African Union Law

Lecture note on Historical Background of Pan-Africanism & the Roots of the OAU

Historical Background of the African Union

Definition of Pan-Africanism

What is Pan-Africanism?

Indeed, the term *Pan-Africanism* has no single and uniform definition. Instead it has many and different uses; hence its meaning is often contested. Some scholars however, use the term *Pan-Africanism* literally to connotes all-Africa (n) movement that embraces the ideology of liberation for continental and Diaspora Africans in the political, economic and cultural spheres.

Still other scholars defines Pan-Africanism as "the acceptance of a oneness of all people of African descent and the commitment to the betterment of all people of African descent"

Nevertheless, most scholars defined the idea Pan-Africanism as an ideological struggle for unity and empowerment (economic, political, social and cultural) of African peoples against the imperialist oppression and exploitation. Moreover, it is an idea seeks to promote the unity of peoples of African descent in the entire world by seeking to unite Africans' in the African continent with the African Diasporas in other continents.

Originally the ideological roots of Pan-Africanism are not in Africa but in the Caribbean and the United States in 18th century. During this time, the idea of Pan Africanism has different manifestations. These are:

- repatriation of African Diasporas/Black to their home continent Africa.
- struggle for racial equality; and challenge the then dominant white supremacists

- struggle against European imperialism

In addition to the above, the Haitian Revolution and the resounding victory of Ethiopia over Italy at the battle of Adwa in 1896 were another great historical event that raised the political consciousness and confidence of Africans in the continent and the Diaspora and added fuel to Pan-Africanism.

Institutionalization of Pan-Africanism

The idea of Pan-Africanism has so far undergone three phases of institutionalization.

- The first phase institutionalization of Pan-Africanism is the series of Pan-African Conference. The first pan-African conference was held in London, on July 23-25 1900. The conference has taken place with the support and cooperation of the African Association in London that included West Indians, West Africans, South Africans, and some White supporters.

Soon after the first Pan-African Conference, an to disseminate Pan-African ideas, many books, magazines and journals were founded both in the continent of Africa and out side Africa (Europe and USA)

From that time on wards, up to seven Pan-African congresses were held in Europe and Africa with similar objectives of creating African solidarity.

Eventually, the legacy of various Pan-African Conferences resulted in the formation of the Pan-African Federation in Manchester in 1944 by the International Service Bureau. The Federation had the following objectives:

- To promote the well-being and unity of African peoples and peoples of African descent throughout the world;
- To demand the self-determination and independence of African peoples and other subject races from the domination of powers proclaiming sovereignty and trusteeship over them;
- To secure equality of rights for African peoples and the total abolition of all forms of racial discrimination.

The Federation created a special Secretariat and included the following famous Pan-Africanists:

- ✓ Dr. Peter Millard of British Guiana as Chairman;
- ✓ R. T. Mekonnen of Ethiopia, treasurer;
- ✓ George Padmore of Trinidad and Kwame Nkrumah of the Gold Coast, joint secretaries;
- ✓ Peter Abrahams of South Africa, publicity secretary and
- ✓ Jomo Kenyatta, assistant secretary.

The first congress of the Federation in Manchester attracted 200 delegates from all over the world, and for the first time it bridged Pan-Africanism and the liberation struggle that has been held in Africa.

It was also for the first time that a majority of continental Africans attended the Congress. The Manchester Congress was a radical departure from Pan-Africa ideals to a concerted action for the total liberation of African colonies.

Out of this congress also evolved the West Africa National Congress in August 1946 with Kwame Nkrumah as its outspoken leader.

A decade later, i.e. in March 1957 Ghana became independent and Nkrumah called the first Pan-African Conference of independent African countries (Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Liberia, and Ghana) in Accra from 15 to 22 April 1958. The first Conference of independent African countries agreed to launch Pan-Africanism in Africa; to promote economic cooperation; to appreciate one another's culture.

Above all, they agreed on the total independence of the continent and declared war on apartheid. They have also agreed to meet every two years, and decided the second conference, thus, to be held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1960.

The 1960 All African Conference, thus, gave way to disagreement and division among Africans and by April 1961they formed two seemingly antagonistic groups, namely the Casablanca and Brazzaville.

- **The Notion of the Casablanca Group**

The Casablanca group was principally led by Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Sekou Toure of Guinea, and Madibo Keita of Mali and comprised of Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Algeria (represented by the Provisional Government), Libya, and Egypt. The very notion of this group is the immediate union of the continent Africa.

The group has three basic and major points:

- Political integration must come before economic integration
- Political unity could only be achieved if it covered the whole continent
- The unification process must proceed immediately

- Political integration must come before economic integration
- European powers -- especially France -- continued to pursue neo-colonial policies that encouraged dependence
- Europe would still dominate parts of Africa; and some African countries might pursue their interests by aligning with European powers, against other African countries
- Unity must extend to all of African. Incomplete unification would give neo-colonial powers an opportunity to divide and rule. Without unity, it would also be difficult to share resources across the continent. And this would in turn lead to politically and economically weak states, that could not exercise autonomy or self-determination. Therefore, Unity must proceed immediately. In this regard Nkrumah stated that: “[T]here is no time to waste, for we must unite now or perish, since no African state is large or powerful enough” to resist neo-colonial domination

The advantages of this approach

- ✓ It provides a clear program for political independence and equality
- ✓ would likely reduce internal economic barriers
- ✓ It also might reduce internal pressure on new states, especially from minority groups

The limitations of this approach

- ✓ It does not take into account the need for foreign (non-African) capital and technology
- ✓ It does not recognize the vast cultural differences between states
- ✓ It is extremely difficult politically, and requires states to sacrifice new independence

The Brazzaville Group

Brazzaville group led by Felix Houphout Boigny and mainly constituted the former French colonies, such as; Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Central African Republic, Chad, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, and Senegal.

The main tenet of this group is that: they endorse the notion of continental unity of the Casablanca Group, but the time is too soon to unite, we need to be realistic. First let us organize sub-regional arrangements on the basis of economic and cultural cooperation and then continental unity. In short they argued that the continental unity should establish on gradual/functional approach.

In other words, The Brazzaville (and Monrovia) Group: advocated loose cooperation between fully sovereign states.

Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Congo Kinshasa, Nigeria, Togo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Tunisia, remained neutral and uncommitted.

But in the spirit of Pan-Africanism, African's leaders wanted to reconcile and iron out their differences, and Senghor of Senegal took this noble initiative. It was agreed upon to form a six-state sponsoring committee, two from each group, to call a pan-African meeting. Liberia and Nigeria from the neutral group, Cameroon and Ivory Coast from the Brazzaville group, and Guinea and Mali from the Casablanca group. On May 8, 1961 the Pan-African Conference met at Monrovia, capital of Liberia. However, not all African states attended the conference.

Despite the absence of some African states, however, at least 18 African states fully participated and decided to invite the missing sister-states to attend in the forthcoming Lagos conference of January 1962.

In the Lagos conference, the Dakar recommendation and the proposal put forth by Ethiopia, Liberia and Nigeria were accepted, and after long and arduous deliberations, the African states resolved to set up an inter-African and Malagasy organization with an assembly of heads of states and governments, a council of ministers, a general secretariat and commissions. This resolution, named The Lagos Charter, was a landmark in the records of African history.

Despite the above disagreement, there was a consensus amongst the Pan-Africanists that the formation of an African union was vital and urgent.

By the end of 1962 and early 1963, thus, preparations were underway for the formation of the pan-African Union. By the end of Dec 1962, there were at least 32 independent African states and on March 1963 Ethiopia invited African heads of states and governments to convene in Addis Ababa. Accordingly, foreign ministers meeting began on May 15 1963 and when they ended their meeting, they appointed a sub-committee composed of Algeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Tunisia to draft a Charter of OAU.

Beyond this, however, the foreign ministers meeting did not achieve much, but it paved a way for the summit conference of the 32 independent African states. This would be a historic conference because the Casablanca and Monrovia groups ironed out their differences and sat together.

- In his opening address, Emperor Haile Selassie reiterated the urgency of the formation of African unity and said:

This conference cannot close without adopting a single African charter. We cannot leave here without having created a single African organization…If we fail in this, we will have shirked our responsibility to Africa and to the peoples we lead. If we succeed, then, and only then, we will have justified our presence here.

Finally, with the exception of Togo, all 31 independent African states became signatories and founding members to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa. And it is considered as the second phase of institutionalization of Pan-Africanism. This achievement witnessed a greater commitment on the part of the African states to the Pan-African movement which served as a driving force for such occurrence. Moreover, this year also marks 111 years of organized pan-Africanism, dating it back from the 1900 pan-African conference held in London under the leadership of Sylvester Williams and Bishop Alexander Walters.

Moreover, thanks to the long and arduous struggle of Africans in the Diaspora and the Continent, the above historical trend goes ahead with the third phase institutionalization of Pan-Africanism under the existing African Union.

In sum, the major objectives of of Pan-Africanism were:

- **Political liberation of all African countries from colonial power and to eradicate racial discrimination**
- **To show the universal black pride and achievement to response white supremacy**
- **To repatriate the Diaspora Africans to their home land and to promote economic and cultural co-operation among African states**
- **to ensure that the black people are not inferior; instead they are a source of wisdom and knowledge and**
- **To establish the “United States of Africa”**

The purposes of the OAU

- ***To promote the unity and solidarity of the African states,***
- ***To coordinate and intensify their collaboration and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa;***
- ***To defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence;***
- ***To eradicate all forms of colonialism in Africa, and***
- ***To promote international cooperation, having due regard for the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,***

The Principles of the OAU

The principles of the OAU include:-

- ***The sovereign equality of all member states;***
- ***Non interference in the internal affairs of member states;***
- ***Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state and for its inalienable right to independent existences;***
- ***Peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation, or arbitration;***
- ***Unreserved condemnation, in all its forms, of political assassination as well as of subversive activities on the part of neighboring states or any other state;***
- ***Absolute dedication to the total emancipation of the African territories that are still dependent; and***
- ***Affirmation of a policy of non-alignment with regard to all blocs.***

Transition from the OAU to the African Union

The OAU was the product of a compromise between African statesmen who wanted political union of all independent African states and those who preferred functional cooperation as a building block towards the construction of an African socio-psychological community.

The conception of the African Union inside the OAU is highly reflected in a number of resolutions, for instance;

- Decisions and declarations adopted by the OAU Assembly of the Heads of States to realize African economic integration.
- The Monrovia declaration of commitment on the guidelines and measures for national and collective self-relations in economic and social development for establishment of a new international order called for the creation of the African Economic Market as a prelude to an African Economic Community, and
- The Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) which was adopted by the second extra-ordinary summit of the OAU in April 1980 and envisaged the creation of an African Economic Community by the year 2000.

The idea of continental economic integration was concretized in the 1991 Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, which was adopted under the auspices of the OAU on 3 June 1991.

Article 4 of the Abuja Treaty enumerates four basic objectives of the AEC. These are:

- *To promote economic, social and cultural development and the integration of African economies in order to increase economic self-reliance and promote an endogenous and self-sustained development;*
- *To establish, on a continental scale, a framework for the development, mobilization and utilization of the human and material resources of Africa in order to achieve a self-reliant development.*
- *To promote cooperation in all fields of human Endeavour in order to raise the standard of living of African peoples, and maintain and enhance economic stability, foster close and peaceful relations among Member States and contribute to the progress, development and the economic integration of the continent, and*
- *To coordinate and harmonize policies among existing and future economic communities in order to foster the gradual establishment of the community*

With the coming into force of the Abuja Treaty, the OAU committed itself with the realization of the aforementioned objectives and therefore it has to coexist with the AEC.

The gradual operation of the OAU based on both its Charter and the Abuja Treaty made it clear that there is an emerging need to come up with an institution that would combine OAU's political nature and the AEC's economic character. At the same time, the end of the millennium led to a sense of urgency among African leadership to reposition the OAU in order to set the African continent as a whole on a firm path to development and peace in the new millennium.

It was in this context that the forty four African leaders met in Libya from 8 to 9 September 1999 at 4th an extraordinary summit of the OAU called by the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, to discuss the formation of a 'United States of Africa'.

The summit basically aimed at to amend the OAU Charter to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the OAU. The theme of the Sirte Summit was '*Strengthening OAU capacity to enable it to meet the challenges of the new millennium*'. This Summit concluded on 9 September 1999 with the *Sirte Declaratio*n aimed at:

- Effectively addressing the new social, political and economic realities in Africa and the world;
- Fulfilling the peoples' aspirations for greater unity in conforming with the objectives of the OAU Charter and the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;
- Revitalizing the Continental Organization to play a more active role in addressing the needs of the people;
- Eliminating the scourge of conflicts;
- Meeting global challenges; and
- Harnessing the human and natural resources of the continent to improve living conditions.

To achieve these aims Summit, inter alia, decided to:

- Establish an African Union in conformity with the ultimate objectives of the Charter of our Continental Organisation and the provisions of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.
- Accelerate the process of implementing the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, in particular:
- Shorten the implementation periods of the *Abuja Treaty,*
- Ensure the speedy establishment of all the institutions provided for in the *Abuja Treaty;* such as the African Central Bank, the African Monetary Union, the African Court of Justice and in particular, the Pan-African Parliament.
- Strengthening and consolidating the RECs as the pillars for achieving the objectives of the African Economic Community and realizing the envisaged Union.
- Convene an African Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in the Continent, as soon as possible.

Having been instructed to model it on the European Union and taking into account the Charter of the OAU and the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, the OAU legal unit drafted the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The resulting draft Constitutive Act was debated on a meeting of legal experts and parliamentarians and later at a ministerial conference held in Tripoli from 31 May to 2 June 2000.

The Constitutive Act of the African Union was adopted by the OAU assembly of Heads of States and Governments in Lome in July 2000. By March 2001, all members of the OAU had signed the Constitutive Act and hence the OAU Assembly at **its 5th extraordinary summit held in Sirte, Libya, from 1 to 2 March 2001 declared the establishment of the African Union.**

It was on 26 April 2001 that this requirement was met. On 26 May 2001, the Constitute Act entered in to force and thereby making the African Union a legal and political reality.

During their inaugural meeting in Durban, South Africa, on 9 July 2002 the African heads of state replaced the 39-year-old Organization of African Unity (OAU) with the latest international organization: the African Union (AU). With the exception of Morocco that was not a member of the OAU and Madagascar, whose president is not recognized by the OAU/AU, all African heads of state attended the ceremony. The AU will be head quartered at Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

Achievements and Failures of the OAU

Achievements of the OAU

- Decolonization of the continent

  To assist the decolonization process, the OAU established a Coordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa in 1963. This Committee offered moral and material assistance to anti-colonial struggles in different parts of the African continent.

- Actions against racism and Apartheid.

  The strategy of the OAU for the liberation of the South Africa, in particular, has been a mixture of support for freedom fighters and appeal to the conscience of the international community. In 1991, the apartheid policy was done away once and for all and marked the final step for Africa in the struggle of political emancipation form colonial and racist rule.

- The Establishment African Economic Community **in 1991**

Failures of the OAU

- Failure to feature protection of Human Rights as one of its principal aspirations.

  That may explain why it took 20 years for the OAU to adopt a Regional Human Rights document proper.

- The strong stand of principles related to the culture of non-intervention

  Though there were rampant political instabilities within the territories of its member states, the OAU miserably failed in taking an action due to the culture of non intervention.

The Rationale for the Establishment of the African Union

Generally, the rationale for the establishment of the African Union is not something that is alien to what has been stated hereinbefore. It is a cumulative effect of the urgency to rectify the downsides of the OAU and build a new paradigm of African integration and solidarity that can enable the continent as a whole to cope up with the challenges of the day. These include:

- ✓ The Changing the fact on the ground and the reality of the continent
- ✓ The global political changes that held in the beginning of the 1990s. With the .end of the cold war, the world completely changed. Africa and the OAU, however, did not.
- ✓ the economic situation that was getting worse and worse in Africa

- the in-built weaknesses of the OAU

The Relationship of African Union and NEPAD

The establishment of the African Union is not an end in itself. It is rather a means to a desired end; the end being promotion of development and good governance in the African continent. Therefore, the African Union has to be substantiated with other programs that can help in achieving the desired end.

- By the 1970s and 1980s, many African countries were liberated, but these were also decades that were characterized by **political instability, military coups, one-party governments, dictatorships and the heightened influence of Cold War politics in African affairs**. **Faced with the onset of an economic crisis – huge foreign debts and declines in social development – and the failure of the international financial institutions' free market policies, African countries tried to reverse these trends by calling for a New International Economic Order (NIEO) through which they could craft self-reliant, culturally relevant and state-influenced development strategies.**

- In such a context, African leaders found it necessary to transform the focus of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) from political liberation to economic development. Hence, throughout the 1980s and 1990s African governments went on to design a series of Pan-African development approaches which they felt were relevant to the needs of their people. These initiatives included:
- **The Lagos Plan of Action (1980)**,
- **The Final Act of Lagos (1980)**,
- **Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (1986-1990)**,
- **The African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programme (1989)**,
- **The African (Arusha) Charter for Popular Participation and Development** (1990),
- **The Abuja Treaty (1991) and**
- **The Cairo Agenda (1994) amongst others.**

Faced with the failures of all these plans, the ills of the structural adjustment programs of modernization and falling growth rates when other regions such as Asia were on the rise, 'a new breed of African leaders' entered the 21st century with proclamations of a re-birth for Africa.

The origin of NEPAD could be traced back to the OAU Extraordinary summit held in Sirte, Libya in September 1999 where the then President Mbeki of South Africa and President Boutheflica of Algeria were mandated to engage Africa's creditors on the total cancellation of Africa's external debt. These being its inception, different African leaders kept on looking for a scheme whereby Africa's marginalization from the world economy could be changed for the betterment of Africa.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is the result of three parallel initiatives. These are:

- **The first is the Millennium Africa Recovery Plan (MAP), led by South African President Thabo Mbeki and unveiled at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2001.**
- **The second initiative is the Omega Plan, crafted by the President of Senegal, Abdoulaye Wade, and presented to the Summit of Francophone African leaders in Cameroon in January 2001**. and
- **MAP and the Omega Plan were then combined to give birth to a third initiative the New African Initiative (NAI) that then led to NEPAD in 2001.**

- All three initiatives shared a common **interest in increasing the pace and impact of Africa's development**. While these initiatives share common characteristics, there were also differences reflecting the regional and other priorities of the enactors. Compromises had to be made in order to merge the three proposals into one initiative. NEPAD thus reflects the compromises involved in arriving at a single initiative. Founding member countries of NEPAD included South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt and Senegal.

  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. NEPAD's main objectives are:

- to reduce poverty,
- to put Africa on a sustainable development path,

- NEPAD is an integrated development plan that addresses key social, economic, and political priorities in a balanced and coherent way. One writer described it as a "holistic, comprehensive integrated strategy framework for the socio economic development of Africa."
- Another notable characteristic of NEPAD is that it is firmly believed that aid based relations with the developed world cannot be a sustainable solution to Africa's problems. Rather, Africans have to be the real owners of the process involved therein whereas there is a genuine concern to retain its partnership with the rest of the world.

The prominent expected outcomes of the NEPAD program:

- ❖ Economic growth and development and increased employment;
- ❖ Reduction in poverty and inequality;
- ❖ Diversification of productive activities;

- Enhanced international competitiveness and increased exports, and
- Increased African Integration.

To sum up, since its initiation, NEPAD has been promoted widely both within Africa and in the industrialized North. NEPAD is now recognized as Africa's development plan by all the governments of the North, and the international financial institutions, and by many international governance institutions like the United Nations. NEPAD is widely seen as the mechanism through which support to Africa's development efforts can be best delivered. Thus, the NEPAD process has come to be accepted not only by African countries and RECs but also by Africa's development partners as the framework mechanism for their development efforts.

NEPAD as Part of the African Union System

NEPAD is a part of the African Union programs and the African Union established a Coordination Unit on NEPAD. The Coordination Unit was mandated to assist in the gradual integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union, as soon as possible.

Hence, NEPAD is unquestionably an African Union program and is directly accountable to the Union. That is why the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee submit an annual report to the African Union Summit.

As an African Union program, NEPAD has its own mandates, which in one way or another, substantiate the objectives and principles of the African Union. To harmonize NEPAD with the African Union program and to avoid duplication of tasks, the NEPAD coordinating Unit of the African Union has the following principal objectives:

- To facilitate the full integration of NEPAD into the African Union Commission, and the achievement of the overall objectives of NEPAD within the framework of the Commission's program;.

- To support the NEPAD secretariat in the provision of technical service for the work of Heads of State Implementation Committee and NEPAD steering committee with the aim of becoming the Core Coordinating Secretariat of the NEPAD program in the near future; and
- To serve as a laison between the commission, and the other agencies such as ADB(African Development Bank), ECA (Economic commission for Africa) RECs (Regional Economic Communities) and partnership in ensuring the attainment of the overall objectives of NEPAD, in particular, the operationalization of the priority areas such as resource mobilization and infrastructural and other projects.

Despite the above, however; practically there are three potential challenges which hindered the integration between African Union and NEPAD. These are

- The first critical challenge is lack of political commitment of African leaders to reinforce the democratic governance enshrined in the NEPAD document
- Failure of African leaders to promote and institutionalize deeper coordination and collaboration among themselves, Africa's sub regional organizations and civil society actors.
- Lack of due concern of African leaders to address the financial and infrastructural weaknesses of its social, political and security institutions.

The Relation between African Union and Sub-Regional Economic Organizations in Africa

In the absence, over long period, of concrete initiative to promote economic co-operation at the continental level, states in various parts of Africa have attempted to reach that goal by creating regional economic integration organizations. The first such attempt date back to the 1960s in some regions; these have been followed since the beginning of the 1990s by the creation of what may be termed “second generation” regional economic organization in all six of African’s geographical regions (North, South, West, East, Center and South-East).

Those more recent organizations present strikingly similar features, both in their institutional structure and in economic conceptions underlying their foundations and orientations. African states indeed appear to large extent to have turned their backs to the rhetoric of the “new international order”, which they vigorously promoted during the 1970s at the United Nations, and to have embraced more modern and liberal economic dogmas.

1. North Africa Sub- regional Organization/ Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

- North Africa Sub-regional Organization definitely emerges as the continent's region where the organization frenzy, which characteristics almost every other part of Africa, has been the most tame. The Arab Maghreb Union (hereinafter AMU), was established in 1989 by five states of the regions. This constitutes the first move to promote economic co-operation through institutional means in the history of North Africa. It is probably amongst the least integrative of the organizations more recently established on the continent, and puts a strong emphasis on classical and traditional means of political co-operation.
- The AMU was established by treaty in 1989, though its origin dates back to more informal arrangements in the early 1960s. Its membership comprises five North African countries (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia). The principal objectives of AMU are to strengthen ties between the member states and to liberalize movement of goods and services among them, including the adoption of common policy in various fields, such as economy and culture (Article 2 and 3 of the treaty).

- The treaty provides for the possibility of other Arab and African countries to join the Union at the later stage. Under the auspices of the Union nearly 40 conventions have been adopted addressing economic, social and cultural matters, though it is to be noted that the conventions only bind those members which have ratified them.
- The AMU's supreme institutional organ is the Council of Head of States, decisions of which are adopted only by unanimity. The Council meets annually. A Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers also meets regularly to prepare for the sessions of the Council of Head of States, and a committee of representatives of the member state follows the implementation of resolution adopted by Council of Head of States. A Consultative Assembly, consisting of 30 representatives from each member states to advise the Council of Head of States, and a Court of Justice, composed of two judges from each member states, have been set up in Algiers and Nouakchott respectively. The AMU's Secretariat-General, is based in Rabat, Morocco.

2. West Africa Sub- regional Organization/ Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

West African States have much longer tradition of institutional co-operation. This region's main organization is the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It was formally established in 1975, but the Organization's Constituent Treaty was extensively revised in 1993. Its main objective is the creation of an economic and monetary union of 16 member states. Its action supplemented by the fund for co-operation, compensation and development, which finances development projects in member states and compensate them for losses resulting from the application of Treaty.

In addition to economic cooperation, ECOWAS has played an increasing political role since the beginning of the 1990s. Regional security system was consecrated in the 1993 Treaty (see Article 58 of the Regional Treaty), and a more institutionalized Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-Keeping and Security was established within the Organization in 1998.

- Even though the member states of ECOWAS have decided to that it would “ultimately be the sole economic community in the region” (Article 2 Para 1 of the 19193 Treaty), a number of them also participated in effort to create the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA as it is known under its French acronym) in 1994.
- This succeeded the West African Monetary Union (UMOA), originally established in 1973 with a quasi-identical membership. Linked to the Union is the Central Bank of West African States and the West African Development Bank.
- UEMOA’s objectives are essentially the same as those of ECOWAS and its development should be facilitated by the fact that its members are already using a common currency, the CFA Franc. Its institutional architecture draws heavily on that of the European Community. UEMOA’s creation nevertheless inevitably raise issues of duplication between organizations pursuing essentially identical aims within the same region ,especially when one consider that the intergovernmental organizations other than ECOWAS and UEMOA are still relatively active in the economic field of West Africa.

3. East Africa Sub- regional Organization/ East African Community (EAC)

- The East African community was first established by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda in 1966. It was intended to take over the common service previously operated by the East African Common Service Organizations. It functioned until 1977, when it ceased its activities due to political differences between the member states. This Organization was revived in 1996 as the Commission for East African Co-operation (EAC) and aims at promoting closer economic co-operation among its members as well as enhancing regional stability. It has expressed desire to co-operate with other Sub-regional Economic Organizations. The same three states are also members of the East African Development Bank which finance development projects and promote investments in various fields of economic activity.

Its main objective is to enhance the region's competitiveness through ever deeper integration inclusive of a customs union, a common market, a monetary union and ultimately a political federation of East African states. Currently member states of the organization agreed to use common currency.

4.Inter -governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

Inter -governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was created in 1996. It has seven member countries in East Africa. These are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

The IGAD was basically founded to address the recurring and severe droughts and other natural disasters that caused widespread famine, ecological degradation and economic hardship in the Eastern African Region.

Its members felt that a collective and integrated measure can successfully help in reducing such problems as compared to non integrated national efforts.

presently, members of the organization start cooperation on issues of peace and security of the region.

5.The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

- ECCAS was established in 1983. It has ten member states. These are Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe.
- Among the vital steps taken by ECCAS, its adoption of a protocol relating to the establishment of a network of parliamentarians of Central Africa and the early warring system for Central Africa are the notable ones.

6.The Southern African Development Community (SADC)

SADC was established in 1992. It has fourteen member states: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. SADC has monetary, economic, political, security and cultural objectives which aim at cooperation and integration among its member states.

7. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

- **COMESA** was established by Treaty in 1991. It comprises19 member states: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya (since June 2005) Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The COMESA main objectives include

- taking advantage of a larger market size,
- to share the region's common heritage and
- allow greater social and economic co-operation with the ultimate objective of creating on one economic community.

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) was established by Treaty in 1991. It comprises19 member states: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya (since June 2005) Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The COMESA main objectives include taking advantage of a larger market size, to share the region’s common heritage and allow greater social and economic co-operation with the ultimate objective of creating on economic community.