

AFRICAN REGIONAL & SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] www.maghrebarabe.org

The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) is the economic integration of the five North African countries—**Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia**—which make up the Maghreb, the Arabic term for the western region of the Arab world. On February 18, 1989, the Heads of State of five Maghreb nations met in Marrakech (Morocco) to sign a Treaty establishing the AMU.

Economic & Monetary Community of Central Africa [CEMAC]

Created in March, 1994, the Communauté Economique et Monétaire d'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC), previously known as UDEAC (Union Douanière et Economique de l'Afrique Centrale), is a customs and monetary union among the former French Central African countries including: **Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon**. Along with the Western CFA Zone, it is one of the important regional groupings in Africa.

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa [COMESA] www.comesa.int

COMESA, established by Treaty in 1994, superseded the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA), which, in turn, was established in 1981. COMESA currently comprises 21 member states: **Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya (since June 2005) Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**. The inception of COMESA was to take advantage of a larger market size, to share the region's common heritage and destiny and to allow greater social and economic cooperation with the ultimate objective of creating an economic community. The aims and objectives of COMESA are to facilitate the removal of the structural and institutional weaknesses of member states, so that they are able to attain collective and sustained development.

East African Community [EAC] www.eac.int

The present East African Community (EAC) is a revival of the previous East African Cooperation between **Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda** which collapsed in 1977, largely owing to political frictions among the three countries. In 1999 the three countries signed a new Treaty for the creation of the EAC which entered into force in July 2000. It is now receiving more prominence as a result of the strong personal interest of all three Presidents in revitalizing the Community, and Rwanda is expected to join next year. EAC's main objective, as set out in its Treaty, is to enhance the region's competitiveness through ever deeper integration – starting by a Customs Union, followed by a Common Market, a Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation of East African States.

Economic Community of Central African States [ECCAS] www.ceeac-eccas.org

Angola, Burundi, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Congo DR, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe, and Rwanda.

Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] www.ecowas.int

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was formally established in May 1975 by the ECOWAS Treaty. In 1993, the ECOWAS Treaty was revised to accelerate the process of integration and establish an economic and monetary union to stimulate economic growth and development in West Africa with the following objectives: (i) the removal of customs duties for intra-ECOWAS trade and taxes having equivalent effect, (ii) the establishment of a common external tariff; (iii) the harmonization of economic and financial policies; and (iv) the creation of a single monetary zone. As Mauritania decided to withdraw in 1999, ECOWAS is now a regional grouping of fifteen countries (including the eight WAEMU country members): **Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.**

Inter-Governmental Authority for Development [IGAD] www.igad.org

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is a regional grouping of seven Eastern African countries of **Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda**. It was created in 1986 by the Heads of State and Government of member states as the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) following the recurrent and severe droughts and other natural disasters that caused widespread famine, ecological degradation and economic hardship in the Eastern Africa region between 1974 and 1984.

Nile Basin Initiative [NBI] www.nilebasin.org

The Nile Basin consists of **Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda**. The NBI is a cooperative development of the Nile which offers great opportunity to unlock economic growth, promote regional integration, and realize stability.

Southern African Customs Union [SACU] www.dfa.gov.za/foreign/Multilateral/africa/sacu.htm

The Southern African Customs Union came into existence on 11 December 1969 with the signature of the Customs Union Agreement between **South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland**. It entered into force on the 1st of March 1970, thereby replacing the Customs Union Agreement of 1910. SACU is the oldest Customs Union in the world. Its aim is to maintain the free interchange of goods between member countries. It provides for a common external tariff and a common excise tariff to this common customs area.

Southern African Development Community [SADC] www.sadc.int

Created in August, 1992, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), previously known as Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) is a treaty among the 13 member states: **Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**. SADC's main strategies are: Cooperation and / or integration among member states in a range of sectors and their markets, including transport, health, tourism, agriculture mining, and water, through legally binding protocols. Establishment of a Free Trade Area by 2008, completion of negotiations on a Customs Union by 2010 and a Common Market by 2015.

West African Economic & Monetary Union [WAEMU] www.uemoa.int

An economic and monetary union, formally created in January 1994, but based on the pre-existing West Africa Monetary Union of the CFA franc zone¹, with eight members, a currency guaranteed at fixed parity to the Euro (656 to 1) through an operations (overdraft) account arrangement, the French Treasury coupled with stringent zone-wide fiscal and monetary rules. WAEMU signatory countries include: **Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo**.

Source: www.worldbank.org

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