

AFRICAN UNION AND THE QUEST FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN AFRICA: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Adeniji, Adeyinka Samson and Adegunwa Adebayo A.

Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Abuja, Department Of Political Science and International Relations, University of Abuja

Corresponding Author's email: yinkaashola@gmail.com



Abstract

The Study examined Issues, Challenges and Prospects of African Union (AU) in its Quest for Regional Integration in Africa using primary and secondary methods to collect data and the study was based on content analysis. The study adopted neo-functionalism as a framework of analysis. From the findings of the research, it was discovered that assessment of the impact of Africa's initial efforts to integrate suggests that the expected benefits have eluded the continent. In the light of recent data gathered, evidences show that the African Union (AU) has strong institutions to tackle the continental political integration, it is by the same token affirmed that the African Union can address the challenges in trade that effectively promotes economic growth and reduces poverty. Regional economic integration, as a prelude to continental market integration, is clearly an imperative survival strategy for Africa. The research therefore recommended, among others, that there is need to strengthen the African Parliament to mobilize support, spur debate over the African Union to promote timely democratization and transparency of the process; establish the African Court of Justice to play a vanguard role with the African Parliament in promoting good governance, human rights and democratization of the African Union's institutions and organs and in building a strong moral and constitutional foundation for it; Establish the Economic, Social, and Cultural Council with relevant technical committees to prepare the groundwork for accelerating regional integration (policy convergence and infrastructure).

Keywords: *Regional Integration, Africa, African Union (AU), Issues, Challenges and Prospects*