



AFRICAN UNION* (AU)

BACKGROUND

The African Union, born out of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) in 1999 was formed as an institution intending to provide a single platform for African nations to work towards a socially, culturally, politically, and economically integrated Africa. As the only pan-African institution working towards African integration, the AU works through its constitutive bodies to resolve conflict between members, promote economic solidarity and cooperation, foster sustainable development, and promote good health. The AU drafts treaties to be formally adopted by member states to work towards its mission.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Assembly is the governing body of the AU, composed of Heads of State or appointed representatives and is the final decision making organ of the AU. Executive functions are performed by the Executive Council, which operates under the authority of the Assembly and comprises Ministers or state-designated individuals from all member countries.

The AU has 10 constitutive bodies that operationalise the AU mission of African solidarity and progress. They are the Assembly, the Executive Council, the Commission, the Permanent Representative's Committee, the Peace and Security Council, Pan-African Parliament, the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), the Court of Justice, the Specialized Technical Committees, and the Financial Institutions.

*The African Union did not formally engage with the research process.

ACCOUNTABILITY SUMMARY

TRANSPARENCY

Commitment: The AU makes a commitment to transparency in its *2004-2007 Strategic Plan*. The Strategic Plan does not meet any good practice principles.

Oversight: Based on publicly available information, the Director of Information oversees compliance with the commitment to transparency within the AU.

Training: Based on publicly available information, the AU does not provide training to staff on the disclosure of information.

Accessibility: The Strategic Plan is not widely disseminated and is only available in English,

PARTICIPATION – EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Commitment: The AU makes a commitment to stakeholder engagement in the *Statutes* of ECOSOCC, which is an institutionalised space where civil society can input into the AU's policies and programmes. The *Statutes* meet most good practice principles.

Oversight: The African Citizen's Directorate (CIDO), at the Office of the Chairperson of the African Union, oversees engagement with civil society.

Training: Based on publicly available information, the AU does not provide training to staff on the *Statutes* of ECOSOCC or stakeholder engagement.

Accessibility: The *Statutes* are widely disseminated and are available in four languages.

Formalised engagement: The AU's ECOSOCC is an advisory organ of the AU, composed of 150 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from the member states. The ECOSOCC advises the AU on policy and programmes.

PARTICIPATION – MEMBER CONTROL

Equitability: The African Union has strong equitable member control. All AU member states have representatives on the Assembly and the Executive Council and each country has one vote both at the governing and executive levels.

African Union

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Donor funds 2006: \$129.6 million

Website: www.africa-union.org

Accountability Initiatives signed up to:

Uniform Guidelines for Investigations

2007 GLOBAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT RATINGS		
Dimension	Score	Rating among IGOs
Transparency	27 percent	9
Participation	80 percent	3
Evaluation	51 percent	7
C&R	1 percent	9
Overall	40 percent	8

EVALUATION

- Commitment:** The AU has a document guiding the evaluation of operations and policies. The *Results Based Management Framework* outlines a monitoring and evaluation system. The document meets some good practice principles. Of the 10 assessed IGOs in the 2007 Report, the AU was one of two IGOs that did not commit to using the results of evaluations to inform future decision making.
- Oversight:** The Directorate of Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Resource Mobilization oversees compliance with the commitments to evaluate. The Directorate reports directly to the Chairperson of the AU Commission.
- Training:** The Directorate of Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Resource Mobilization provides training to staff members on monitoring and evaluation systems for programmes/projects.
- Accessibility:** Based on publicly available information, the document is not widely disseminated and is only available in English.
- Disseminating lessons:** Based on publicly available information, the AU does not have mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of lessons learnt from evaluations.

COMPLAINT AND RESPONSE – INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMPLAINTS

- Commitment:** Based on publicly available information, the AU has recently developed a *Code of Ethics*, but the extent to which this provides stakeholders with procedures for submitting complaints in relation to non-compliance is unknown.
- Oversight:** Based on publicly available information, the AU does not have any management systems to support or oversee the handling of complaints.
- Training:** Based on publicly available information, the AU does not provide training on the handling of complaints.
- Accessibility:** The *Code of Ethics* is not yet publicly available.
- Complaints against policy:** Based on publicly available information, the AU does not have a mechanism that enables external stakeholders to lodge complaints against organisational policies.

CROSS SECTOR SUMMARY

The AU's overall accountability score is lower than the average accountability scores of any of the three sectors.

