

Defending Democracy
A Global Survey of Foreign Policy Trends
1992-2002

FACT SHEETS
ON REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



African Union (formerly Organization of African Unity) (AU)

Created: Organization of African Unity (OAU), 1963
African Union (AU), July 2001

Purpose:

OAU: To promote unity, solidarity and international cooperation among the newly independent African states.
AU: To harmonize the economic and political policies of all African nations in order to improve pan-African welfare, and provide Africans with a solid voice in international affairs.

Member States:

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Commitments to Democracy

- In 1997, the Organization of African Unity approved the *Harare Declaration*, which condemns coups d'état. This resolution was approved at the OAU Summit in Harare.
- In 1999, the OAU approved the *Algiers Resolution*. This resolution barred from the Lome Summit in 2000 those member states whose governments had been deposed since the Harare Summit and had not held credible elections.
- The *Constitutive Act of the new African Union* (AU) was adopted in Lomé in July 2000. This act includes as an objective of the AU the promotion of “democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance.” The founding principles of the AU include “condemnation and rejection of unconstitutional changes of government.” Article 30 of the Act states that “governments which shall come to power through unconstitutional means shall not be allowed to participate in the activities of the Union.” The Lomé Declaration compiles a series of mechanisms to deal with the interruption of democratic rule such as sanctions to be invoked in the event of an interruption of constitutional rule including suspension from the AU. These sanctions include denial of visas to coup plotters, commercial restrictions, and restrictions on government contacts. The AU agreements provide for six months of consultation to enable a national government to restore constitutional rule before any sanctions would be applied.



Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Created: 1973

Purpose:

Economic cooperation through the Caribbean Single Market and Economy; coordination of foreign policy among the independent member states, and common services and cooperation in functional matters such as health, education and culture, communications and industrial relations.

Member Countries:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas (Bahamas is a member of the Community but not the Common Market), Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago.

Observers:

Aruba, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, Venezuela.

Associated:

Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Affiliations with other regional organizations:

Most CARICOM nations are members of the Organization of American States (OAS) and they also share status as members of The Commonwealth. CARICOM nations are also members of the United Nations (UN). Within the UN they have joined other small island states to form the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Commitments to democracy:

- In 1992, CARICOM nations signed the Protocol of Washington in which they committed themselves, along with the rest of the OAS members, to the promotion of democracy in the hemisphere.
- In 1993, the countries of CARICOM signed the Declaration of the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UN World Conference on Human Rights emphasizing the Latin American and Caribbean communities' regard for peace, democracy, development and social welfare as essential for the realization of human rights.
- In 2001 Jamaica, Guyana and Haiti, as members of the UN General Council, voted for the promotion and consolidation of democracy worldwide. This vote is considered an example of CARICOM's dedication to the task.
- On 11 September 2001, within the framework of the OAS, CARICOM nations endorsed the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
- During the 1990s, the group's focus widened to encompass the promotion of democracy, including those social issues such as human rights, poverty alleviation and crime prevention that enhance democratic society. During this period, CARICOM members also participated in election monitoring missions led by the OAS.

Examples of CARICOM responses to threats to democracy in the region and internationally:

- CARICOM's response to the overthrow of democratically-elected governments in the region has been mostly consistent with the OAS position.



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- CARICOM members supported the OAS' denouncement of Alberto Fujimori's self-coup of 1992 and monitored the 1993 elections for a Constituent Congress in Peru, which was Fujimori's solution to the organization's denouncement of his coup.
- In response to the coup that deposed Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the democratically-elected president of Haiti, CARICOM nations supported the OAS invocation of Resolution 1080 and the United States' military endeavors to foster political stability. Trinidad and Tobago contributed personnel to the Multinational Force in Haiti.
- CARICOM did not sever economic or diplomatic ties with either Peru or Haiti as a result of the events that unfolded.
- Furthermore, in the case of Haiti, the OAS recognized the inefficacy of economic sanctions against a country afflicted by such dire poverty. Following debates in which it was not possible to reach a consensus among members about sanctions, the organization opted for softer measures that in the end produced mixed results and failed to loosen Raul Cédras' hold over the country.
- CARICOM nations supported the OAS' condemnation of the overthrow of democratically-elected President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela on 11 April 2002. Ambassador Lisa Shoman of Belize, representing CARICOM, accompanied the Secretary-General of the OAS, Cesar Gaviria on his fact-finding mission.

CARICOM has responded consistently to the manipulation of electoral processes within the region.

- In the presidential elections of 2000 in Peru, there were mixed proposals among CARICOM members. At the OAS, Jamaica and Bahamas voiced their opinion that Resolution 1080 was not applicable in the case of Peru, while Saint Kitts and Nevis, Barbados and the Dominican Republic had no opinion as to the relevance of the Resolution to the elections crisis in the Andean country. On the other hand, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda proposed that Fujimori hold new elections immediately. Ultimately, Canada's proposal for the formation of a high-level mission to assess the situation and generate recommendations prevailed.
- The 2000 electoral monitoring mission to Haiti was led by a Barbadian. In the aftermath of the troubled elections, an agreement by Prime Minister Owen Arthur of Barbados, Chairman of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, and OAS Secretary General Gaviria established a Joint OAS/CARICOM Mission to Haiti. The Joint Mission made further attempts at resolving the political problems that confronted Haiti after the elections of 21 May 2000.
- CARICOM countries have taken no significant stand against the Castro government in Cuba. In fact, as in the past, there are many supporters of Cuba's government among the leading CARICOM nations. At a 1998 OAS-CARICOM summit, Cuba featured prominently in a speech given by CARICOM Secretary-General Edwin Carrington, calling for Cuba's return to the inter-American community and declaring that Cuba cannot be ignored when talking about Caribbean development. This support was reiterated in 2000 when CARICOM leaders signed a trade treaty with Cuba in defiance of the United States. Under the trade agreement, CARICOM was granted duty-free access to the Cuban market and committed itself to the development of joint projects in areas such as tourism.

CARICOM's record on the promotion of democracy is accompanied by its commitment to regional initiatives designed to address common social and political problems, such as poverty and drug trafficking.



The Commonwealth

Founded: Established by the London Declaration in 1949, the Commonwealth Secretariat was founded in 1965. The 1971 Singapore Declaration of Commonwealth Principles created the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

Purpose:

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent sovereign states that consult and cooperate in the common interests of their peoples, and seek to promote international understanding and world peace.

Member States:

Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Dominica, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and The Grenadines, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Commitments to Democracy:

The Commonwealth has no constitution or charter, but members have committed themselves to a series of statements of beliefs, all of which make references to democracy:

- In their 1971 *Declaration of Commonwealth Principles*, Commonwealth members expressed their commitment to the liberty of the individual, equal rights for all citizens regardless of race, and to citizens' inalienable right to participate by means of free and democratic political processes in framing the society in which they live.
- In the 1991 *Harare Declaration*, Commonwealth members reaffirmed the values they had set forth in 1971. In this declaration, Commonwealth members pledged to work together to promote fundamental political values and to focus their work on the democratic process, the rule of law, independence of the judiciary, and honest government.
- The 1995 *Millbrook Commonwealth Action Programme* further clarified the Harare Declaration. This program specified the requirements that governments wishing to join the Commonwealth for the first time would have to meet. These included compliance with Commonwealth values as well as with the principles and priorities set forth in the Harare Declaration. At this time it was also declared that, should a state be perceived to be in clear violation of the principles outlined in the Harare Declaration, appropriate steps should be taken to encourage the restoration of democracy within a reasonable timeframe.
- In 1995, the *Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG)* was established to deal with serious or persistent violations of the Harare Declaration. CMAG was charged with assessing the nature of perceived violations and with recommending measures for collective action by the Commonwealth to achieve the speedy restoration of democracy and constitutional rule. The Secretary General was given the power to initiate a process of inquiry into a possible violation by any given country.



New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD)

Created: 2001 as a merger of the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) and the OMEGA Plan.

Purpose:

Spearheaded by African leaders, NEPAD was created to address issues such as escalating poverty levels and underdevelopment of African countries and the continued marginalization of Africa.

Member States:

Members of the African Union.

Commitments to democracy

- The *African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)* is “the mutually agreed instrument for self-monitoring” of political and economic commitments by member states. It is open to all AU member states. Accession to this mechanism is achieved by adopting the “*Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance.*” and informing the Chairman of the Implementation Committee. Participation binds member states to accept and facilitate reviews. The APRM is planned to operate in the following manner:
 - There are four types of review:
 - a. Upon accession, each state proposes an action plan for implementation of the Declaration and submits to a base-line review.
 - b. Periodic reviews follow every two to four years.
 - c. States may request additional ad hoc reviews for themselves.
 - d. The Heads of State Committee may also institute a review upon witnessing “Early signs of impending political or economic crisis in a member country.”
 - The review process operates as follows:
 - a. A study of a country’s governance and development environment is conducted based on background materials provided by the APRM Secretariat and other sources.
 - b. Fieldwork, including consultations with government, civil society, and private sector sources is carried out.
 - c. A report is prepared which includes feedback from the government under review.
 - d. The Heads of State Committee analyzes the report.
 - e. Tabling of reports in key regional and sub-regional bodies.
 - Following the review, the following actions or responses can take place:
 - If the state under review is willing to fix the problems noted by the report, NEPAD must assist and facilitate these reforms. If it is not, NEPAD may adopt the following approach:
 - i. Engage the government in a constructive dialogue and offer technical assistance;
 - ii. Failing that, to place the government ‘on notice’ that collective action is being considered according to a specified timeframe.
 - The Review Panel will ensure the political independence of the reviews. This Panel will be composed of seven ‘eminent persons’ chosen by the Heads of State Committee.



Organization of American States (OAS) and Summit of the Americas

Created: 1948

Purpose:

To achieve an order of peace and justice, to promote solidarity, to strengthen collaboration, and to defend sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of the states in the region.

Member States:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Commitments to democracy

- The *OAS Charter* states that representative democracy is indispensable for the stability, peace and development of the region. One of the stated purposes of the OAS is the promotion and consolidation of representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention.
- In 1990, the OAS created the *Unit for the Promotion of Democracy* (UPD) to support member states "in preserving and strengthening their political institutions and democratic procedures." The activities of the UPD have been directed towards the development of solid, transparent and efficient political institutions, and the promotion of democratic procedures, practices and values, including electoral observation missions and participation in national reconciliation processes.
- In 1991, the OAS adopted the *Santiago Resolution* on Representative Democracy (Resolution 1080), which established procedures for reacting to threats to democracy in the hemisphere. Resolution 1080 has been invoked four times: in Haiti (1991), Peru (1992), Guatemala (1993) and Paraguay (1996).
- The *Protocol of Washington*, adopted by the OAS in 1992 strengthens representative democracy by giving the OAS the right to suspend a member state whose democratically-elected government is overthrown by force. The protocol was ratified in 1997.
- At the *Third Summit of the Americas* in April 2001 in Quebec City the OAS adopted a Democracy Clause, which states that any unconstitutional alteration or interruption of the democratic order in a state of the hemisphere will prevent that state's government from participating in the Summits of the Americas process
- On 11 September 2001, the OAS adopted the *Inter-American Democratic Charter* in Lima, Peru. The Charter explicitly conditions relations between and among states of the hemisphere on the existence of a democratic government. It consecrates the "right to democracy" and provides for the design of mechanisms to respond to the erosion of democratic conditions before the onset of a crisis.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Founded: 1975

Purpose:

To improve and intensify relations between member states and to contribute to peace, security, justice and cooperation, as well as to rapprochement among themselves and with the rest of the world.

Member States:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia.

Commitments to Democracy:

- In its founding document, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE declared its founding principles to include “respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms including thought, conscience, religion, or belief.”
- At the 1990 Paris Summit, all OSCE members recognized democracy as their common and sole system of government.
- The OSCE has adopted/approved more than 15 declarations or agreements outlining expectations of democracy in practice and codifying specific democratic principles.
- In 1999, the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) created the Grassroots Program. This program was established “to encourage the development and implementation of national and local initiatives to promote human rights and democracy through low-cost, high-impact micro projects.”



Other Organizations

Andean Community

Created: 1997 (Derived from the Andean Pact of 1969)

Purpose:

To promote the balanced and harmonious development of the member countries under equitable conditions; to boost their growth through integration and economic and social cooperation; to enhance participation in the regional integration process with a view to the progressive formation of a Latin American common market, and to strive for a steady improvement in the standard of living of their inhabitants.

Member States:

Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC)

Created: 1989

Purpose:

To advance Asia-Pacific economic dynamism and sense of community.

Member economies:

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and United States, Vietnam.

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Created: 1967

Purpose:

To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavors in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian nations, and to promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries in the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Member States:

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.

Council of Europe

Created: 1949

Purpose:

To protect human rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law; to promote awareness and encourage the development of Europe's cultural identity and diversity; to seek solutions to problems facing European society (discrimination against minorities, xenophobia, intolerance, environmental protection, human cloning, AIDS, drugs, organized crime, etc.); to help consolidate democratic stability in Europe by backing political, legislative and constitutional reform.



Member States:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Created: 1975

Purpose:

To promote economic integration in all fields of economic activity, particularly industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, commerce, monetary and financial questions, social and cultural matters.

Member states:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.

European Union

Created: 1992

Purpose:

To establish European citizenship; to ensure freedom, security and justice; to promote economic and social progress, and; to assert Europe's role in the world

Member Countries:

Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom.

International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF)

Created: 1996 (adoption of the charter of the Francophonie)

Purpose:

To prevent conflicts within the French-speaking world; to consolidate the rule of law and democracy; to promote human rights in the French-speaking world.

Member States:

Albania, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Canada- New Brunswick, Canada- Quebec, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, French Community of Belgium, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Laos, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldavia, Monaco, Morocco, Niger, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome e Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Vanuatu, Vietnam.

League of Arab States

Created: 1945

Purpose:

To strengthen ties among the member states, coordinate their policies, and promote their common interests.



Member States:

Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Mercado Común del Sur (South American Common Market) (Mercosur)

Created: 1991

Purpose:

The integration of member states, through free movement of goods, services and production factors; the establishment of a common external tariff and the adoption of a common trade policy; the coordination of macroeconomic and sectoral policies and the harmonization of legislation in relevant areas to strengthen the integration process.

Member States:

Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Created: 1949

Purpose:

To create an alliance of nations committed to each other's defense.

Member Countries:

Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Created: 1961

Purpose:

To strengthen economies in member countries, improve efficiency, stimulate market systems, expand free trade and contribute to development in industrialized as well as developing countries.

Member Countries:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Communities, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)

Created: 1969

Purpose:

To pool the resources of the member states together, combine their efforts and speak to safeguard the interests and secure the progress and well-being of their peoples and of all Muslims in the world.

Member States:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal,



Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Surinam, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

Rio Group

Created: 1986

Purpose:

To expand and systematize political cooperation among the member states; to examine international issues which may be of interest and coordinate common positions on these issues; to promote more efficient operation and coordination of Latin American cooperation and integration organizations; to present appropriate solutions to the problems and conflicts affecting the region; to provide momentum, through dialogue and cooperation, to the initiatives and actions undertaken to improve inter-American relations; to explore jointly new fields of cooperation which enhance economic, social, scientific and technological development.

Member States:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Uruguay, and a representative from the Caribbean Community.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Created: 1985

Purpose:

To promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life; to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potential; to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia; to contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems; to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields; to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries; to strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests; and to cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.

Member States:

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

Created: 1992

Purpose:

To build a region in which there will be a high degree of harmonization and rationalization to enable the pooling of resources to achieve collective self-reliance in order to improve the living standards of the people of the region.

Member States:

Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.