

The Republic of Togo
African Union SSUNS 2016

By
Grace Okusanya

General Assembly
SSUNS 2016-2017
November 10, 2016

One of the many reasons why the African Union was set in place in the September of 1999, was, “To encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”¹ The Republic of Togo, not unlike many countries in the AU, has benefitted from being apart of an event that promotes unity, economic and social development, as well as peace, security and safety.² Togo, before being part of the what known then as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), was a country that was just recently given its independence. The OAU, was established to elevate solidarity of African countries, eradicate all forms of colonialism in sovereign countries, and, “To promote international cooperation with due regard for the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights”.³ Many of the initiatives and regimes that have been set in place by the African Union have aided in development of the Republic of Togo as a country. Some of the initiatives that have not been addressed in this session is the access to education for women and girls, foreign direct investment in Africa, and promoting integrity and transparency in democratically elected governments.

The first topic mentioned is how the African Union is going to approach how each country is going to provide access to education for women and girls, this is one of the most progressive initiatives on the agenda for this meeting. The Republic of Togo, in the year 2007, had about 7 out of 10 people living below poverty standardizations, had about a quarter of the population, between the ages of 15 and 24, not being able to read or write, and only about 74%

¹ African Union Commision. "AU in a Nutshell." Home. November 2016. Accessed November 09, 2016.

² ibid

³ Addis Ababa. "African Union (AU)." Nuclear Threat Initiative. June 06, 2015. Accessed November 09, 2016.

of children went to school.⁴ The Republic of Togo, once receiving help from organizations like UNICEF and Plan International, has decreased the number of people who live in poverty to 59% of the population.⁵ However, because of economic sanctions there has been an overall decrease in development aid which has caused a progressive decline in education services. With the help of the AU, the Republic, will be able to further decrease the number of people in poverty for the years to come, and the number of illiterate people, especially girls, will drastically decrease.

Another topic mentioned is how the African Union is going to approach how each country is going to address foreign direct investment in Africa. Togo, and many other “Francophone countries, invest abroad a sizeable part of their domestic investments,” which is not great for their own economy.⁶ The investment in other countries, can only be explained by the willingness to help other countries around the Republic. The high outward FDI in Togo, can only be explained by the mismanagement of the government. If the AU were to provide mentors, and economical guides to the Republic, it would only help the government officials into making the right decisions in Foreign Direct Investments.

The last topic mentioned is how the African Union is going to approach how each country is going to promote integrity and transparency in democratically elected governments. Over the years, Togo has progressively become more transparent with their motions, laws, and

⁴ Unicef. "BASIC EDUCATION AND GENDER EQUALITY GENERAL CONTEXT - UNICEF." Unicef. 2006. Accessed November 9, 2016.

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ Page, Sheila, and Dirk Willem. "Foreign Direct Investment by African Countries." *Foreign Direct Investment by African Countries*. December 17, 2004. Accessed November 9, 2016.

taxes, but Togo is still at only 32% transparency.⁷ If the AU were to give rewards, benefits, or even invest for countries, not unlike Togo, to be more than 75% transparent that would help the Togolese government into becoming more transparent in their political endeavours.

The Togo government, would greatly benefit from the meeting of all AU countries, to devise new strategies, to come up with new resolutions to help better empower Togolese.

⁷ The Global Economy. "Togo Corruption Perceptions - Transparency International - Data, Chart | TheGlobalEconomy.com." TheGlobalEconomy. 2016.

Works Cited

Addis Ababa. "African Union (AU)." Nuclear Threat Initiative. June 06, 2015. Accessed November 09, 2016. <http://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/african-union-au/>.

African Union Commision. "AU in a Nutshell." Home. November 2016. Accessed November 09, 2016. <http://www.au.int/en/about/nutshell>.

Page, Sheila, and Dirk Willem. "Foreign Direct Investment by African Countries." Foreign Direct Investment by African Countries. December 17, 2004. Accessed November 9, 2016. <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/5739.pdf>.

The Global Economy. "Togo Corruption Perceptions - Transparency International - Data, Chart | TheGlobalEconomy.com." TheGlobalEconomy. 2016. Accessed November 09, 2016. http://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Togo/transparency_corruption/.

Unicef. "BASIC EDUCATION AND GENDER EQUALITY GENERAL CONTEXT - UNICEF." Unicef. 2006. Accessed November 9, 2016. http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/WCARO_Togo_Factsheet_EDB-GenderEquity.pdf.