



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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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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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).