for the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa including: the operationalization and functioning of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA); the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts; humanitarian action and disaster response; post-conflict reconstruction and development; arms control and disarmament; counter-terrorism and the prevention and combating of trans-national organized crime and any other areas of shared priorities and common interest.

In order to achieve these goals the AU established liaison offices to AU for each of the RECs and RMs.

## Regional Economic Community Liaison Offices to the African Union

### *COMESA Liaison Office to the African Union*

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is one the building blocks of the African Economic Community, established by the Abuja Treaty signed in 1991, and the African Union created by the AU Constitutive Act of 2000.

COMESA was established in 1994 to succeed the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) that had been in existence since 1981. The Member States of COMESA are the following: Burundi, Comoros, DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Uganda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

COMESA is implementing a medium-term strategic plan (2011-2015) focusing on six strategic priorities: (1) removing barriers to factor mobility; (2) building capacity for global competitiveness; (3) addressing supply side constraints related to infrastructures; (4) peace and security; (5) cross-cutting issues including gender, social affairs, climate change, human capital, knowledge based society; and (6) institutional development.

The establishment of the COMESA Liaison Office to the African Union is governed by three legal frameworks:

1. *The Protocol on relations between AU and Regional Economic Blocks (RECs) signed on 27th January 2008 to facilitate the implementation of the measures aiming to formalize, consolidate and promote cooperation among the RECs and between them and AU.*
2. *The Protocol relating to the establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council related to the need to ensure close harmonization and coordination with regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution adopted by the AU Assembly in July 2002;*
3. *The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the area of peace and security between the AU, the RECs and coordinating mechanisms of the regional standby brigades of Eastern Africa and Northern Africa signed in 2008.*

One of the principles articulated in Article IV of the MOU is the adherence to the principle of subsidiarity, complementarity and comparative advantage in order to optimize the partnership between the African Union, the RECs and the coordinating mechanisms in the promotion of peace and security. The establishment of Liaison Offices to the African Union is one of the key components of the African Union Peace and Security Architecture.

The role of the COMESA Liaison Office to African Union is primarily to enhance communication and coordination between AU and COMESA, improve confidence building, promote joint initiatives, increase participation in each other's meetings, promote horizontal synergy among RECs and other regional mechanisms through exchange of best practices and joint activities, facilitate the application of subsidiarity for vertical coherence.

The Liaison Office promotes also the integration of regional initiatives into continental frameworks, the transposition and domestication of continental decisions at regional level as well as the operationalization of continental architecture such as African Peace and Security Architecture, the African Governance Architecture, the continental

agenda in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, climate change, social development, industrial development, human capital development, trade, monetary and economic integration.

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*EAC Liaison Office to the African Union*

The East African Community is the regional intergovernmental organisation of the Republics of Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The treaty for the establishment of the East African Community was signed on 30 November, 1999 and entered into force on 7 July, 2000.

The EAC aims at widening and deepening cooperation among partner states in political, economic, social and other fields for their mutual benefit. It promotes the strengthening of peace, security and stability. It aims at achieving global economic and social development.

The EAC Liaison Office to the African Union was established to promote and improve relations between the AU and EAC, particularly in the area of peace and security. In the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and RMs in January 2008, the parties committed themselves to facilitate the establishment of the Liaison Offices.

The establishment of the EAC Liaison Office to the African Union is governed by three legal frameworks:

1. *The Protocol on relations between AU and Regional Economic Blocks (RECs)*

*signed on 27th January 2008 to facilitate the implementation of the measures aiming to formalize, consolidate and promote cooperation among the RECs and between them and AU.*

- 2. The Protocol relating to the establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council related to the need to ensure close harmonization and coordination with regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution adopted by the AU Assembly in July 2002;*
- 3. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the area of peace and security between the AU, the RECs and coordinating mechanisms of the regional standby brigades of Eastern Africa and Northern Africa signed in 2008.*

The EAC Liaison Office to the African Union contributes to the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as well as strengthens cooperation and closely coordinates AU's and EAC's activities towards shared goals of ridding the region of the scourge of conflicts and laying the foundation for sustainable peace, security and stability. The other programmes EAC focuses on include trade liberalisation, natural resources management within the SADC region, energy, infrastructure development and technological advancement.

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***ECCAS Liaison Office to the African Union***

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) was formed in October 1983 in Libreville. At its creation, ECCAS' objective was to promote and reinforce a harmonious cooperation and an autonomous and equilibrated development in the

framework of its economic and social activities.

Unfortunately, ECCAS experienced a cessation of activities from 1992-1998 due to internal crises experienced by its member states. In 1998 the Heads of State and Government decided to re-launch ECCAS and include the promotion peace, security and stability within the region to the agenda.

ECCAS' aim is to realize collective autonomy improve the standards of living of its population, upgrade and maintain economic stability, reinforce pacific relationships among member states and to contribute to overall progress of the entire African continent. ECCAS is comprised of 10 member States: The Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, The Republic of Cameroon, The Central African Republic, The Republic of Congo, The Democratic Republic of Congo, The Republic of Gabon, the Republic of Gabon, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the Republic of Chad.

The ECCAS liaison office to the African Union was established in 2008. The ECCAS liaison office with the African Union was established in conformity to the underlined protocols:

1. *The Protocol on relations between AU and Regional Economic Blocks (RECs) signed on 27th January 2008 to facilitate the implementation of the measures aiming to formalize, consolidate and promote cooperation among the RECs and between them and AU. This would be through coordination and harmonization of their policies, measures, programmes and activities in all fields and sectors that can contribute to the realization of the objectives of AU Constitutive Act (2000) and the treaty establishing the African Economic Community (1991);*
2. *The Protocol relating to the establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council related to the need to ensure close harmonization and coordination with regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution adopted by the AU Assembly in July 2002;*
3. *The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the area of peace and security between the AU, the RECs and coordinating mechanisms of the regional standby brigades of Eastern Africa and Northern Africa*

*signed in 2008 in which Article 20(1) stipulates, "Without prejudice to the primary role of the Union in the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa, the RECs and, where appropriate, the Coordinating Mechanisms shall be encouraged to anticipate and prevent conflicts within and among their Member States and, where conflicts do occur, to undertake peace-making and peace-building efforts to resolve them, including the deployment of peace support missions" and Article 20(3) stipulates that, "The RECs managing regional brigades within the framework of the African Standby Force and the Coordinating Mechanisms, shall, upon decision by Council, make available their assets and capabilities, including planning, to the other RECs and Coordinating Mechanisms or the Union, in order to facilitate the deployment of peace support operations outside their areas of jurisdiction."*

The principle objective of the ECCAS Liaison Office to the AU is to improve the information flow between ECCAS and the AU and vice versa as well as to ensure the representation and the visibility of ECCAS within the AU. ECCAS analyzes and evaluates information and confers the relevant information to ECCAS. The liaison office has extended its mandate from focusing most of its work with the Departments of Peace and Security, Economic Affairs and Political Affairs to working with all departments at the AU.

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***ECOWAS Liaison Office to the African Union***

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was created on 28 May, 1975 through the Treaty of Lagos. The headquarters of ECOWAS is located in Abuja, Lagos. ECOWAS is comprised of 15 West African member states, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali,

Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Its objective is to attain trade and economic cooperation and to promote peace and security in the region. ECOWAS promotes trade and investment, trade liberalisation and facilitation, agriculture and food

The establishment of the ECOWAS Liaison Office to the African Union is governed by three legal frameworks:

1. *The Protocol on relations between AU and Regional Economic Blocks (RECs) signed on 27th January 2008 to facilitate the implementation of the measures aiming to formalize, consolidate and promote cooperation among the RECs and between them and AU. This would be through coordination and harmonization of their policies, measures, programmes and activities in all fields and sectors that can contribute to the realization of the objectives of AU Constitutive Act (2000) and the treaty establishing the African Economic Community (1991);*
2. *The Protocol relating to the establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council related to the need to ensure close harmonization and coordination with regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution adopted by the AU Assembly in July 2002;*
3. *The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the area of peace and security between the AU, the RECs and coordinating mechanisms of the regional standby brigades of Eastern Africa and Northern Africa signed in 2008 in which Article 20(1) stipulates, "Without prejudice to the primary role of the Union in the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa, the RECs and, where appropriate, the Coordinating Mechanisms shall be encouraged to anticipate and prevent conflicts within and among their Member States and, where conflicts do occur, to undertake peace-making and peace-building efforts to resolve them, including the deployment of peace support missions" and Article 20(3) which stipulates that, "The RECs managing regional brigades within the framework of the African Standby Force and the Coordinating Mechanisms, shall, upon decision by Council, make available their assets and capabilities, including planning, to the other RECs and Coordinating Mechanisms or the Union, in order to facilitate the deployment of peace support operations outside their areas of jurisdiction."*

The ECOWAS Liaison Office to the African Union contributes to the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as well as strengthens cooperation and closely coordinates AU's and ECOWAS's activities towards shared goals of ridding the region of the scourge of conflicts and laying the foundation for sustainable peace, security and stability. Its key priorities include areas relevant for the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa including: the operationalization and functioning of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA); the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts; humanitarian action and disaster response; post-conflict reconstruction and development; arms control and disarmament; counter-terrorism and the prevention and combating of trans-national organized crime.

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***SADC Liaison Office to African Union***

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is an inter-governmental organization made up of 15 member states, headquartered in Garborone, Botswana. SADC was transformed into a development community on 17 August, 1992 in Windhoek, Namibia when the Declaration and Treaty was signed at the Summit of Heads of State and Government thereby giving the organization a legal character. In 2001, the 1992 SADC treaty was amended to redesign the structures, policies and procedures of SADC.

Its objective is to promote socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation amongst all its member states.

SADC has 15 member states, namely: Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



The establishment of the SADC Liaison Office to the African Union is governed by three legal frameworks:

1. *The Protocol on relations between AU and Regional Economic Blocks (RECs) signed on 27th January 2008 to facilitate the implementation of the measures aiming to formalize, consolidate and promote cooperation among the RECs and between them and AU.*
2. *The Protocol relating to the establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council related to the need to ensure close harmonization and coordination with regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution adopted by the AU Assembly in July 2002;*
3. *The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the area of peace and security between the AU, the RECs and coordinating mechanisms of the regional standby brigades of Eastern Africa and Northern Africa signed in 2008.*

The role of the SADC Liaison Office to African Union is mainly to reinforce communication and coordination between AU and SADC, improve confidence building, promote joint initiatives, increase participation in each other's meetings, promote harmonization among RECs and other regional mechanisms through exchange of best practices and joint activities, facilitate the application of subsidiarity for vertical coherence. The liaison office to the AU coordinates and monitors all areas of cooperation between SADC and the AU. These areas include but are not limited to arms control, conflict management and resolution, integration and the harmonization of economic development within the SADC region.

The Liaison Office promotes also the integration of regional initiatives into continental frameworks, the transposition and domestication of continental decisions at regional level as well as the operationalization of continental architecture such as African Union Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), the African Governance Architecture (AGA), the continental agenda in the areas of infrastructure development, harmonization of trade policies, non-tariff barriers to facilitate intra-african trade, regional integration, social development, industrial development, human capital development, trade,

monetary and economic integration.

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## *Regional Mechanisms*

### *North Africa Regional Capability (NARC)*

The idea for the North Africa Regional Capability (NARC) was formed in 2007 and by 2008 all of its member states had signed an MoU. On 28 May 2010, NARC signed the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the area of peace and security between the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Standby Brigades of Eastern Africa and Northern Africa at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa.

The Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) cooperating with Egypt were initially designated to act as one of the regional organization which would create and support the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and its components. Nevertheless, intra-regional differences prevented progress on the project. NARC was created to take on the role of the regional mechanism for Northern Africa.

With its Headquarters based in Tripoli, Libya; NARC consists of 5 member states, namely: Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt and the Republic of Sahara. Mauritania remains an observer.

### *The establishment of NARC is governed by:*

1. *The Protocol relating to the establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council*

*related to the need to ensure close harmonization and coordination with regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution adopted by the AU Assembly in July 2002 in which Article 16(8) stipulates that, "In order to strengthen coordination and cooperation, the Commission shall establish liaison offices to the Regional Mechanisms. The Regional Mechanisms shall be encouraged to establish liaison offices to the Commission."*

2. *The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the area of peace and security between the AU, the RECs and coordinating mechanisms of the regional standby brigades of Eastern Africa and Northern Africa signed in 2008 in which Article 20(1) stipulates, "Without prejudice to the primary role of the Union in the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa, the RECs and, where appropriate, the Coordinating Mechanisms shall be encouraged to anticipate and prevent conflicts within and among their Member States and, where conflicts do occur, to undertake peace-making and peace-building efforts to resolve them, including the deployment of peace support missions" and Article 20(3) stipulates that, "The RECs managing regional brigades within the framework of the African Standby Force and the Coordinating Mechanisms, shall, upon decision by Council, make available their assets and capabilities, including planning, to the other RECs and Coordinating Mechanisms or the Union, in order to facilitate the deployment of peace support operations outside their areas of jurisdiction."*

Based on these two frameworks; the activities and programs of the NARC focus mainly on all areas relevant for the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa including: the operationalization and functioning of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA); the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts; humanitarian action and disaster response; post-conflict reconstruction and development; arms control and disarmament; counter-terrorism and the prevention and combating of trans-national organized crime; border management; capacity building, training and knowledge sharing; resource mobilization and in many other areas of shared priorities and common interest as may be agreed. In the area of operationalization of APSA, NARC collaborates with the African Union and the other REC offices to ensure the full and effective functioning of the African Standby Force (ASF), Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the Military Staff Committee.

Based on the 2011-2015 roadmap that was implemented by all the RECs and RMs, the ASF remains a current priority of NARC as they intend to have their brigade and other pledged capabilities prepared and trained by 2015.

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***Eastern Africa Standby Force Mechanism (EASFCOM) Liaison Office to the AU***

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) is one of the five regional components of the African Standby Force established by the African Union for the purpose of containing the scourge of conflicts and enhancing peace and security in the continent.

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*ECOWAS Standby force in Mali*

## *Appendix 3: Foreign Offices to the African Union*

### *1. United Nations Liaison Office to the African Union (UNOAU)<sup>7</sup>*

The strong relationship between the United Nations and the African Union dates back to the Organization of African Unity period. In 2006, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations Liaison Office with the OAU. UNOAU in Addis Ababa serves as the official link between the UN and the African Union and other African sub-regional organizations. The United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the African Union began operating under the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union in 2006. The UN support at the African Union is organized around various themes, with advances made in peace, security and capacity-building.

Within the framework of engaging the African Union, the UNOAU boosts the African Union's capacity to provide electoral assistance to AU member states. Support is directed at strengthening the Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit of the African Union. This includes assistance for the establishment of a database of African electoral management bodies, experienced election observers and experts, and non-governmental organizations who work on elections. UNOAU also has regular "desk to desk" meetings with the African Union on the prevention and management of conflicts since 2008. These meetings bring together UN and AU officials for information sharing, coordination and the strengthening of partners.

In addition, the liaison office provides assistance at strategic, institutional and operational levels. For instance, the UN assisted the AU in the development of an African Union mediation strategy, in making operation the Panel of the Wise and in developing a tailored training on AU mediation support. UNOAU also provides assistance to the Secretariat of the AU Peace and Security Council by advising the AU

on the establishment of a sanctions committee, for building institutional memory and for the work of the AU Gender Directorate in the areas of peace and security. UN and AU cooperation has intensified over the past few years in their collaborative efforts in conflict mediation and peacekeeping. UN and AU peacemakers patrol side by side in Darfur. UN and AU offices cooperate together towards resolving the crisis in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and in tandem, provide support in the response to political crises in countries like Kenya, the Comoros, Mauritania, Guinea, Niger and Madagascar.

## 2. European Union Delegation to the African Union<sup>8</sup>

Both African and Europe are bound together by history, culture, geography and mutual values: respect for human rights, equality, solidarity, democracy. The Delegation of the European Union to the African Union started two years before the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty. The EU delegation to the AU was established as an integrated function of EU Delegation comprising European Commission and the European Council components. The EU delegation the AU started to operate mid-January 2008 with the arrival of its Head of Delegation Koen Vervaeke in Addis Ababa.

Within the framework of the engaging the AU, the EU delegation to the AU was established to help coordinate EU policy and action relating to the AU as well as to maintain close contact with the AU Commission- its other institutions and the representative offices of the African sub-regional organisations and AU countries. In addition, the EU delegation helps, advises and supports the AU on request in all the areas outlined in the Africa-EU strategy

The close EU-AU cooperation on peace and security has become a driving force for the development of a fully-fledged Africa- EU strategic partnership, leading into a strong Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) in 2007, a First Action Plan and furthermore, a strong Partnership on Peace and Security. With this new strategic framework, the EU went beyond development aid and recognized the African Union, and Africa as a

whole, as a strategic political partner. The new joint Africa-EU partnership enables comprehensive dialogue between both continents on issues of democratic governance and human rights, peace and security, gender equality, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), energy, climate change, migration, employment etc. The AU Commission is the main executive arm of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, under the political guidance of the AU member states and the AU Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma.

Since its foundation in 2002, the African Union has made huge leaps towards preventing, managing and resolving conflicts in Africa. This is evidenced through the establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the AU lead Peace Support Operations (PSOs). The key APSA elements are the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the Panel of the Wise (PoW), the African Standby forces (ASF), the African Peace Fund and the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS). The construction of APSA has progressed steadily since 2004. The AU missions in Sudan (AMIS), AMISOM in Somalia and the ECCAS mission in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX) highlight the crucial role that the AU and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) play in securing peace on the continent.

High-level political dialogue continues between the AU and EU with great steps in gathering the EU political and Security Committee and the AU Peace and Security Committee for regular dialogue on issues of common interest. Through this partnership, the EU delegation to the African Union envisions an increased political dialogue on peace and security matters, full operationalization of the APSA and predictable funding enabling APSA's building blocks; the AU and Regional Economic Mechanisms (RECs and RMs), to plan and execute PSOs in Africa. In 2004, the African Peace Facility (APF) was established in response to a request by African leaders. The APF contributes to African peace and security through targeted support at the continental and regional levels in all areas of conflict management. Through the APF, the EU has given significant support to the African Peace and Security agenda.

### 3. United States Mission to the African Union (USAU)<sup>9</sup>

The United States of America mission was formally opened in 2006. The goal of the establishment of the United States Mission to the was to create a partnership with the African Union in ways that strengthen democratic institutions, promote peace and stability, support sustainable economic development through increased trade and investment, and improve the lives and health of all Africans.

To fulfil these goals, USAU uses a program focused approach on various issues. USAU envisions a powerful AU Political Affairs Department (PAD) that promotes democratic development, rule of law, respect for human rights, strong civil societies with durable solutions for humanitarian crises. The USAU supports the African Union's Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit (DEAU) through financial and technical assistance for elections missions.

In addition, USAU works with the AU peace and Security Commission and the African Permanent Representatives to support the AU in various ways. These include supporting conflict mitigation through mediation and peacekeeping, a Continental Early Warning system that detects threats to peace and security on the continent before they erupt called the African Standby Force (ASF). UNLO has also supported the AU in establishing a strong coordination and communications plan for maritime safety and security.

The USAU mission seeks to increase cultural understanding and facilitate diplomatic channels between the U.S. government and member states of the AU.

On January 30, 2013 the AUC Chairperson Dr. Nkozasana Dlamini-Zuma, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to further cement the US-AU partnership. Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Johnnie Carson, present at the AU signing ceremony, presented Chairperson's Dlamini-Zuma's signed copy of the MOU to the U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, who signed the MOU as one of her last acts in the office on February 1, 2013, ushering a new phase of the relationship between the United States government and the African Union. The USAU mission seeks to achieve common policy objectives in the years ahead.

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9 <http://www.usau.usmission.gov/>



## Appendix 4: African Union Scientific and Technical Offices

### 1. The Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (STRC), Lagos, Nigeria

#### *Vision*

The vision of the STRC is to coordinate and promote scientific and technological research and findings, and to serve as a clearing house for all scientific and technical activities of the continent through a sharpening of the overall national and regional development plans, strategies and policies in order to ensure full explanation of national and natural resources for a durable long-term growth and development.

#### *Mandate*

The specific mandate of the STRC include:

- *Supervision of the sub-regional offices and projects;*
- *Implementation of ascribed priority programmes of the AU in science and technology for development;*
- *Organisation of training courses, seminars, symposia, workshops and technical meetings as approaches to implementing its coordination mandate;*
- *Publication and distribution of specialized scientific books and documents of original value to Africa; and*
- *Servicing the various inter-African Committees of Experts including the Scientific council for Africa*

#### *Core Functions:*

- *To coordinate programmes in applied research especially through the inter-*

*African committees of experts;*

- *To identify funding for research projects of interest and training;*
- *To promote best practices emanating from scientific and technological development applications;*
- *To exchange and disseminate information and research documentation in the field of scientific and technological development;*
- *To organize training programmes and exchanges of researchers and specialists;*
- *To promote research partnerships and networks;*
- *To promote research in all relevant fields;*
- *To promote support to member states in the organisation of pilot projects;*
- *To develop research data for dissemination;*
- *To coordinate the initiation, preparation and the implementation of the programmes and activities of the scientific and technical offices.*

## 2. The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR); Nairobi, Kenya

### *Vision*

The vision of the emerging IBAR is to be the vehicle for the AU to develop an appropriate and independent expertise in the area of animal health and production for the alleviation of poverty of those involved in livestock farming and food security in member states.

### *Mandate*

The mandate of the IBAR is to provide integrated advisory service and capacity building that will enable member states of the AU to sustainably improve their animal resources, enhance the nutrition and income of their people and alleviate rural poverty.

### Core Functions

- *To coordinate the activities of the AU member states in the area of animal health and production;*
- *To collect, collate and disseminate information in all aspects of animal health and production among member states;*
- *To initiate and implement projects in the field of animal health and production;*
- *To collaborate and cooperate with appropriate member states, intergovernmental, regional and international organizations in matters of animal health and production;*
- *To harmonize all international legislative aspects of livestock development;*
- *To develop links with reputable universities and regional research institutions;*
- *To promote policies on poverty alleviation, emergency and relief interventions, and*
- *To promote trade and establish markets in livestock and livestock products.*

### 3. Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD) Programme; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

#### Mission

The vision of SAFGRAD is to accelerate growth of agriculture by promoting the application of more productive technologies friendly to semi-arid environment.

#### Mandate

The mandate of SAFGRAD is “To lead, coordinate and facilitate the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes that would build resilience of rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa through strengthening of institutional capacities aimed at advancing agricultural research, technology transfer and adoption; enhancement of value chains;

management of natural resources; and mitigation and adaptation to climate change and combating desertification as well as other related areas”.

### **Core Functions:**

- *Promotion of food security programme through the development projects;*
- *Eradication of poverty by developing programmes that enhance technical transfer and commercialisation to generate employment and income;*
- *Post-harvest processing to transfer farm produce into value-added products;*
- *Planning and implementing programmes that enhance production and development support services to increase production;*
- *The on-farm resource management to facilitate the diffusion of successful production and farm management technology packages that contribute to the sustainable use of resources (nutrient cycling), integration of cereals/legumes in livestock production systems;*
- *Technology transfer and commercialisation to facilitate the diffusion of technologies favouring generation of income, creation of employment and food security at the household level among participating countries. The program puts emphasis on the strengthening of women economic capacity and technology commercialisation;*
- *Dissemination to farmers and other end-users of technologies to facilitate the development of micro- enterprises and the generation of employment and income;*
- *Development of linkages and partnership between sources of technologies (NARS, IARCs, Universities) and users of technologies (farmers' association, NGOs);*
- *Documentation of success stories, lessons learned and experiences.*

#### 4. Inter- African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC); Yaoundé, Cameroon

##### *Vision*

The vision of a restructured IAPSC in the new African Union is for the office to be the resource and market information centre for Phytosanitary and plant protection activities in Africa. In the quest for food sustainability, it is important for member states to be informed about quarantine pests, which are usually very devastating when introduced into other countries. A revitalised IAPSC will be better able to protect the continent from pest incursions and contribute towards the goal of providing the African people with sufficient food and feed of high quality.

##### *Mandate*

The IAPSC is charged with the responsibility of:

- *Preventing the introduction of crop pests and diseases into any part of Africa;*
- *Controlling and/or eradicating those pests and diseases already in existence in the region;*
- *Discouraging and stopping the uncontrolled commercialisation and dissemination of agro pharmaceuticals and chemicals into and within Africa, and*
- *Preserving human health that could be exposed to toxic chemical residues used in treating plants.*

In addition, the IAPSC should also guide member states on the implications of applying biotechnology for plant protection purposes as well as their implication for food safety. The IAPSC should also actively participate in the capacity of African countries to comply with the requirements of the WTO-SPS Agreement.

### Core Functions:

The core functions include:

- *Development and management of information to serve African and International Plant Protection Organisations (IPPOs);*
- *Harmonisation of Phytosanitary regulations in Africa;*
- *Development of regional strategies against the introduction and spread of plant pests (insects, plant pathogens, weeds, etc);*
- *Promotion of safe and sustainable plant protection techniques, and*
- *Training of various cadres of NPPO personnel in Pest Risk Analysis (PRA), Phytosanitary inspection and treatment, field inspection and certification, laboratory diagnoses, pest surveillance and monitoring, etc.*

## 5. The Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition (CELHTO); Niamey, Niger

### Mandate

The mission assigned to the Niamey Office's mandate is to go well beyond the collection of oral traditions and the promotion of African languages to include all aspects of African cultures in their richness, diversity and convergences.

### Core Functions:

- *To undertake sociological studies of African communities;*
- *To ensure the development of practical texts in African languages;*
- *To produce, protect and conserve recorded, written, photographed or audio-visual reference documents on oral tradition;*
- *To ensure the systematic distribution of existing documents;*

## 6. The African Academy of Languages (ACALAN)

The Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted the Statutes of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) during their Khartoum, Sudan Summit of 2006. ACALAN is affiliated to the Department of Social Affairs of the African Union Commission and is headquartered in Bamako, Mali.

### Mission

The mission of ACALAN is to foster Africa's integration and development through the development and promotion of the use of African languages in all domains of life in Africa.

### Core Values

- *Respect for the cultural values of Africa, especially African languages on behalf of the African;*
- *Integration of the African continent for an endogenous development; linguistic and cultural diversity as a factor of Africa's integration and the promotion of African values including an encouragement of mutuality and solidarity amongst Africans.*

### Objectives

- *To empower African languages in general and vehicular cross-border languages in particular, in partnership with the languages inherited from colonization;*
- *To promote the convivial and functional multilingualism at every level, especially in the education sector;*
- *To ensure the development and promotion of African languages as factors of African integration and development, of respect for values and mutual understanding and peace.*

## Appendix 5: Leaders of the OAU/AU

Secretaries-general of the Organisation of the African Unity			
Name	Beginning of Term	End of Term	Country
Kifle Wodajo (acting)	25 May 1963	21 July 1964	Ethiopia
Diallo Telli	21 July 1964	15 June 1972	Guinea
Nzo Ekganki	15 June 1972	16 June 1974	Cameroon
William Eteki	16 June 1974	21 July 1978	Cameroon
Edem Kodjo	21 July 1978	12 June 1983	Togo
Peter Onu (acting)	12 June 1983	20 July 1985	Nigeria
Ide Oumarou	20 July 1985	19 September 1989	Niger
Salim Ahmed Salim	19 September 1989	17 September 2001	Tanzania
Amara Essy	17 September 2001	9 July 2002	Cote d'Ivoire
Chairpersons of the African Union			
Amara Essy (interim)	9 July 2002	16 September 2003	Cote d'Ivoire
Alpha Oumar Konaré	16 September 2003	28 April 2008	Mali
Jean Ping	28 April 2008	15 October 2012	Gabon
Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma**	15 October 2012	Incumbent	South Africa



\*\* In 2012 Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma succeeded to Mr. Jean Ping as Chairperson of the African Union; making her the first woman to serve as Chairperson of the African Union Commission in the history of the OAU/AU



## Appendix 6: Legal Instruments

1. The Constitutive Act of the African Union Commission (2000): Constitutive Act of the AU: [http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/AboutAu/Constitutive\\_Act\\_en.htm](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/AboutAu/Constitutive_Act_en.htm)
2. The Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (2003) of the African Union: [http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/organs/psc/Protocol\\_peace%20and%20security.pdf](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/organs/psc/Protocol_peace%20and%20security.pdf)
3. Protocol on the Relations Between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities: <http://www.afrimap.org/english/images/treaty/AU-RECs-Protocol.pdf>
4. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Area of Peace and Security Between the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and the Coordinating Mechanisms of the Regional Standby Brigades of Eastern Africa and Northern Africa: <http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/mou-au-rec-eng.pdf>
5. The African Charter on Human and People's Rights (1981): <http://www.humanrights.se/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/African-Charter-on-Human-and-Peoples-Rights.pdf>
6. OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa: <http://www.eisa.org.za/PDF/oaudec.pdf>
7. The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (1991): [http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/Text/AEC\\_Treaty\\_1991.pdf](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/Text/AEC_Treaty_1991.pdf)
8. Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (1993): <http://www.comm.ecowas.int/sec/?id=ap101299&lang=en>
9. Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa: [http://www.achpr.org/files/instruments/women-protocol/achpr\\_instr\\_proto\\_women\\_eng.pdf](http://www.achpr.org/files/instruments/women-protocol/achpr_instr_proto_women_eng.pdf)
10. Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality (2004): <http://www.afrimap.org/>

*english/images/treaty/AU\_GenderSolemnDec04.pdf*

11. *Solemn Declaration on a Common African Defence and Security Policy:*  
*<http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/declaration-cadsp-en.pdf>*
12. *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation (2002):* *[http://www.africa-union.org/Special\\_Programs/CSSDCA/cssdca-memorandumofunderstanding.pdf](http://www.africa-union.org/Special_Programs/CSSDCA/cssdca-memorandumofunderstanding.pdf)*
13. *Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance/ The New Partnership for Africa's Development:* *[http://www.eisa.org.za/aprm/pdf/APRM\\_Declaration\\_Governance.pdf](http://www.eisa.org.za/aprm/pdf/APRM_Declaration_Governance.pdf)*
14. *The African Common Position on Africa's External Debt Crisis (1987):* *<http://archive.lib.msu.edu/DMC/African%20Journals/pdfs/Journal%20of%20Political%20Economy/ajpev2n5/ajpe002005007.pdf>*
15. *Statutes of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union:*  
*<http://www.africa-union.org/ECOSOC/STATUTES-En.pdf>*
16. *Revised Draft Rules of Procedure of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (2005):* *<http://www.africa-union.org/ECOSOC/RULES%20OF%20PROCEDURE.pdf>*
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