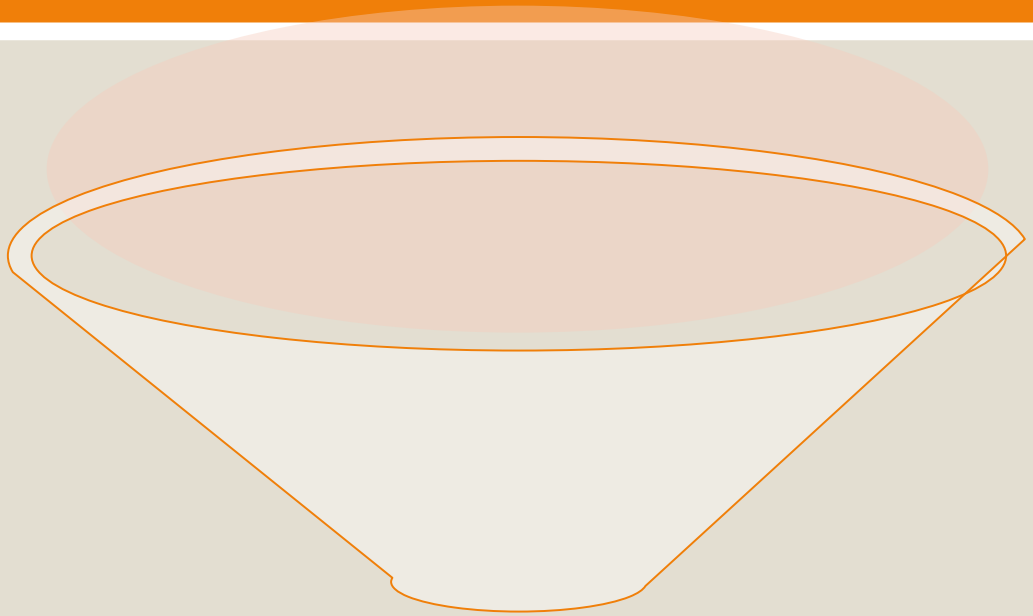


Co-operation in Africa

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Africa


MOROCCO
TUNISIA
WESTERN SAHARA
ALGERIA
LIBYA
EGYPT
MAURITANIA
MALI
NIGER
CHAD
SUDAN
SOMALIA
SENEGAL
BURKINA FASO
GUINEA
NIGERIA
ETHIOPIA
COTE D'IVOIRE
GHANA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
SIERRA LEONE
CAMEROON
LIBERIA
UGANDA
KENYA
CONGO
GABON
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
TANZANIA
ANGOLA
ZAMBIA
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
ZIMBABWE
BOTSWANA
MADAGASCAR
SOUTH AFRICA

Co-operations in Africa

1. Pan africanism
2. Organization of African Union
3. African Union
4. The East African Community
5. Economic Community of West African states
6. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

Pan-Africanism

- Pan-Africanism is a belief in the uniqueness and spiritual unity of the black people all over the world
- It originated in America and the Caribbean where Africans had spread through the slave trade. They were made conscious of their colour and origin in Africa
- Pan-Africanism aimed to break African neocolonialism through political and economic unity

Aims of Pan Africanism

1. Uniting people of African origin
2. Decolonization
3. Emancipating (freeing) l3Africans from social discrimination
4. Overcoming the challenge of European supremacy
5. Restoration of the dignity of the black people
6. Improving African conditions in the Diaspora and African continent
7. Eradicating racial discrimination
8. Fighting neo-coLonialism in Africa.

A. Booker T. Washington: He was the principal of Tuskegee College in Alabama U.S.A. where there was a lot of racial segregation. He advocated that black people all over the world needed advancement.
B. J.E.K. Aggrey: He was from Ghana. He had studied in USA. He believed in black cooperation with whites.
C. W.E.B Dubois: He fought for the rights of blacks and wanted blacks to oppose domination by whites
D. Marcus Garvey: From Jamaica. He demanded for the liberation of blacks and wanted them to play a greater role in world economic affairs. He preached about blacks coming back to Africa
E. Duse Mohammed Ali: He started a magaziir in 1912 that provided a forum for the discussion of black views.
F. Others: Kojo Toralou Houenou, Leopold Senghor, and George Padmore e.t.c.

The 1st Pan-African Congress of 1900 held in London

Objectives

1) Uniting people of African origin
2) To work for decolonization
3) Stop exploitation of Africans by Europeans
4) Establishment of friendly relations between Africans and Europeans
5) Promotion of African economic interest
6) Secure the rights of Africans.

Issues discussed

7) Racial discrimination against Africans
8) Living conditions of blacks world wide
9) Violation of human rights against blacks particularly in South Africa.

The 2nd Pan African Congress held in Paris 1919

Its resolutions

a) The need for international laws to protect blacks
b) African land to be held in trust for Africans
c) Abolition of slavery and capital punishment
d) The right of Africans to enjoy education
e) Exploitation of African nations be stopped.

The 3rd Pan African Congress in London and Lisbon in 1923

Note: It reinforced the second conference.

Its Demands.

I. Establishment of political organizations among suppressed black peoples
II. It emphasized international and inter-racial harmony and democracy.

The 4th Pan-African Congress in New York 1927

It was attended by African Americans.

Issue discussed

1. The attitude of the communists towards Pan Africanism i.e. they were discrediting the movement.

The 5th Pan-African Congress held in Manchester 1945

It was unique from the early conferences held due to:

1) Was mostly organized by Africans from the continent
2) Many African trade unions were represented
3) It was more vocal and radical than the previous conferences
4) For the first time demands were made for black autonomy, universal suffrage and European capitalism was condemned
5) It advocated for decolonization
6) It urged the African elite to lead their people to independence

Achievements of Pan Africanism

1) It led to solidarity of Africans and the formation of OAU
2) The African people were inspired with a belief and confidence in themselves
3) It aided liberation movements and protested against the Ethiopian invasion by Italy
4) It aided African Nationalism and led to the idea of negritude in the French countries
5) It opposed nuclear tests, on African soil
6) Restoration of the dignity and confidence of the blacks.
7) Communists discredited the work done by Pan-Africanists
8) Suspicion and mistrust among members

Problems of Pan Africanism

i. African unity through colonialism was weakened when countries acquired independence
ii. Lack of commitment to Pan African ideas
iii. Division between Francophone and Anglo-phone countries
iv. Differences in views and opinions among the petty squabbles.

Organization of African Unity (OAU)

- OAU was formed in May 1963 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia
- It was a league of African states.
- All members had equal dignity and equal vote chairmanship was rotational
- The headquarters of OAU is in Addis Ababa

OAU Headquarters in Addis Ababa



Objectives/Aims

1) Promote continental unity
2) Uplift African peoples
3) Defend African Sovereignty
4) Eradicate colonialism
5) Promote international co-operation

The Charter also outlined the principles of the organization

1) Sovereign equality of all member states
2) Non-interference in the internal affairs of a neighbouring state or other states
3) Peaceful settlement of disputes
4) Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state
5) Condemnation of political assassinations as well as subversive activities on the part of neighbouring states or any other states
6) Absolute dedication to the total emancipation of the African territories which were still dependent
7) Affirmation of a policy of non-alignment with regard to all blocs

Assembly of Heads of States and Government

a. Supreme organ of the OAU
b. Met once a year
c. Had equal voting rights
d. Resolutions were passed by a 2/3 majority vote.

Functions

1. To coordinate policies
2. To review the structure of the OAU.

Council of Ministers

a. Comprised of foreign ministers of OAU member states
b. Met twice a year.
c. Prepared the agenda for the meetings of heads of state and governments
d. Implemented decisions
e. Prepared the OAU budget
f. Subject to approval by the assembly.

General Secretariat

i. Headed by a Secretary General who was elected for a four year term of office by the assembly
ii. Based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
iii. Was assisted by assistant Secretary Generals who were appointed for specific regions of Africa i.e. West, Central, North, East and Southern Africa.

Functions

1. Drew up the budget which was then approved by the council
2. With approval of the council of ministers, could receive gifts and donation on behalf of OAU.

The Commission for Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration

Function

1. To resolve disputes between the member states peacefully e.g. on boundaries, refugees e.t.c.

The Liberation Committee

Based at Dar-es-Salaam Tanzania

Function

2. Provide military and financial assistance for liberation movements in Africa.

Specialized Commissions and Agencies

1. Commissions
2. Economic and Social Commission
3. Commission and Education
4. Science and Culture
5. Defence Commission
6. The Conference of African Trade Ministers e.t.c.

Agencies

1. Pan-African News Agency
2. Pan-African Postal Union
3. Pan-African Telecommunications Union
4. Supreme Council for Sports in Africa.

Achievements of OAU

1) African states have been able to speak with one voice
2) OAU made efforts to liberate territories that were still under oppression
3) It has helped to solve border disputes e.g. Morocco vs Algeria, Chad vs Nigeria
4) Is has provided funds to help refugees and other victims of conflicts and wars in Africa
5) It has been able to restore dignity and status of Africans as human beings equal to any other race
6) OAU also attempted to provide African solutions to African problems

7) Has attempted to unite the diverse African
8) The work of the specialized commissions and agencies is of importance and it improves the daily lives of Africans
9) Has attempted to solve the problem of under-development and economic dependency e.g. setting up of the African Development Bank (ADB) based in Cote D' Ivore to give loans to Africans
10) Has provided a forum where Africans can discuss their problems
11) Promotion of social and cultural heritage of Africans in the continent e.g. convening of the All Africa Games and the African Militaiy

Problems of OAU

1. Differences of opinion among member states
2. It depends on goodwill of member states to act which renders it powerless to act if a state does not co-operate
3. Is has not been able to achieve political unity
4. Political instability characterized by coup d’ etats and civil wars
5. Border disputes — some are still unresolved e.g. Libya vs Chad, Nigeria vs Cameroon e.t.c.
6. Personality differences
7. OAU has not been able to condemn human rights violation within African states

10. Interference by major world powers in African affairs
11. States tend to co-operate with their former colonial masters
12. African states have different forms of government and ideologies
13. Diversity of African people and therefore hard to totally unite them
14. Refugee problem due to civil wars and political unrest
15. Nationalism or national interest. OAU member states are more concerned about their own internal affairs hence national interests supercedes (come before) those of

16. OAU members belong to other regional or international organizations e.g. Commonwealth, UNO, ECOWAS, NAM, PTA etc and hence lack commitment
17. It is difficult to coordinate and assemble all the member states for sessions
18. Interference by super powers in African affairs
19. Over concentration on political problems at the expense of economic and social problems
20. Neo-colonialism. African states are still economically dependent on their colonizers and are pressurized to adopt unrealistic

The African Union

- The African union originated from a declaration by Heads of states and Government of the OAU in Libya on 9th September 1999, which called for the formation of an African Union

- It was officially launched in Durban South Africa on 9th July 2002

AU HEADQUATER IN ADDIS ABABA



The AU charter outlines the objectives of the AU as follows:

1) To uphold the sovereign equality and independence of its 53 member states
2) Promote peace, security and solidarity on the African continent
3) Promote and protect human rights, consolidate democratic institutions and culture, good governance and the rule of law in the continent of
4) Promote socio-economic developments of Africa and to face more effectively the challenges posed by globalisation.

6) Enable the continent to play its role in global economy and international negotiations
7) Promote and defend issues of interest to the continent and its peoples
8) Encourage international co-operation in all fields
9) To co-ordinate and harmonize the policies between the existing and future regional economic communities for gradual attainment of the objectives of the union
10) Promote research in all fields/areas especially in science and technology
11) To work with relevant international partners in the eradication of preventable diseases

The Assembly

I. Made up of heads of state and government
II. Supreme organ of the union
III. Holds meetings once a year
IV. Decisions are made by a 2/3 majority votes.

Functions of the Assembly

a) Adopt the budget of the union
b) Admit new members to the union
c) Receive reports and recommendations from other organs of the union
d) Set up new organs of the union
e) Ensure the implementation of policies and decisions of the union
f) Appoint and dismiss the judges of the union
g) Appoint the chairman and his/her deputy
h) Guide the executive council on issues of war, conflict management, and restoration of peace etc

The Executive Council

- Comprises foreign affairs ministers of member countries Responsible to the assembly.

Functions

Coordination of common policies i.e.

1. Transport and communication
2. Foreign trade
3. Science and technology
4. Setting up a system of African awards, medals and prizes

5. Social security issues
6. Nationality, residence and immigration issues
7. Education, culture, health and human resources development
8. Insurance
9. Water resources and irrigation Environmental protection, humanitarian action and disaster preparedness Food, agriculture and animal resources including livestock production and forestry Industty and mineral resources as well as enemy.

The Commission

Is the secretariat of the AU

Members include:

1. Chairperson
2. Deputy Chairperson
3. 8 commissioners
4. Staff members.

Functions

1) Deals with administrative issues
2) Implements the decisions of the union
3) Coordinates AU activities and meetings
4) Receives applications for membership to the union.

The Permanent Representatives Committee

Made up of ambassadors to the AU based at the AU headquarters in Ethiopia.

Function

- Prepare for the executive council.

The Peace and Security Council

- To comprise 15 members
- Its work will be enhanced through the creation of a special peace fund and an African force.

Function

Monitoring and intervening in conflicts.

The African Parliament Membership

To comprise of elected representatives nominated from the five regions of Africa.

Function

Ensuring that the civil society participates in AU processes

The Economic, Social and Cultural Council Membership

Comprises professional and civic representatives of AU member states.

Function

- To perform an advisory role.

The Court of Justice

Function

1. To check on human right abuses within a legal framework.
2. Financial Institutions

Note: Three financial institutions to be established under the auspices of AU to fund projects and programmes i.e.

a) The African Central Bank
b) The African Monetary Fund
c) The African Investment Bank.

Specialised Technical Committees

These include:-

A. Committee on Transport, Communication and Tourism
B. Committee on Education, Culture and Human Resources
C. Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters
D. Committee on Rural Economy and Agricultural Matters
E. Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, Energy, Natural Resources and Environment
F. Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs Affairs.

Functions

1) Preparation of projects and programmes of the AU
2) Supervision and evaluation of implementation of the decisions made by the organs of the AU
3) Coordination and harmonization of projects and programmes
4) Submission of reports and recommendations on their implementation
5) Ensuring implementation of the

Challenges facing AU

a) To resolve the current common conflicts among several African Nations
b) Tackling the issue of regional powers
c) Member nations have to address domestic issues of ethnic, religious and regional division
d) To address the problem of insufficient institutional and constitutional structures to manage disputes peacefully
e) The remaining military leaders have to allow for democratic representation.

The East African Community

The organization was founded on 6th June 1967 to strengthen the common market among Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Objectives of the Organization

1) Promote trade among the three African countries
2) Provide common services in areas such as railways, harbours, posts and telecommunications
3) Provide for free trade of goods produced within East Africa
4) Provide a wider and more secure market for goods produced in the region
5) Facilitate free movement of people
6) To enhance and strengthen ties and understanding between the member states
7) To bring economic balance between the states

Organization of EAC

- The EAC had special institution which included
  1. East African Authority
  2. East African Regional Assembly
  3. The common Market Council
  4. The Secretariat
  5. The Common Market Tribunal.

Achievements of the EAC

I. The East African Development Bank (EADB) various industrial projects were started
II. Promotion of regional cooperation through the common services provided by the EAC
III. Acquisition of an external market to e goods of the East Africa Region
IV. It encouraged economic cooperation by attaining to balance economic growth among the three member countries.

Challenges facing EAC up to 1977

1) Ideological differences where Tanzania used socialist ideology and Kenya and Uganda used mixed capitalist economy
2) Political upheavals in Uganda
3) Failure by members to remit funds
4) Unfair distribution of services. Kenya was blamed for taking out much from the community.
5) Border closures e.g. between Kenya and Tanzania and Uganda and Kenya which strained the relations and

7) Finally in 1977 the EAC collapsed
8) Inability to transfer and exchange currency freely discouraged inter-state transaction of goods
9) A clear and agreed pattern of industrial specialization did not materialize
10) The EADB was not able to initiate complimentary and balanced industrial development Nationalism and sovereignty of the states whereby state interests came first and regional

11) Personal ambitions of the leaders who were suspicious of one another and each wanted to emerge as the most powerful
12) Lack of political goodwill among the three leaders
13) Personality differences e.g. between Nyerere of Tanzania and Id Amin of Uganda which made it difficult to convene EAC meetings.

The Rebirth of the East African Community

- The treaty for the establishment of the EAC in Arusha by the heads of states of East Africa was signed on 30th November 1999.
- EAC was finally launched on 15th January 2001.

The Summit

- Made up of heads of state of the member countries.

Function

- Providing direction towards the realization of the goals and objectives of the community.

The Council of Ministers

- Made up of designated ministers from the member states.

Function

- Decision making.

Co-ordinating Committee

- It comprises of permanent secretaries
- Reports to the council of ministers.

Function

a) In charge of regional cooperation
b) Coordinating the activities of sectoral committees

Sectoral Committees Created by the council of ministers.

Function

c) Conceptualizing the programmes of the EAC and monitoring their implementation.
d) East African Court of Justice Function
e) Interpretation of community law and its

East African Legislative Assembly Membership

Comprises 30 members from the three states.

Function

I. Provides a forum for debate
II. Acts as a watchdog for the EAC
III. Participates in the legislative process.

The Secretariat

It is the executive organ of the EAC.

Function

To ensure that regulations and directives of the council are well implemented

Note:

Other institutions of the EAC include:

i. East African Development Bank (EADB)
ii. Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)
iii. Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA).

Challenges facing the EAC

1) Poor transport and communication net has hindered trade and movement of people
2) East African community members belong to other regional organizations
3) Insecurity along the borders
4) The common currency objective is yet achieved
5) The other countries are still suspicious that Kenya will benefit more than the

6) Trans-boarder smuggling of goods
7) Strained relations especially over the exploit of fishery resources i.e. arrest of Kenyan fi men by Tanzanian and Ugandan authorities
8) Tanzanians still subject their products to barriers contrary to the treaty
9) Cattle rustling on the Kenya Uganda boarder

ECOWAS is a regional group comprising ten countries of West Africa.

Formation of ECOWAS

I. It began in 1958 when Ghana and Guinea formed a political union and were later joined by Gambia and Senegal in 1963 who made move to form an economic cooperation
II. The Cooperation was further reinforced by the formation of the Niger River Commission between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger on the use of the waters of river Niger
III. Consultations between Togo — Nigeria In 1972 led to the signing of a bilateral-commitment. This paved the way for a meeting of different West African countries in 1974.

ECOWAS HEADQUARTERS















Member countries include:-

1) Sierra Leone
2) Mali
3) Guinea
4) Liberia
5) Ghana
6) Senegal
7) Benin
8) Burkina Faso
9) Guinea Bissau
10) Niger
11) Ivory Coast
12) Nigeria
13) Gambia
14) Togo
15) Mauritania
16) Cape Verde.

1. **Remove customs barriers**
2. **Improve relations between member states/ forge closer relations**
3. **Raise the living standards of the people in the member states**
4. **Support Industrial development among member states and enhance cultural interaction**
5. **To promote co-operation especially in transport, communications, agriculture, trade, industry, social and cultural affairs.**
6. **Make a contribution to progress and development in Africa as a whole**
7. **Eliminate economic disparities in the levels of economic development among the members.**

Authority of Heads of States and Government

1. Supreme organ of ECOWAS
2. Comprises the heads of states of member states
3. Meets once a year
4. Has a rotational chairmanship.

Council of Ministers Membership

a) Comprises of two representatives from each member state.
b) Manage the affairs of ECO WAS
c) Advice the authority
d) Provide direction to the subordinate organs of ECOWAS.

Executive Secretariat

- Based in Lagos, Nigeria.

Function

1. In charge of the day-to-day administration of ECOWAS.

The Tribunal

Functions

2. Interpreting the treaty
3. Settling inter-state disputes.

Specialised Commissions:

These include:

1. Trade, Customs, Immigration, Monetary and Payments
2. Industry, Agriculture and Natural Resources
3. Social and Cultural Affairs
4. Defence Council and Defence Commission.

Achievements of ECO WAS

1) Heads of states have been able to meet and discuss important political issues affecting member states
2) Movements of goods has been enhanced through the removal of trade barriers
3) There has been cultural exchange among member states
4) Member states have also benefited in the field of education, transport,

5) It has helped to resolve conflicts in the region through the multinational peace keeping and enforcement force of ECOWAS
6) ECOWAS has also set up a development fund
7) Has brought together states with different social, economic and political approaches i.e. Francophone Vs Anglophone countries
8) Creation of a wider/enlarged market for goods from the member states.

Problems facing ECOWAS

1) There was closure of boarders making movement of people, services and capital difficult.
2) There has been a lot of foreign interference
3) Ideological differences between some leaders leading to suspicion and mistrust
4) Financial problems hence members are unable to remit their contributions
5) Political instability e.g. in Liberia, Nigeria etc.
6) Failure to put ECOWAS policies into practice within their own national

7) Mutual suspicion among the member states due to differences in the level of economic development
8) Different currencies of member states which fluctuate widely against major international currencies creating problems of rates of exchange and thus hampering trade
9) Huge external debts
10) ECOWAS member countries are still dependent on their former colonizers. Their economies are externally oriented. They produce raw materials for the developed countries and import expensive industrial goods in return
11) ECOWAS is a large organization bringing together countries with disparities in size, population and wealth. This makes joint development of economic and industrial policies difficult.

12) There has been a lot of friction between Anglo- phone and France-phone countries
13) Poor means of transport and communication in member countries
14) Influx of workers from less developed areas to more developed areas within the member states
15) Member states give priority to their own national interest at the expense of ECO WAS issues
16) Lack of commitment as members belong to other organizations
17) The region in poorly linked by communications systems hence problem of

The common market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

- COMESA replaced the former Preferential Trade Area (PTA)
- The treaty to establish COMESA was signed in 1993, ratified in 1994 when they held their first summit. The second one was held in 1996 and the third in 1998.
- The headquarters of COMESA are located in Lusaka, Zambia.

COMESA BUILDING



Objectives of CO MESA

1. To attain growth and development of the member states
2. Promote and realize the objectives of African Economic Community
3. To promote peace, security and stability in order to enhance economic development in the region.
4. Enhance joint development in all fields of economic activity
5. Establish strong relations between COMESA and the International community
6. Create a conducive environment in order to facilitate foreign, cross-boarder and

COMESA is made up of the following organs:

The Authority of Heads of states and Government

a. Made up of head of states and government
b. Supreme organ of COMESA
c. Meets once a year
d. Decisions are taken by consensus

Functions

a) Making the general policies
b) Controlling the common market

The Council of Ministers

- Comprises designated members from each member state
- Meets once a year
- Reaches decisions by consensus or by a 2/3 majority vote

Functions

1) Ensures the proper functioning of COMESA
2) Makes recommendations to the authority on policy matters
3) Guides other subordinate organs of COMESA
4) Approves the budget
5) Reviews the financial and administrative management of COMESA
6) Makes regulations, issues directives and recommendations in accordance with the COMESA treaty
7) Seeks for advisory opinion from the court
8) Takes the necessary measures needed to promote the goals of COMESA.

The Court of Justice

1. Headed by a president and consists of six other judges appointed by the authority
2. It acts independently of the Authority and Council
3. Its decisions are binding and final
4. It is the Judicial organ of COMESA.

Functions

5. Interpretation and application of the provisions of the treaty
6. Arbitrates disputes among member states.

The Committee of Governors of Central Banks

- Made up of the monetary authorities of the various member states
- Meets once a year
- Sets up its own rules of procedure during meetings.

Functions of The Committee of Governors of Central Banks

1. Monitors and ensures the proper implementation of the monetary and financial cooperation programmes
2. Develops programmes in the field of finance and monetary cooperation
3. Receives reports and recommendations from the technical committee on finance and monetary affairs and submits them to the council
4. Liaises with the Secretary General to sort out monetary and financial affairs

The Inter-Governmental Committee

- It comprises the permanent secretaries from member states in charge of trade and customs, agriculture, industry, transport and communication, administrative, budgetary and legal affairs
- Decisions are made by a simple majority.

Functions of The Inter-Governmental Committee

1. Developing programmes and plans of action in all sectors of cooperation apart from finance and monetary affairs
2. Monitoring, reviewing and ensuring proper functioning and development of the common market
3. Overseeing the implementation of the provisions of the COMESA treaty

The Secretariat

- Headed by the Secretary-General who is appointed by the authority for a five-year term of office.
- Is the chief executive of the common market
- Is assisted by two assistants and other council staff.

Functions

1. Ensuring the continued operation of the common market
2. Promoting joint transactions by member states in multi-lateral negotiations with other countries
3. Undertakes research on behalf of COMESA
4. In charge of the administration and finances of COMESA
5. Submits a report on the activities of COMESA to the council and the authority
6. Assists and advices the organs of COMESA
7. Submits the COMESA budget to the Inter Governmental Committee

The Consultative Committee of the Business Community and other Interested Committees

Made up of the business community and other stake holders.

Functions.

1. It links and facilitates dialogue between the business community and other interest groups
2. Consults and gets reports from other interest groups
3. Takes part in the technical committees
4. Monitors the implementation of the

Technical Committees

They comprise of designated representatives of the member states

Meetings are determined by the work at hand. These have been established in the fields of

a. Agriculture
b. Energy
c. Administrative and budgetary matters
d. Trade and customs
e. Comprehensive information systems

f. Industry
g. Legal affairs
h. Tourism and wildlife
i. Transport and communications
j. Natural resources and environment
k. Labour, human resources, social and cultural affairs.
l. Finance and monetary affairs.

Functions Technical Committees

1. Preparation of implementation programmes in accordance to priority
2. Monitoring the implementation of these programmes
3. Submitting reports and recommendations to the Inter-Governmental Committee.

Achievements of COMESA

1. Growth of trade
2. It has provided good relations between member states
3. Improvement of infrastructure within the member states
4. The PTA bank has helped to promote investments and provided trading facilities
5. It has also achieved progress in transport, customs, technical co-operation, agriculture and industry
6. It has also provided employment opportunities for many people in the region

7. Member states have benefited from joint services established within COMESA e.g. the
8. PTA development bank, the Multi-National fertilizer plant in Uganda
9. Member states enjoy a wider harmonized and more competitive market
10. Member states are able to exploit their natural resources as each country produces the products it is best suited for

Challenges facing COMESA

1) The members of COMESA are also members of other regional organizations and therefore members lack commitment
2) Border conflicts between member states
3) Civil wars in various countries have undermined the success of COMESA
4) Personality differences between leaders
5) Poor means of transport network between member states
6) Competition from markets outside COMESA
7) Some of the members have pulled out of COMESA to join other regional organizations

8) Similarity of products within COMESA which limits commercial exchanges
9) Difficulties in enforcing the regulations of COMESA. Some member states do not corn-
10) Nationalism where national interests of member states outweigh those of COMESA
11) Unemployment is a major problem within the COMESA region
12) Large debt burden.
13) Unconducive external trade

The End