

**Democratic Governance and Development in Africa:
Challenges of African Union (AU)**

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ABSTRACT Most African states had their independence in 1960. In 1963, May 25th, 32 countries formed the organisation of African Unity (OAU) for political and economic emancipation from colonial plunder. The state of underdevelopment in Africa remains bad. This is reflected in the poverty situation that engenders conflict and violence in the continent. What has happened to Africa in the past four decades can be compared to the effects of a World War. Its crisis is different from anything else found anywhere in the world. No other continent is suffering such acute famine and environmental loss and no where else do institutions and skills lag so far behind the problems. No other region of the developing world finds itself in such a steep and steady decline as Africa. To come out of this situation African leaders have decided to adopt a regional integration strategy with the establishment of the African Union (AU). The AU aims at restoring peace and stability and promotes rapid development through the full involvement of the private and public sectors. The paper thus highlights the problems of Africa, reviews some relevant literature and makes some suggestions such as democratic governance and increased private sector participation in the economy of member states to ensure the success of the AU.