



AFRICA **INTEGRATION** | DAY

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Addis Ababa, June 2020

AU anthem

Let us all unite and celebrate together

The victories won for our liberation

Let us dedicate ourselves to rise together

To defend our liberty and unity.

O Sons and Daughters of Africa

Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky

Let us make Africa the Tree of Life.

Let us all unite and sing together

To uphold the bonds that frame our destiny

Let us dedicate ourselves to fight together

For lasting peace and justice on earth.

O Sons and Daughters of Africa

Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky

Let us make Africa the Tree of Life.

Let us all unite and toil together

To give the best we have to Africa

The cradle of mankind and fount of culture

Our pride and hope at break of dawn.

O Sons and Daughters of Africa

Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky

Let us make Africa the Tree of Life.

make

A - fri - ca

the Tree

of Life.

Background

“Africa Must Unite”

Dr. Kwame Nkrumah

Africa’s journey towards an integrated continent is closely linked to its Leaders’ vision of a strong and united continent following its fragmentation during the second Conference of Berlin in 1884.

Even as African countries were preparing to accede to national sovereignty, there was a recognition that as newcomers in the international system, their strength and survival lay in their unity.

As Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, then President of the Republic of Ghana and one of the Founding Fathers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) forcefully put in a monumental piece, “Africa Must Unite.” African Leaders’ aspiration, vision and commitment to continental integration led to the creation of the OAU in 1963.

Soon after the creation of the OAU, African Leaders embarked on several initiatives and adopted several key instruments to realise the integration

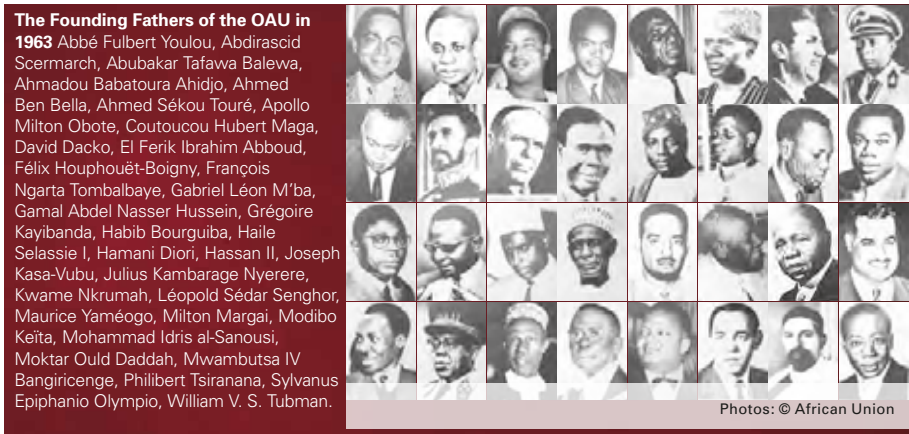
of the Continent noting that integration was a prerequisite for the economic emancipation of Africa.

The enabling instruments for the continental integration agenda included:

- the Resolutions and Declarations of Algiers of 1968 and the Addis Ababa Declarations of 1970 and 1973, recognizing economic integration of the Continent as a prerequisite for the realisation of the OAU;
- the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa 1980–2000, and most important;
- the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community of 1991 (Abuja Treaty). The Abuja Treaty represents a landmark legal framework as it outlines in a very comprehensive way the roadmap towards achievement of Africa’s full integration by creating a single market with a common currency (African Economic Community).

At the dawn of the 21st Century three important Decisions significantly strengthened the movement towards the goal of Pan-African political and economic integration. The first was the Decision to transform the OAU into the African Union (AU) in 2001 and the second was the Decision to fast track the Establishment of the African Continental Trade Area in 2012. The third was the adoption in January 2015, of **Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want**, which encapsulates the Pan African Vision of “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena.”

The Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which entered into force on 30 May 2019, aims to significantly accelerate growth of Intra-Africa trade and use trade more effectively as an engine of growth and sustainable development by doubling intra-Africa trade, strengthening Africa’s common voice and policy space in global trade negotiations. It is a flagship programme



of **Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want**. It will be a tool to boost intra-Africa trade and provide opportunities for industry, manufactures, small and medium sized enterprises, youth and women.

During the launch of the operational phase of the AfCFTA in Niamey, Niger on 7 July 2019, AU Heads of States and Government decided that 7 July of each year be designated as “the Africa Integration Day” without it being a holiday to commemorate the operationalisation of the AfCFTA Agreement and popularise economic integration across the Continent as a lever of inclusive sustainable development.

“7 July of each year
be designated as
‘the Africa Integration Day’”

*AU Heads of States
and Government*



African worker at a manufacturing factory in Awassa Industrial Park in Ethiopia: the future life in Industry 4.0. Photo: ©African Union



Launch of the Operational Phase of the AfCFTA. Photo: © African Union

What is the Africa Integration Day?

This is a day on which Africans on the Continent and in the Diaspora solemnly observe and celebrate the achievements of the AfCFTA in the preceding year; fully aware that the destiny of the AfCFTA is in their hands and reminding themselves and reaffirming their commitment to continue the journey towards the African Economic Community established by the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community.



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Why an Africa Integration Day?

As Africa continues its journey towards structural transformation through the AfCFTA, one of the most important element of this transformation is mind-set change.

Africa Integration Day seeks to:

- Celebrate the AfCFTA and its achievement, as a powerful tool that will shape Africa's future, by increasing trade and investment, creating job opportunities for millions of Africans, and in this respect, offering alternatives to young African entrepreneurs.

- Disseminate and popularise the AfCFTA vision the new mindset among all segments of African society, both on the continent and in the diaspora with a view to increase their participation in the realisation of Africa structural transformation and its inclusive and sustainable economic development as outlined in **Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want**.
- Galvanise and mobilise Africans within the continent and abroad around the subsequent steps towards the Establishment of the African Economic Community.



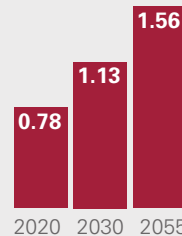
How is the Africa Integration Day commemorated?

Statements, ceremonies, seminars, exhibitions, films, rallies, promotional material, messages

The 33rd Ordinary Session of the Summit of AU Heads of States and Government held on 9 and 10 February 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, called upon Member States to come up with commemorative activities to observe and celebrate the achievements of AfCFTA in the preceding year. Celebratory activities can include:

- a. **Issuance of Joint Statement** by Chairperson of the African Union, Leader of the African Continental Free Trade Area and Chairperson of the African Union Commission;
- b. **Ceremonies** involving statements by the Chairperson of the African Union, Leader of the African Continental Free Trade Area, Chairpersons of the Regional Economic Communities and Chairperson of the African Union at the continental level. Similar ceremonies can be done at national and regional levels;
- c. **Seminars** at national, regional and continental levels, panel discussions, symposia, briefings to students;
- d. Art, book and photo **exhibitions** and **competitions**;
- e. **Film** screenings;
- f. **Media and social media campaigns**, interviews and supplements in national and pan-African media;
- g. **Rallies** and commemorative street walks, sporting events, food festivals, music and dance;
- h. Distribution of **promotional materials** like tee-shirts, golf shirts and caps; and
- i. **Messages of support** and goodwill from international cooperating partners.

Africa Integration Day: a people-driven celebration by ordinary Africans at the grassroots level



Population of African youth
(65% of 1.27 bn. in 2020)
and forecast, in billions.

Africa Integration Day is for all Africans, including those in the Diaspora, and especially the African youth, who represent 65 per cent of its population and whose number is forecast to increase by 42 per cent by 2030 and double from current levels by 2055 according to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. The African private sector, academic institutions and civil society organisations as key stakeholders are also expected to play key roles in the commemoration of Africa Integration Day. Institutions of learning, particularly at primary and secondary schools are also encouraged to form African Union Clubs where they do not yet exist and use Africa Integration Day to mount debates among students and youth on pan-Africanism, regional and continental integration. The Pan-African Parliament can also use the day to organise workshops or seminars aimed at building momentum towards its transformation into a legislative assembly once the African Common Market and deeper levels of integration are attained.



UNMISS marks day of the African child. Photo: © Flickr, creative commons/United Nations Photo, licensed under CC BY 2.0

What does celebrating Africa Integration Day mean for Africans in the Diaspora?



African Diaspora in the USA. Photo: © Flickr, creative commons/
African Union Rep Mission to USA, licensed under CC BY 2.0

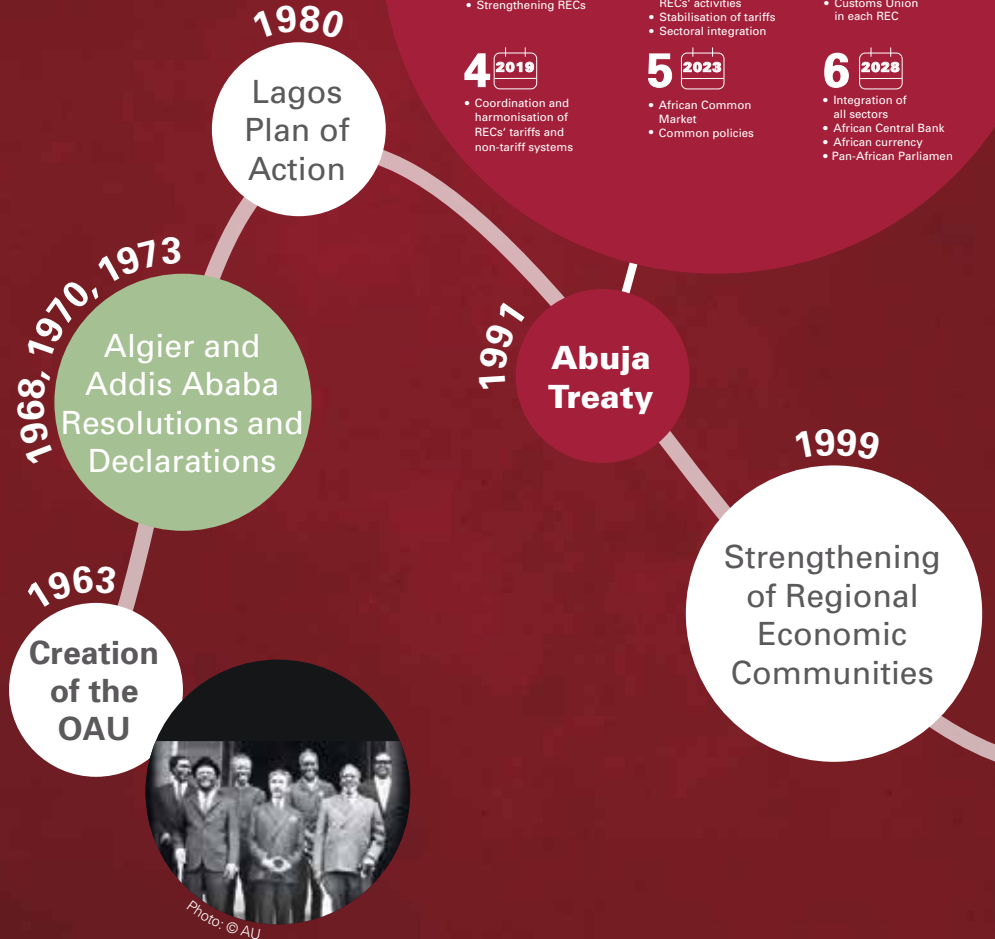
Africans on the Continent view their brothers and sisters in the Diaspora as the sixth African region after the five designated on the continent. The celebration of Africa Integration Day is therefore a moment of celebration for Africans in the Diaspora too. **African Union Permanent Missions abroad*** will coordinate activities to mobilise and ensure active participation and contribution of the African Diaspora in the commemoration of the African Integration Day.

In countries outside the continent where there are no AU Permanent Mission, the Dean of the African Group should mobilise the African Diaspora to commemorate the African Integration Day.

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General overview of the journey and next steps towards Africa integration



2019

Establishment of the African Customs Union (to be done with the African Common Market)

2017

Establishment of a continental Free Trade Area and Customs Union in each RECs

2023

Establishment of the African Common Market

2007

Coordinate and harmonise activities and gradually eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers

2028

Consolidation of the African Common Market and setting up of the organs of the Community



Photo: © AU

10th Extraordinary Summit of the African Union, Kigali, 21 March 2018. Photo: © Flickr, creative commons/ Paul Kagame, licensed under CC BY 2.0

Contribute to or follow the discussion on Africa Integration Day

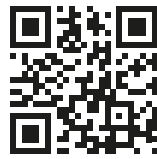
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DATE!
JULY 7, AFRICA
INTEGRATION
DAY



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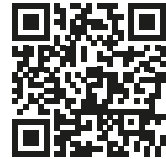
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[www.youtube.com/
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How do you envisage Africa in 10 years?

The COVID era has reminded us that Africa is stronger when united. While “locked away” at home, Africa had an opportunity to relook at a number of key issues, notably the implementation of the AfCFTA, Industrialization, Digital Trade, Vulnerabilities on Commodity Dependence, and the Free Movement of People. A bit of Critical Thinking was required here from our policy makers. Scholarly articles allude to the fact that Africa is the next growth centre, and it is time to put our act together. We need each other more this time, bearing in mind that nations cannot prosper in isolation. Together We Will Prosper.

- Digital trade and digital payments will certainly play a key role in the continent’s integration efforts to achieve the milestone of the African Economic Community (AEC). More needs to be done on the digital economy front where weaknesses have certainly been exposed by Covid19.
- In a post Covid-19 World #AID2020 is an opportunity to rebuild strategies & to create a mechanism 2 reboot our economies 4 better Trade integration by putting in place online platforms which will serve every time everywhere 2 promote trade in transparent, fast & efficient manner.
- Intra-regional Trade must grow from 14–17% to 40% like

European Union.

- In the coming ten years, I wish I could see Africa as a land of opportunities, proud of itself and which people will not be willing to risk their lives by illegally crossing the sea for a hypothetical wealth in the western countries. The effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will definitely provide African people with a number of opportunities, including infrastructures development, health and wellness projects, jobs creation and lives improvement for young people and women across the Continent.
- Within the next 15 years, we have a continent, where we can move from East to West, from North to South.
- I hope my kids will not have to go through the same hassles I have to go through to travel and settle in any part of the continent and all that will matter, is the qualifications and expertise and not where they come from.
- My vision of Africa is an Africa that produces its own value added goods and is a part of the entire value chain of production
- I want an Africa that is no longer forced to be the price taker on the pretence of fair partnerships, an Africa that does not present itself as the demandeur
- In 10 years, basics necessities need to be a human right.



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