

AKWEN GABRIEL
ORTINDI BONIFACE

# THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE CHALLENGES OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN AFRICA

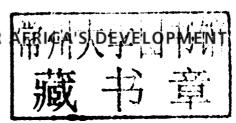
WHAT HOPE FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT



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## THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE CHALLENGES OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN AFRICA

#### **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to God the Almighty.

#### ACKWOLEDGEMENT

I use this opportunity to thank the Almighty God and all those who have in one way or the other contributed to the realization of this noble dream of mine. Since time and space would not allow me to register my appreciation to you individually as I would have loved to do, permit me to say thank you all.

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time and space would not allow me to mention everybody here, permit me to say I express my gratitude to everyone that has in one way or the other made this work a reality. Thank you all and God bless.

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(in percentages)

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

**UNDP** – United Nations Development Project.

AU - African Union

OAU - Organization of African Unity

EU - European Union

APRM - African Peer Review Mechanism

**ASEAN** – Association of South-East Asian Nations

NAFTA - North American Free Trade Area

OAS – Organization of American States

**IGOS** – Intergovernmental Organizations

**OATUU** – Organization of African Trade Union Unity

ECLA - Economic Commission for Latin America

ECWA - Economic Commission for West Asia

ECA – Economic Commission for Africa

**ECE** – Economic Commission for Europe

ESCAP - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**GSM** – Global System for Mobile Communication

**EEC** – European Economic Community

**UK** – United Kingdom

ECSC - European Coal and Steel Community

**CARICOM** – Caribbean Community and Common Market

ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States

SADC - South African Development Council

AMU - Arab Magreb Union

**COMESA** – Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

**RECS** – Regional Economic Community

**AEC** – African Economic Community

**UEMOA –** Union Economique et Monetaire quest – Africaine

(West African Economic and Monetary Union)

**ECCAS** – Economic Community of Central African States

**RIA** – Regional Integration Agreement

PAP - Pan-African Parliament

**COREPER –** Committee of Permanent Representatives

ECOSOC - Economic, Social and Cultural Council

**NGOs** – Non-Governmental Organizations

**CBOs** – Community Based Organizations

**GDP** – Gross Domestic Product

**UNSC** – United Nations Security Council

**AAPC** – All African Peoples Conference

LPA - Lagos Plan of Action

SAP – Structural Adjustment Program

**IMF** – International Monetary Fund

PTA - Preferential Trade Area

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#### CHAPTER ONE

#### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

One major problem facing African states today is that of national integration and development. The expectation was that the enthusiasm that greeted the acquisition of political independence in Africa would have equally spurred rapid economic, political and social development. Contrary to these expectations, the observed trend is one that has degenerated gradually into social conflicts, political instability, economic crisis and general stagnation in the development process. Several decades of the preoccupation with the issue of development by African states has had only marginal success. For most Africans, real incomes are lower than they were two decades ago, health, prospects are poorer, malnourishment is widespread and infrastructures are breaking down, as well as social institutions.

If the above assertion is anything to go by, then the submission that Africa ranks top on the list of poor continents of the world is not contestable, the problem of world poverty is so severe that the 1997 Human Development Report estimates that more than 1.3million people in the world live on less than \$1.00 per day, including 200 million Africans (about 30% of the total population of Africa (Onimode 2000:2).