



Unit 5

CONTRIBUTIONS OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES IN ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Regional bodies are organisations formed by different countries in one region to achieve certain objectives. In Africa such bodies include: The East African Community (EAC), which operates in countries in the Great Lake regions of Eastern Africa, The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) that operates in West Africa and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). These regional organisations operate under the blessings of the African Union, which encourages their formation. Internationally, the African Union is also a regional organisation representing the African region or the African continent. We also have regional organisations in other continents like Europe. An example is the European Union (EU) made up of many nations in the continent of Europe. International organisations operate in many different countries across the continents. They include the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

In this unit, we shall look at various regional and international organisations, their structure, aims and contributions to the achievement of independence and development in Africa.

Activity 1

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU)

This was an organisation formed by independent African countries in 1963. It owes its origin to Pan-Africanism.



Fig. 5.1 Pan African Leaders



Work to do

Tell your teacher:

- a) If you are a member of any club in your school?
- b) Does your club have any rules and regulations?

The OAU Charter

The OAU charter stipulated its objectives, principles and structure.

Source 1

The OAU Charter

- Ethiopia's proposal.....
- Objectives:-
 1. Promote unity and solidarity
 2. Coordinate and intensify cooperation and efforts
 3. Defend sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence
 4. The emphasis on eradicating colonialism
 5. International cooperation



Group work

1. Study the charter of the OAU. Using magazine cutouts, library or other resources.
2. Briefly summarise the OAU's purposes, principles and structure. "The OAU was formed as African leaders recognised that they would have to help themselves if African nations were to make real progress." Do you think this is true? Give reasons for your answer.

Objectives of the OAU

1. To provide African countries with a permanent organisation through which they could discuss issues affecting them and come up with ways of solving them.
2. To provide identity for the newly independent countries of Africa in a world dominated and controlled by the white race.
3. To eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa.
4. To improve the living standards and conditions of African people as a group and as individual states.
5. To help maintain the sovereignty of African countries.
6. To promote cooperation among the African states in economic, social and political fields so as to improve living standards.
7. To promote African unity.



Note!!!

The birth of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) more than 50 years ago in Addis Ababa emerged from the aspiration towards an ideal of unity advocated by the fathers of independence. From 22nd to 25th May 1963, 30 African countries took part in the conference in the Ethiopian capital, which set up the OAU, which marked the arrival of the first pan-African organisation. A charter defined its objectives, principles and institutions.



Group work

Investigate about the countries which the OAU helped to gain their independence and how it helped them.

Use the table below to record your findings.

Country helped by OAU	How it was helped	Results
1. South Africa		

Present your findings in class.

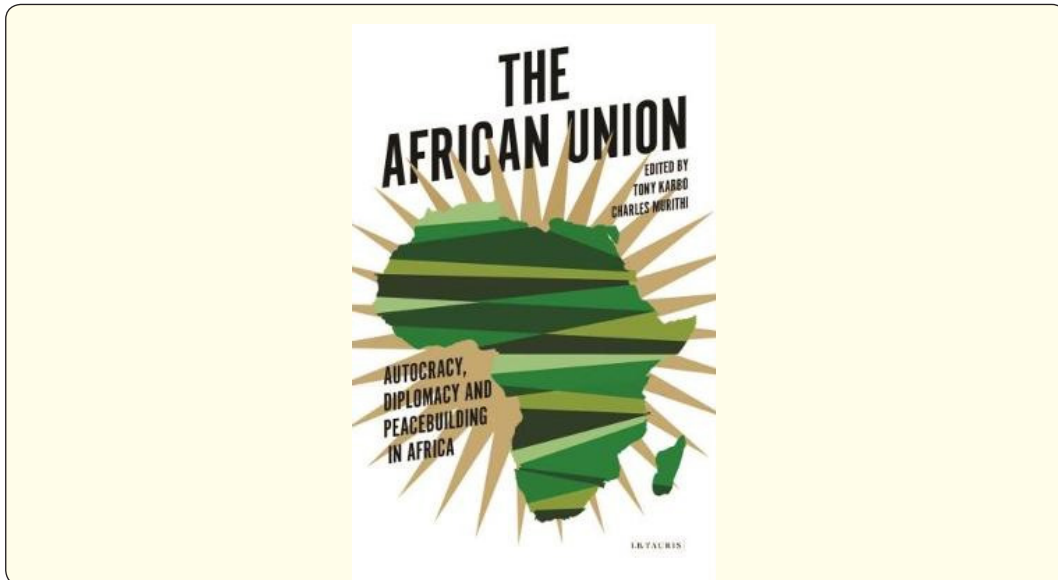
Activity 2

The African Union (AU)

This was an organisation formed by African countries to replace the OAU in 2002. It is the current organisation uniting and representing Africa in the world. Its charter was signed on 11th July, 2000.

The African Union stipulated the organisation, objectives and the rules.

Source 3



Objectives of the African Union

1. To accelerate the political, social and economic integration of the continent.
2. To promote and defend the African common positions on issues of interest.
3. To defend the independence and territorial integrity of African states and maintain the sovereignty of these countries.
4. To promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance.
5. To harmonise policies of regional blocs.
6. To promote cooperation among the African states in economic, social and political fields so as to improve living standards.
7. To achieve greater African unity.
8. To promote peace, security and stability in the continent through peaceful settlement of disputes.
9. To help the continent develop by promoting research in all fields, particularly in science and technology.

10. To encourage international cooperation, taking into account the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
11. To work with relevant international partners in the eradication of preventable diseases and promotion of good health on the continent.



Fig. 5.2 African leaders attending an AU conference in Addis Ababa



Note!!!

The main aim of changing the name of the Organisation of African Unity to African Union was about a change of perspective through the definition of common policies in priority areas: Defense, peace and continental security, integration of African economies, the free trade policy.

Activity 3

Intergovernmental Authority and Development (IGAD)

This is an organisation of African countries. It succeeded the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD). Its member states are:

- Djibouti
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia



Fig. 5.3 IGAD logo

- Somalia
- Sudan
- South Sudan
- Kenya
- Uganda

It was established in 1996. South Sudan was admitted into the organisation in 2011.

Objectives of IGAD

Source 3

Rationale:

- Frequent droughts and famine crisis in ASAL
- Efforts were focused on disaster preparedness and emergencies measures
- Need to prevent disasters and end drought emergencies

Objectives: Strengthen drought resilience strategies and investments at the member states' and regional level

Strategy: To establish an inclusive regional mechanism mobilize resources for priority national and regional interventions aimed at enhancing drought resilience and facilitate knowledge management including sharing lessons learnt and best practices.


IGAD Secretariat, Djibouti



Pair work

How are the objectives of the IGAD important in ensuring that Africa is promoted?

- Promote joint development strategies among member states.
- Harmonise policies with regard to trade, customs, transport, agriculture and natural resources.
- Create an enabling environment for foreign and cross border trade.
- Achieve regional food security through combating drought and other disasters.

- e) To initiate programs for sustainable development of natural resources and environmental protection.
- f) Develop a complementary infrastructure.
- g) Promote peace and sustainability in the region for example through dialogue.
- h) Promote co-operation in science and technology.

Activity 4

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

This is an organisation of West African States that was formed in 1975 with the signing of the Lagos treaty.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is made up of fifteen member countries that are located in the Western African region. These countries have both cultural and geopolitical ties and share common economic interest.

Objectives of ECOWAS

- a) To improve the living standards of the people in member states.
- b) To achieve and maintain economic stability.
- c) To improve relations between member states.
- d) To promote cultural interaction among member states.
- e) To promote industrial development among member states
- f) To increase cooperation in specific fields like transport, agriculture and trade.



Fig. 5.4 Map of West African Countries covered under ECOWAS

Activity 5

The New East African Community (EAC)

The New East African Community was formed in 2001 to replace the old one that had ceased to exist from 1977. It was to revive the old unity that existed among states in the East African region. The old East African Community had three member states, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The New East African members are:

- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Burundi
- Uganda
- Rwanda
- South Sudan

It has a motto and anthem. Its headquarter is in Arusha, Tanzania.

Six flags of member countries	
	Kenya
	Rwanda
	South Sudan
	Tanzania
	Burundi
	Uganda

Objectives of the New East African Community

- a) To establish a customs union, a common market, a monetary union and eventually a political federation.
- b) To enhance the role of women in social, economic and political development.
- c) To encourage cooperation between the civil society and the private sector to achieve development of member states.
- d) To promote peace and security among members.
- e) To develop policies which encourage cooperation of member states.



Fig. 5.5 Presidents of EAC member countries in 2015

Activity 6

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is a free trade area with nineteen member states stretching from Libya to Swaziland. COMESA was formed in December 1994, replacing the Preferential Trade Area, which had existed since 1981.

The aims and objectives of COMESA

- a) To ensure continuous growth of members by encouraging a balanced production and marketing.
- b) To promote joint development in all fields of economic activity.
- c) To promote peace, security and stability of member states.
- d) To strengthen relations between COMESA and the rest of the world.
- e) To create an environment which encourages cross border and domestic investment.

The European Union

It is a political and economic union of 28 states mainly in Europe. It developed an internal single market by standardising its laws to be followed by all member states. They developed a monetary union where they use their currency known as the Euro.

Member states include Australia, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Poland, and Spain among others. Britain is in the process of withdrawing from the union.

Their motto is *United in Diversity*.

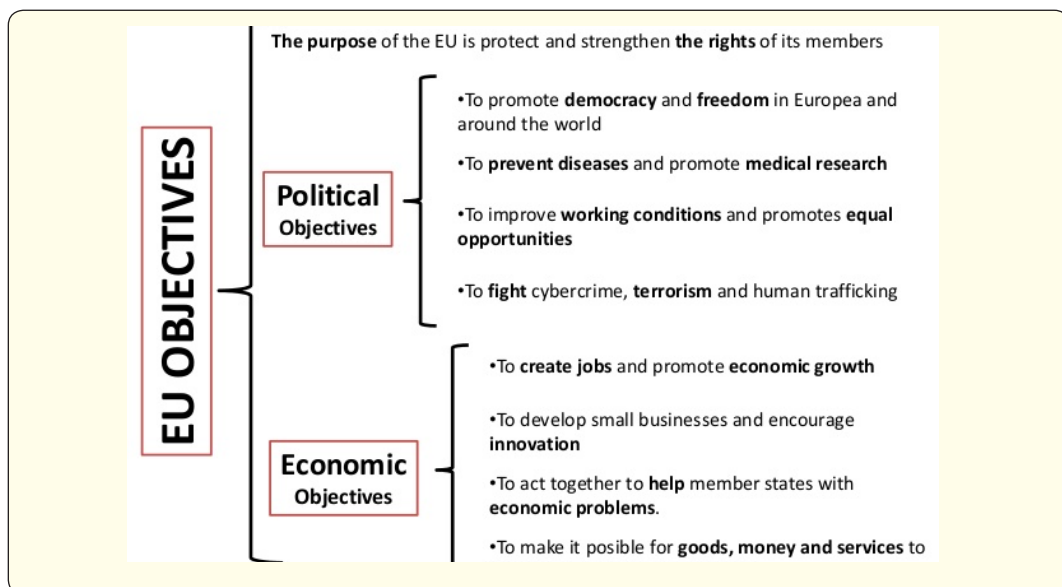
Its headquarters is in Brussels, Belgium.



Fig. 5.6 Flags of EU member states

Objectives of the European Union

Source 4



(a) To promote economic and social progress of member states.

(b) To assert the identity of the union on the international scene for example,

through aid to non-member countries, having common foreign and security policy and action in the international crises.

- (c) To introduce European citizenship to complement national citizenship to citizens from member countries.



Note!!!

The European Union's main objective is to promote peace, follow the EU's values and improve the wellbeing of nations.

Activity 7

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)

It was formed in 1945. Almost all countries of the world are members of IMF.

Objectives of the International Monetary Fund

- a) To promote international monetary cooperation.
- b) To promote the growth of international trade.
- c) To promote stable exchange of money.



Group work

1. Research and list down other objectives of the IMF.
2. What does the IMF and the World Bank do?
3. Write down the answers in your note books.

Activity 8

How regional and international organisations helped in the gaining of independence in Africa

One international organisation that we have not discussed above is the United Nations which was formed in 1945. Together with the organisation of African Unity, the United Nations has played a great role in freeing African nations from colonisation.

The United Nations

The United Nations in its charter on human rights included the right to self-determination. This means that all people have a right to decide their destiny for themselves and not other people deciding for them. Colonised people had the right to be set free so that they rule themselves. The UN also set up the trusteeship system and the trusteeship council. This council was to organise the administration of territories that were not independent. Any country that took over the administration of such a territory was to set up systems that would slowly lead it to self- independence.

In 1960, the General Assembly of the UN adopted the Declaration of granting independence to colonised countries and people. In it, it insisted that all people have the right to **self-determination** and colonialism should end quickly. All of its member countries, some which had colonies, were to obey this. In 1962 it adopted the special committee on decolonization to monitor if the colonialists were doing what it asked them to do in the previous declaration. Through this special units it condemned colonisation and removed Africa from the claws of colonialism. When South Africa wanted to annex Namibia, it saved it from annexation. When the White extremists in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) did not want to give independence to the Africans there, the UN put sanctions on the government of Ian Smith to force it to give them independence. It consistently condemned apartheid regime in South Africa.

The OAU on the other hand had a special committee as part of its structure dedicated to freeing Africans from colonialism. It was called the Liberation Committee. Its full title was the Coordinating Committee for the Liberation Movements in Africa. It had its headquarters in Dar-es-Salaam.



Group work

- a) Carry out a research on the African organisations which helped South Sudan gain her independence.
- b) Write down the contributions made by these organisations and the challenges they faced in helping South Sudan become an independent country.
- c) Present your findings to your class.

How regional and international organisations help in developing Africa

Source 5

“We further hope that this coming together will evolve eventually into a Union of African States just as the original thirteen American colonies developed into the forty-nine States constituting the American community. We are convinced that it is only in the - interdependence of such a unity that we shall be able truly to safeguard our individual national freedom. We have no illusions about this being an easy task. But with the spirit and determination there, the goodwill and cooperation of our people, we shall, I am firmly convinced, reach our objective”. *(A speech by Kwame Nkrumah, former president of Ghana)*



Pair work

To what extent do you think the above statement has been achieved?

1. The OAU helped in solving disputes between countries like Kenya and Somalia over their boundary, Ethiopia and Somalia over the Ogaden region, Chad and Libya too. The disputes were solved by the OAU's Mediation Commission. IGAD and the AU have been involved in peace keeping missions in the horn of Africa and other areas of Africa. This helped promote peace which is a key development.
2. The OAU and other regional organisations have banks where nations get loans to develop their countries. An example of this is the African Development Bank, the African Central Bank, the African Monetary Fund and the African Investment Bank.
3. The United Nations organisation through the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have helped balance trade between nations in Africa and stabilise their currencies. They too have given loans and grants to counties in Africa to build infrastructure, pay debts and so on.
4. The East African Community and ECOWAS have pooled resources together to build roads and railways.
5. Organisations like COMESA and EAC have promoted trade in Africa

between member countries through reduction of tariffs. For example, Nigeria supplies oil to members of ECOWAS at a cheaper price.

6. The African Union through its peer review mechanism has promoted good governance in Africa through positive competition of countries. Those that promote democracy and gender equality are awarded. The AU and the UN also send observer missions to African countries to observe elections to help ensure free and fair elections.
7. ECOWAS has allowed free movement of members in each other's countries. It has reduced restrictions on VISA requirements. This has allowed a lot of cross border investments.
8. The EU and African countries co-operate in many ways. The EU has entered agreements with many African countries like the Cotonou Agreement and the joint Africa-EU Strategy of 2007. The EU adopted three special strategies for three areas in Africa – the horn of Africa, the Gulf of Guinea and the Sahel region. In the horn of Africa, it helps countries fight insecurity especially terrorism, drought, famine and flooding. It gives food aid and teaches communities on how to develop sustainable economies. In the Sahel region and the Gulf of Guinea, it is involved in promoting security too. It fights human trafficking in the Sahel region. In 2017, the EU committed to provide 50 million Euros to support the newly established G5 Sahel joint force to improve security in the region.

In other parts of Africa, it has had several military and civilian missions as part of its common security and defence policy. EU missions are deployed in the Central Africa Republic, Libya, Mali and Somalia today. Here, they prevent civilian deaths and help them go on with their economic and social activities thus promoting development.

Through economic partnerships with African states the EU promotes trade between it and Africa by allowing imports and exports from partner countries. The European development fund is used to fund a lot of projects in Africa.

9. The United Nations has helped resettle refugees. It provides food to them, security and education. The education helps them get employment even in the host countries.



Work to do

Visit the library or research using the internet and other sources about the following:

- a) The Lomé convention of 1975.
- b) The Cotonou agreement of 2000 (section affecting Africa) and see how other nations have helped Africa develop itself.
- c) The United Nations has been in the forefront in helping African countries gain independence and develop. How far do you agree with this statement?

Write down your points.

Challenges that regional and international organisations face when addressing African affairs

Source 6

“A peacekeeping operation, cannot serve as a substitute for the absence of a political process. What the peacekeeping operation can only do is to support a political process.” (*The Relationship between Africa and the UN FES New York Conference Report June 2008*)



Pair work

Do you think the statement on page 94 true? What are the dangers of relying too heavily on peace keeping operations?

1. Shortage of funds

Many African regional organisations face this problem as some members fail to remit their contributions. This makes it hard to finance their projects.

2. Personal conflicts among leaders

Some leaders of certain countries do not meet one on one due to various reasons. Some miss crucial meetings because their “enemy” is attending.

3. Countries going against agreed agreements

The EAC member states for example have accused one another of doing

this especially Kenya and Tanzania. This creates hatred and drags any development plans.

4. *Some countries go against the spirit of good neighbourliness*

One aim of the EAC is to promote good neighbourliness. Kenyan fishermen are periodically detained in Uganda accused of fishing in Ugandan waters of Mizingo Island. In 2017, the Tanzanian government detained livestock of Kenyan pastoralists who had crossed the border in search of pasture during the dry season. Kenya sent several delegations to plead with the Tanzanian government in vain. Such actions create hostility in the organisation.

5.

Some international organisations that are in Africa assisting Africans on how to develop viable economies in some areas get frustrated as some communities refuse to change. Some other communities need constant supervision to continue doing what they were told yet it is for their own benefit.

6.

Some members are involved in creating instability in other member nations.

7.

Civil wars have undermined the progress made in some countries like in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. Agriculture is disrupted, roads destroyed and people killed. A lot of money is spent on weapons and reconstruction after war instead of development.



Work to do

Imagine that you are a member of the EAC, write an essay on how you would solve the challenges that EAC faces.

Present your essay in class. Let the class question each essay so that as a class the suggested solutions are debated upon and a collaborative set of solutions are developed.

NEW WORDS

Charter:	A written grant by a legitimate power such as a company, university or country.
Decolonisation:	Granting a state or country independence.
Diversity:	A range of different things.
Federation:	A group of states with a central government but independent in internal units.
Geopolitical:	Relating to politics especially in international relations, as influenced by geographical factors.
Pan-African:	Advocacy for the unity of African people.
Sovereignty:	The power of a country to control its government.
Civil war:	It's a war of people or citizens of a state against themselves.

End of Unit Exercise

1. The organisation of Africa Unity was unable to handle many regional conflicts, some that resulted into wars. What were some reasons for this inability?
2. In what ways does peace promote development?
3. What do you think is the political challenge facing South Sudan?