

AFRICAN UNION AND NEW PARTNERSHIP - A STUDY IN THE PERCEPTION OF AFRICAN UNION

SREENIVAS A V

Post-Graduation in Political Science and Geography, Bangalore University

ABSTRACT

The Organization of African Unity ceased to exist on July 8, 2002, and the African Union was born in Durban at a summit. It lays out the organization's fundamental values and goals. The African Unity's successor organization will have a broad mandate: peace, security, and stability, as well as democracy, popular involvement, and good governance. The African Union will now be able to use all important means, including force, in the event of genocide or war crimes.

"Respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law, and good governance" are among the African Union's "principles," along with "condemnation and rejection of unconstitutional changes of governments" and, most notably, "the right of the Union to intervene in a Member State pursuant to a decision of the Assembly (of the Union, composed of heads of state and government) in respect of grudges." Furthermore, the African Union lists policy coordination and harmonization among regional economic communities as one of its goals. Our research involves a fact study and predictive analysis of key records and data connected to our research purpose, which has assisted us in drawing conclusions about the African Union's (AU) future, growth opportunities, and potential challenges.

Index Terms: Partnership Peacekeeping: The UN-African Union Relationship's Challenges and Opportunities, Goals and ideals in the European Union-African Union collaboration, The African Union faces enforcement issues, The African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development, The African Union's role and position in the burgeoning China-Africa alliance.

1 HYPOTHESIS

This study on the African Union's transition and partnership aims to identify the major obstacles to this endeavor as well as potential sources of cooperation among diverse organizations. If peace efforts are to be successful, this partnership must work well. The article examines current political and economic events in these key globe camps, as well as the future scopes and risks that may influence them and other countries.

2 INTRODUCTION

The New African Initiative was created by African leaders to support the continent's economic development. In July 2002, it was united with Senegal's OMEGA Plan to form the New Partnership for Africa's Development. There is renewed confidence that a new age has begun and that the moment has come for Africa's progress and rejuvenation, which will be impossible without respect for democracy, constitutionalism, and human

rights, all of which are stressed in the AU, NEPAD, and APRM protocols. There is a new sense of confidence that a new age has begun and that the moment has arrived for Africa to grow, which would be impossible without better government. All of these variables must be addressed in advance in order to obtain a clear image of the African union and new partnership scenario in many perspectives, challenges, and opportunities on which we did our research.



Fig1.African Union

2.1. In relation to the African Union, Anglo-French cooperation-

When the UK and French governments announced the Saint-Malo project in December 1998, they declared their resolve to put a century of animosity behind them and "pursue collaborative partnership" on the ground in Africa. They were indicating their willingness to shift away from the conventional regions of influence of their former African empires and toward a continent-wide focus on Africa, with regional and sub-regional organization capacity building as a fundamental pillar. Examines the major events and trends that pushed for and enabled a more integrated approach to the AU. It then examines the basic motivations of increased collaboration in order to understand the recent shift toward a more cooperative approach, before examining the range and character of Anglo-French cooperation in the AU.

2.2. Peace and Security Collaboration between the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD): Results and Challenges-

The IGAD, in partnership with the African Union, has played a key role in peacekeeping and conflict settlement in Sudan, Somalia, and South Sudan. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as one of the AU's primary building blocks, is working to maintain peace and security throughout its volatile and conflict-ridden operational region. The African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development have made significant progress in resolving and alleviating the region's political instability and insecurity issues. This is not to say that the collaboration is without flaws or obstacles.

The major section focuses on the AU-IGAD relationship in the field of peace and security, including conceiving the partnership, accomplishments, and obstacles.



Fig2. African Peace and security architecture

2.3. The African Union's position as a vehicle for investment projects and regional cooperation: a critical assessment of Africa's new Development partnership (NEPAD)-
Africa is confronted with a variety of issues, ranging from underdevelopment to extreme poverty. In spite of its wealth of natural resources, Africa remains a supplier of raw materials for the North. To leverage Foreign Direct Investment, Africa must mobilize intra-continental investment (FDI). The Diasporas Africans are also a valuable source of capacity for NEPAD implementation. In order to achieve the African Renaissance, NEPAD supports Africa's involvement in global affairs. It is critical that the architects of NEPAD pay attention to the concerns expressed by its critics and continue to involve CSOs and the intended beneficiary society.

2.4. The African Union and public sector reforms-

It is made up of a variety of institutions that make and implement decisions that affect a wide range of interests. Its key responsibilities include supplying products, services to citizens as well as the possession of public characteristics different from commercial management. Sound financial management, a well-run civil service, effective and equitable tax collection, and transparent, corruption-free operations all contribute to good public service delivery. The goal is to urge states to develop a national action plan to address governance issues.

2.5. In the African Union: Nigeria and South Africa have formed a political-strategic partnership-

When the African Union was founded in 2002, these two regional giants – Nigeria and South Africa – have always pursued “asymmetric foreign policy objectives” at the AU level, which has hampered the organization’s capacity to execute its fundamental objectives more effectively. The relationship between Nigeria and Nigeria at the African Union level has been contentious, as have efforts to accomplish common African aims. The two countries frequently pursue their own national interests, which can hamper the African Union’s collective and common objectives. The two countries continue to obstruct the African Union’s ability to speak with a cohesive voice within the international community and institutions such as the UN because of their political and economic clout, geopolitical locations, and leadership roles in the international community.

2.6. Strategic Partnership in Africa between the EU and the African Union-

The European Union’s Joint Action in Support of the African Union Mission in Sudan is based on a European Council decision dated July 18, 2005. Its purpose is to aid the African Union’s Darfur peacekeeping force in becoming more effective. The primary purpose of the Joint Action is to help the African Union’s political, police, and military efforts in Darfur to cease violence against civilians and secure a mutual peace agreement between the warring parties. African ownership must be ensured while effective and timely support is provided as a basic premise of EU activities. The EU’s support effort has both a civil and military component. The civil portion assists the civil-police force’s line of command.



Fig3: The African Union Relations

3 STUDY OBJECTIVE

The African Union and the New Partnership study examines and analyses the African Union's partnerships with other countries, as well as the power politics that the three major world powers – the US, China, and the European Union – engage in with one another. In this post, we've concentrated on the African Union's position, assessing its flaws and prospects for becoming worldwide leaders.

4 RELATED WORK

4.1 Partnership Peacekeeping: The UN-African Union Relationship's Challenges and Opportunities-

- Significant disagreement, mistrust, and animosity have impeded the predictability and execution of efficient peace operations between the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU). The UN and the African Union thus have a deep, multi-faceted, and evolving partnership based on each institution's comparative advantages and cooperation in numerous operational theatres.
- The United Nations, the African Union, and other bilateral and multilateral organizations have taken a number of actions to aid West Africa's peace-building efforts. The United Nations' response in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as its operations in Mali, was mainly reliant on collaboration with ECOWAS and the African Union.
- With the fighting in Darfur in mind, the Security Council declared in Resolution 1556 that the "situation in Sudan constitutes a threat to world peace and security as well as regional stability". It starts by looking at the function of peacekeeping operations and regional accords or agencies in the larger international peace and security system. It looks at the Darfur peacekeeping systems after defining the context. These missions

began with the African Union, but have now expanded to include the UN and a hybrid peacekeeping force.



Fig4.Increasing the UN-AU peace and security collaboration

4.2 Goals and ideals in the European Union-African Union collaboration-

In 2000, at the Africa-EU Summit in Cairo, the Africa-EU Partnership Framework was developed. The European Commission released a revised EU Africa Strategy in 2005, with the goal of establishing a Euro-African partnership to help Africa develop faster. Since then, there has been significant development on both continents, which has posed a challenge to how Africa and Europe view each other.

Its strategic partnership intends to improve political coordination, development assistance, joint management and shared responsibility, security cooperation, migration regulation, and trans-regional project promotion, among other things. Nuclear power is one of the low-carbon technologies that can currently contribute to alleviate global energy poverty. Africa should not be an outlier in this regard. Through low-carbon technologies such as nuclear, a repositioned African-EU Energy Partnership can provide sustainable energy to all Africans as soon as possible.



Fig 5.AU-EU Collaborations

4.3 The African Union faces enforcement issues-

Sovereignty has frequently been utilized to protect rulers at the expense of the general public. In a way that the OAU's total consensus mechanism never did, the African Union's Constitutive Act allows for intervention without the target state's approval. As crucial as deciding when and why to intervene is making sure that intervention is effective. The AU has a variety of alternatives, including sanctions, criminal charges, and military involvement.

4.4 The African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development-

It's a multi-pronged development plan aimed at achieving long-term economic growth, poverty reduction, and the exclusion of Africa from the globalization process (NEPAD, 2001). Despite its little success in achieving its lofty goals to date, NEPAD was recently confirmed as the African Union's development vision at its second conference in Maputo in July 2003. It will be claimed that NEPAD should be applauded since it represents an indigenous, African answer to globalization, but that it should be more clearly linked to the aims of democracy, poverty eradication, and gender parity. NEPAD, as an effort spanning Africa, both contributes to and benefits from regional economic integration. The African Union initiative may become a key part of this process, but its beginnings have been shaky, with too optimistic assumptions and few consultations.



Fig6. Africa's political areas and boundaries

4.4.1. Implications for skills development from the new African Development Partnership-

- A new global division of labor has emerged as a result of contemporary globalization.
- For some countries, globalization means more economic integration, whereas for others, it entails further economic marginalization.
- Globalization's consequences, on the other hand, are felt differently in different parts of the world.
- The power of the nation state in areas such as education policy has shifted as a result of contemporary globalization.

4.4.2. In Science and Technology-

Through collaboration and competition, scientific and technical discovery and application continue to advance at a rapid pace, resulting in significant benefits for the socioeconomic growth of nations and regions. As a result, most regional and multinational institutions and agencies that promote international development and collaboration are very interested in science and technology development. The AU's metamorphosis into the OAU, as well as the NEPAD initiative, has given promise to Africa's scientific and technological progress.

4.5 The African Union's role and position in the burgeoning China-Africa alliance-

Much of Beijing's agenda is complementary to Africa's objectives. Africa's ruling and business elites see new prospects in China, such as trade, investment, regime stability, and strategic alliances. Many African monarchs are drawn to China's alternative development model, which emphasizes non-interference in state sovereignty, freedom from "western hegemony," and the absence of aid needs. One of them is commerce, as the trade balance favors China. The influx of inexpensive Chinese goods has hurt local companies and merchants hard.



Fig7. Africa-China Cooperation

5 METHODOLOGY DESIGN

This research on the African Union and the new partnership is based on a survey of the literature as well as factual studies that have been made available to the general public around the world. We have gathered connected relevant material that supports or contradicts the criteria indicated in the Introduction Section of this research and then made our analysis based on the background investigation. Our investigation incorporates the following fact observations:

- AU-US relationships, challenges and opportunities
- AU-EU trade and energy partnership
- AU strength and compatibility with other countries.

Our conclusions are based on these analytical observations on the aforementioned domains, which allow for future extensions/predictions based on the implications or requirements related to the subject of our research.

6 STUDY AREA AND DATA COLLECTION

We gathered crucial material from Government and Authorized Agency portals that were made available for public use for the purpose of observation and analysis in this study on the African Union and the new relationship. We spoke with experts, journalists, and institutes working on significant trade and energy studies/activities, as well as their problems, collaborations, and possibilities, to gain a better understanding of the issues. To help expand and assess the knowledge, we also suggested a number of online academic, research-based libraries.

Data and information will be collected until 2021 with the goal of tracking trade and political shifts or developments in the world's major countries. This data/information is thoroughly verified to ensure that it does not contain any contradicting or deceptive facts that could undermine social, political, or economic stability, and it is validated using the credentials and techniques stated in those information sources

7 FINDING AND CONCLUSION

Great power politics and international legitimacy requirements have surely benefited and influenced the growing number of peace operations in Africa since the establishment of the African Union. We believe that the need to create efficient operational responses to major crises, such as those in Darfur, Mali, and especially Somalia, has been the driving force behind this link. For a number of causes, these

missions sparked institutional collaboration and inventiveness. This will create a hospitable economic and political environment on all fronts, which is essential for progress. As a result, the creation and implementation of programs will require a mix of top-down and bottom-up approaches.

It is hoped that the EU, UN, and other nations will continue to work hard on capacity-building programs, election monitoring, security-sector reform, law enforcement, and border control, as well as promote collaboration for a self-contained African Union peace and security zone.

8 RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTION

- The AU, particularly the IGAD member states, must relinquish some of their sovereignty to the continental or regional body, either by agreeing to be governed by regional rules and decisions or by granting independent authority to an institutional secretariat. Because the AU and the IGAD are regarded as clubs of heads of state and government, they must evolve from intergovernmental groups to supranational organizations with decision-making autonomy. They must promote and encourage civil society and public participation in their particular peace and security initiatives and activities.
- China's African diplomacy, which aims to establish a strategic alliance and retain sovereign sovereignty against the West's corrosive influence, will need to discover new path to engage the continent - approaches that aren't just based on ensuring the political elite's obedience.
- Differences in economic interests among foreign players, such as the United States, the European Union, and China, result in a competition of effects that exacerbate political conflict and result in violent power transitions in some countries.
- The European Union has begun a review of its trading connections with African nations. This procedure includes negotiating and implementing new economic partnership agreements with African sub regional organizations and individual governments. The principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) should guide these new accords.
- Strike a strategic balance between prioritizing skills for poverty reduction, global competitiveness, national unity, and gender justice. The combined goals of poverty alleviation and economic competitiveness, as previously stated, provide policymakers with a number of conflicts. Both of these objectives might be mutually beneficial and rely on one another.
- The European Union is well on its way to being a main backer of the African Union, but it needs to find new ways to expand its assistance and increase its commitment to the EU-AU security cooperation.

- The EU acknowledged the African Union as a vital partner in intercontinental conversation on critical topics such as political dialogue, development, democratic control, migration transit, peace and security, and so on. Due to the scope of issues and the number of interacting modes, the EU-AU strategic cooperation is a one-of-a-kind example in global practice.

REFERENCES

- [1] A Joint Africa – EU Strategy (2007). Brussels, Council of the European Union.
- [2] Brosig, M. (2011). The Emerging Peace and Security Regime in Africa: The Role of the EU. *European Foreign Affairs Review*, 16 (1), pp. 107-122.
- [3] AEEP (Africa–European Union Energy Partnership). 2016. Africa-EU Energy Partnership Status Report Update: 2016. A Mid-Term Report on Progress, Achievements and Future Perspectives. Eschborn: European Union Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF)
- [4] Ajayi T. (2008), “The UN, the AU, And ECOWAS-a Triangle for peace and Security in West Africa”
- [5] Deller N. (2006), “The Role of the UN Peace-Building Commission in International Peace and Security”
- [6] OSAA, (2007), “The Emerging Role of the AU and ECOWAS in Conflict Prevention and Peace building Background paper prepared for Expert group meeting”. Office of the special Adviser on Africa, (2007)
- [7] Akuffo, Edward Ansah. 2010. “Cooperating for Peace and Security or Competing for Legitimacy in Africa? The Case of the African Union in Darfur.” *African Security Review* 19 (4): 74–89
- [8] Albrecht, Peter and Signe Cold-Ravnkilde. 2020. “National Interests as Friction: Peacekeeping in Somalia and Mali.” *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, 14 (2).
- [9] Bashua, Abiodun. 2014. “Challenges and Prospects of AU-UN Hybrid Operations: The UNAMID Experience.” *Journal of International Peacekeeping* 18 (1–2): 92–101.
- [10] Chafer, T. (2011). Anglo-French cooperation vis-à-vis the African Union. In T. Chafer, & G. Cumming (Eds.),
- [11] African Union, Peace and Security Council. Available at: <http://www.peaceau.org/en/page/38-peace-and-security-council>
- [12] Adetula, V. A., Bereketeab, R. & Jaiyebo, O. (2016). Regional Economic Communities and Peacebuilding in Africa: The Experiences of ECOWAS and IGAD. Nordiska Afrikainstitutet.
- [13] French, H. (2004) ‘China in Africa: All Trade, With No Political Baggage’,
- [14] African Trade Union Conference (2002), ‘Declaration of the African Trade Union Conference on the Role of African Workers and Trade Unions in the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)’, Dakar, Senegal, 20 February.
- [15] Assembly of the African Union (2003): Decision on the establishment by the European Union of a Peace and Support Operation Facility for the African Union, 1012. July.
- [16] Akinrinade S. (2002), NEPAD: New Partnership for Africa’s Development. The Conflict, Security and Development Group Bulletin.
- [17] Ayiku, M N B (1996), “Science and technology in development process”, in Sadig Rasheed and Siyanbola Tomori (editors), *The Political Economy of Development: An African Perspective*, volume I (ICIPE Science Press, Nairobi) pages 363–396
- [18] Cilliers, Jakkie, and Kathryn Sturman. 2004. »Challenges Facing the au’s Peace and Security Council«, in *African Security Review*, 13 (1): 97–104.
- [19] Keet, Dot. 2003. »nepad and the African Union«, *New Agenda*, no. 9: 112–33.