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MINIMUM INTEGRATION PROGRAMME (MIP)

- ***Contents***
- ***Implementation Mechanism***
- ***Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism***

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRYONYMS

AEC	African Economic Community
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
ADB	African Development Bank
CBWAS	Central Bank of West African States
TB	Tariff Barrier
NTB	Non-Tariff Barrier
CAMI	Conference of African Ministers of Industry
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel- Saharan States
REC	Regional Economic Community
CAMI	Conference of African Ministers of Integration
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
PSCCA	Peace and Security Council for Central Africa
AUC	African Union Commission
EAC	East African Community
ASF	African Standby Force
MIWA	West African Monetary Institute
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
OAU	Organization of African Unity (OAU)
PAC	Common Agricultural Policy
DPDAA	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)
PDCT-AC	Consensual Transport Master Plan for Central Africa
MIP	Minimum Integration Programme
RPFS	Regional Food Security Programme
SADC	South African Development Community
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Products
TEC	Common External Tariff (CET)
ICT	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
AU	African Union
CU	Customs Union
UEMOA	West African Monetary Union
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)
FTA	Free Trade Area



FOREWORD



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The integration process in Africa started under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in the aftermath of independence. Since then, numerous initiatives have been set in motion and legal framework devised to accelerate the process. These include the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act, the Abuja Treaty, Sirte Declaration, creation of the African Union with its New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Accra Declaration on Union Government.

The integration approach geared to the establishment of the African Economic Community (AEC) set forth by the Abuja Treaty was regional in orientation, and was anchored on the RECs which constitute the pillars and building blocks of the Community. These regional communities have made tremendous progress in their respective domains since they were created, but the pace of implementation of programmes is still slow and needs the support of the integration players.

On this score, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa have attained the phase of free trade area, whereas IGAD is still at the level of coordination and harmonization of its Members' activities. The East African Community (EAC) is the only community that has attained the stage of Customs Union, and this since January 2005, and expects to launch the Common Market by the year 2010.

Concerning RECs projections, the COMESA and ECOWAS are on course to achieve a Customs Union this year 2009. ECCAS and SADC plan to launch theirs by the year 2010.

A comparison of the integration calendar of the RECs and that of the Abuja Treaty shows that with the exception of Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and the CEN-SAD, other communities are clearly ahead in terms of the timeframes set by the Treaty to create a Customs Union in each REC by 2017. However, other communities are still behind and facing numerous challenges amongst which are: lack of financial and human resources, multi-membership of several RECs, non-elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers, inadequate infrastructure, non-application of the economic integration protocols, lack of political will, insufficient coordination between Pan-African institutions, lack of unity on the part of the development partners, etc.

In view of the spirit of the Sirte Declaration of 9.9.1999, which called for acceleration of the integration process and shortening the timeframes fixed by Abuja Treaty, there is need to agree on a continental framework for coordination, convergence and collaboration among the RECs to achieve the ultimate objective, namely, the integration of the continent and African Economic Community. The consensual framework between Member States, RECs and AUC, called the Minimum Integration Programme



(MIP), will serve as a connecting link or common denominator for African continental integration players.

The Minimum Integration Programme consists of different activities on which the RECs and parties involved should agree upon to speed up and bring to a successful conclusion the process of regional and continental integration. The MIP encompasses the feasible objectives defined in the Strategic Plan of the AU (four years) and will be implemented by the RECs, Member States and the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with Africa's development partners.

The MIP is built on the virtues of variable geometry approach which permits the RECs to progress at different pace in the process of integration. To this end, the RECs will continue to implement their respective programmes (considered as priority programmes) and at the same time, attempt to carry out the activities contained in the MIP, the contents of which were identified by the RECs themselves in close collaboration with the AUC.

The priority sectors retained by the RECs for the first phase of MIP (2009-2012), are as follows: free movement of persons, goods, services and capital; peace and security; energy and infrastructure; agriculture; trade; industry; investment and statistics. Apart from these priority sectors, the RECs have deemed it absolutely necessary to embark upon urgent activities, which are considered as vital support measures in the domains of political affairs, science and technology and social affairs.

For each of the above-mentioned sectors, the objectives to be attained at different levels of implementation are spelt out and tagged on to a series of activities and priority projects to be undertaken by the concerned parties.

The objectives of the first phase of the MIP are:

- Progressive elimination of tariff barriers (TB) in all the RECs;
- Elimination of non- tariff barriers (NTB) in the RECs;
- Simplification and harmonization of rules of origin;
- Signing of partnership agreements between RECs;
- Facilitation of customs procedures and creation of customs union in each REC with a common external tariff;
- Total free movement of persons in the regions and partial free movement between the regions;
- Free movement of goods in the regions;
- Progressive free movement of services and capital in the regions;



- Conflict Prevention and resolution and post-conflict development in Africa;
- Infrastructural development in Africa;
- Acceleration of CAADP implementation;
- Industrial sector Development in Africa;
- Establishing a regional and continental framework to attract investors;
- Development of educational system in Africa
- Promotion of the use of Science and Technology to eradicate poverty in Africa
- Guaranteeing Africans access to primary health care
- Promoting women's' participation in economic development
- Organization of democratic elections and political power succession
- Improvement of governance in RECs
- Devising tools for harmonization of statistics in Africa
- Enhancing the capacities of RECs, AUCs and Member States

The MIP embodies all regional and continental programmes intended to give a full picture of all the existing initiatives, identify the financing problems hampering their implementation, and try to address them by mobilizing further resources which are required for their implementation. The MIP contains action plans for each community and RECs, as well as an action plan for the AUC, including a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, all in order to put in place the conditions needed for implementation and success of the programme.

In view of the huge financing requirements of the integration process in general, and the MIP in particular, this study recommends the creation of an "Integration Fund" for financing the programme. To this end, it advocates three key financing sources namely: internal sources, African financial institutions, and external sources. After identifying the potential sources of funding the MIP, the AUC will undertake a series of consultations with RECs to develop a strategy for funding the MIP.

The major obstacles that can impede or slow down the implementation of the MIP are mainly lack of financial and human resources in RECs and AUC, lack of leadership and coordination on the part of the AUC, the incompatibility of national policies and the regional approaches, and to a lesser degree, countries' multi-membership of RECs. In this regard, the AUC, working closely with the RECs, will have to take the necessary measures to remedy all the constraints, thereby speeding up the process of continental integration.



INTRODUCTION

Context

1. At the birth of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on May 25 1963, African States clearly expressed and reaffirmed the need to coordinate and identify their cooperation in order to improve the quality of life of their peoples. To this end and putting into use their experiences of anti-colonial entities, experiences galvanized by the creation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in June 1975, they agreed on the occasion of the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of OAU held in December 1976 in Kinshasa, the Zaïre, but today known as the Democratic Republic of Congo, to establish a Common African Market as a prelude to an African Economic Community.
2. The second extraordinary Session of Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU, which took place in Lagos, Nigeria in April 1980 adopted the "Lagos Plan of Action Plan" as well as "the Final Act ". The latter, inspired by the commitments of the Heads of State and Government to create by the year 2000 "on the basis of a Treaty to be concluded, an African Economic Community so as to achieve the economic, cultural and social integration", comprising the stages to be attained to establish the community, the Treaty of which was signed in Abuja, Nigeria, 3 June 1991, ratified and entered into force on 12 May 1994.
3. The approach towards achieving this Community, of which the foundation and building blocks are expected to be the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), realization of which was envisaged to span a maximum period of 34 to 40 years, subdivided into six stages, was regional in orientation. This duration defined by the Abuja Treaty for the accomplishment of the African Economic Community was considered by Member States to be too long. For this reason, the Heads of State and Government of the OAU in the Sirte Declaration, adopted in Sirte on 9 September 1999, took measures to speed up the process of rationalization, shorten the period set forth in article 6 of the Treaty, and created the African Union to replace the Organization of African Unity. This Union was launched in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa.
4. To enable the new continental organization to accomplish its set objectives, African Heads of State and Government adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The NEPAD programme was adopted in July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia in tandem with the adoption of the AU. The objectives include the creation of a stable environment and the promotion of economic growth and sustainable development in the continent.
5. Moreover, to strengthen the African Union, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government meeting in their Ninth Ordinary Session, in Accra, Ghana, in July 2007, adopted the principle of endowing the Union with a Government in order to among other things, accelerate the process of economic and political integration of the continent. Hence the absolute need to anchor the Abuja Process on a new platform in which the RECs will play a vital role.



6. However, although the RECs practically have the same integration programmes, they have adopted specific and individual approaches in line with regional imperatives. As such, they are at different stages and levels of integration which are not in consonance with the terms of the Abuja Treaty, as far as the six stages defined in article 6(2), thereof, are concerned. Much has already been written about the mixed results and the difficulties encountered. Prominent among the writers is Kouassi R. N. (2008, 2007, 2007); AUC (2008, 2009); ECA (2004, 2006).

7. To bolster the process of regional and continental integration and to enable it produce tangible results, African Ministers of Integration recommended, in light of the study carried out by the AU Commission, the definition of a consensual framework of key and essential activities to be undertaken by the RECs and the Commission. The need and urgency of such a framework were reaffirmed at the Sixth Meeting of the AU-RECs-UNECA-AfDB Coordination Committee, held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. This framework should serve as a springboard for the development and accomplishment of the letter and spirit of Abuja through the speedy establishment of the African economic Community.

Justification for the MIP

8. It should be recalled that the First Conference of African Ministers of Integration (COMAI I) was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 30 and 31 March 2006. That Conference focused on rationalization of the Regional Economic Communities (REC). The Second Conference took place in Kigali, Rwanda, on 26 and 27 July 2007. The Third Conference was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 22 and 23 May 2008 and the fourth Conference is scheduled for 7 and 8 May 2008 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Generally, it was recognized at those meetings, the major role played by the RECs as building blocks of the African Economic Community, and hence the integration of the continent. Besides, those meetings underscored the urgent need to rationalize, coordinate and harmonize the activities and programmes of the RECs, in order to achieve the African Economic Community, as envisaged by the Abuja Treaty and the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

9. In particular, the Second and Third Conferences of the African Ministers of Integration held in Kigali in July 2007 and in Abidjan in May 2008 respectively, came up with relevant recommendations, including:

- i. the need, for the Commission, working closely with key partners to review the Abuja Treaty, in the light of the Sirte Declaration of 9 September 1999;
- ii. the need, for the Commission, to formulate a Minimum Integration Programme (MIP) for the RECs;



- iii. the need, for the Commission , to coordinate the activities of the RECs and to harmonize their policies and programmes as major strategy to promote the rationalization process; and
- iv. the need to encourage and promote the free movement of persons, goods, capital and services between the RECs and by so doing speed up continental integration.

10. It is noteworthy, that a lot of work was done, in 2007, to develop the MIP, through a study titled the "*Rationalization of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs): Revision of the Abuja Treaty and Adoption of the Minimum Integration Programme*" by the African Union Commission. Additionally, at the Sixth Session of the AU--RECs-ADB Coordinating Committee held on 26 June 2008 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, The AU Commission was requested to, among other things, prepare a concept paper showcasing the MIP and defining its objectives, and to formulate continental integration programme. In addition, during the last meeting of Chief Executives of RECs held on 12 and 13 January 2009, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Commission was equally requested to hold consultations with the RECs with a view to drafting the MIP and defining a clear timetable for its implementation. As a result, the African Union Commission initiated consultations with the RECs to exchange ideas on how best to develop the MIP as a tool for accelerating the African integration process in conformity with Sirte Declaration of 9 September 1999.

Concept of the MIP

11. Every REC has its own priority programme, implementation of which is ongoing. The Minimum integration Programme embodies the activities of the projects and programmes which the RECs need to implement to speed up and ensure the successful conclusion of the regional and continental integration process.

12. The MIP is therefore perceived as a mechanism for REC convergence, that should focus on a number of key areas of concern in the regions and in the continental; areas in which the RECs could enhance the cooperation and benefit from comparative advantages and the success stories of all the RECs as far as area of integration. The MIP integrates objectives that are feasible within the time frame of AU Strategic Plan (four years), and is accompanied with a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The MIP is to be implemented by the RECs, Member States and AUC, working in concert with Africa's development partners.

13. The MIP was developed with variable geometry integration approach according to which the RECs are expected to progress at different paces towards integration.¹ In fact, the RECs will continue to implement their respective programmes (considered as their priority programmes) and at the same time endeavour to work to actualize other activities contained in the MIP.

¹ Economic Commission for Africa. (2004). "Assessing regional Integration in Africa". Addis Ababa.



14. The identification of a minimal common denominator for the RECs is not intended to hamstring the pace of the progress of the RECs that are ahead of others. On the contrary, the objective is to ensure some degree of harmony and synergy in the activities carried out by the eight communities recognized by the African Union to accelerate continental integration.

Objectives of the MIP

15. The need to develop an MIP reflects the very importance accorded to the establishment of the African Economic Community (AEC), anchored on the aspirations of a stable, prosperous and highly competitive continent, functioning as a single market and production base in which goods, services, qualified labour and capital can circulate freely, establish and reside, leading to sustainable economic development and poverty reduction. The global strategy that will lead to the realization of the AEC, among others, is closely linked to the formulation of a continent-wide MIP.

The main objectives of the MIP are as follows:

- i. identify the regional and continental projects within the AUC and REC, implementation of which reposes on the principle of subsidiarity;
- ii. bolster ongoing economic cooperation initiatives between the RECs and identify the measures likely to accelerate the integration in specific sectors or priority areas;
- iii. identify the priority sectors that call for bold coordination and harmonization measures within and among the RECs;
- iv. emulate the successful integration experiences in certain RECs and to apply them to all the other Communities;
- v. help the RECs to identify and implement the priority activities with a view to attaining the integration stages defined in article 6 of the Abuja Treaty;
- vi. help the RECs to implement the MIP using a clearly identified calendar; and
- vii. develop and implement other support measures to facilitate the creation of a single market around the key sectors.

Methodology

17. In producing this report, the AUC adopted an approach which involved consultations, not only in the Commission itself, but also in the RECs.

18. To this end, a questionnaire was prepared for the purpose of the consultations with the RECs on the MIP. All the concerned departments of the AUC contributed to the preparation of the questionnaire, which has two parts. The first part deals with the ongoing priority programmes in the RECs, while the second focuses on the development of a continent-wide minimum integration programme. The questionnaire



was sent to all the RECs recognized by the African Union, with the exception of AMU which does not maintain any relations with the AUC.

19. Thereafter, a team made up of certain departments of the AUC, was constituted to visit the RECs. The concerned departments are as follows:

- Economic Affairs;
- Social Affairs;
- Political Affairs;
- Trade and Industry;
- Peace and Security;
- Infrastructure and Energy;
- Human Resources, Science and Technology; and
- Rural Economy and Agriculture.

20. The team visited COMESA, ECCAS, ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD, CEN-SAD and EAC, respectively. With regard to the consultation missions, sectoral working sessions were organized for AUC and REC experts. This afforded opportunity for the AUC experts to confer with the relevant REC officers and experts, all of whom engaged in in-depth discussion and came up with joint proposals for an Action Plan covering the key activities of each of the sectors identified under the MIP.

21. After the working missions, the responses to the questionnaire, as well as the action plan proposals were analyzed by the AUC by means of Excel software widely used in the compilation of this report. In addition, research work was carried out to enrich the content of the report.

22. The Commission shared the first version of the report with all the RECs with a view to filling the missing information and to enlist their inputs to the report. Finally, the Commission incorporated the comments of the RECs into the report.

Structure of the study ²

23. This study has been made out in three chapters. The first chapter provides a update on the state of integration in every REC - ECOWAS, COMESA, ECCAS, CEN-SAD, SADC, IGAD and the EAC - and examining first their priority programmes and strategic orientations, and next analyzed the stages of integration attained by every REC in comparison with the stages set forth in Article 6(2) of the Abuja Treaty

² This study has four annexes. The first annex presents the Minimum Integration Programme implementation plan of the different actors. The action plans were developed by Community, by REC grouping, and for the African Union Commission. Two RECs groupings were identified: the three RECs of the Tripartite Summit including IGAD and the grouping made up of ECOWAS, ECCAS, CEN-SAD and AMU. The second annex indicates the mechanism to monitor and evaluate the MIP. It presents the suggested methods for evaluation and follow-up of the MIP as well as the frequency of preparation of reports on the monitoring and evaluation of the continental programme. The third annex presents the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).



establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) and problems slow down the integration at the level of the RECs.

24. The second chapter identifies the sectors and sub-sectors retained for the MIP. For each sector or sub-sector, the priority actions to be implemented were identified together with the expected results, allocation of responsibilities, performance indicators as well as implementation calendar. This chapter also dwells on possible financial resources to be mobilized to fund the activities and projects in the Minimum Integration Programme. It highlights the challenges and potential constraints to implementation of MIP activities and the broad outlines of the second phase of the programme, 2013-2016. On this score, some of the activities undertaken during the first phase will be pursued in addition to other activities in the areas considered as priority. The last chapter contains the conclusion and the recommendations of the study.



I. STATUS OF THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS

1.1 Overview of the implementation of the Abuja Treaty by REC³

25. Every REC has its own priority programme which embodies all its integration activities. These programmes are structured on the integrating vision of the Community and the strategic orientations identified in every region. It is noteworthy in this regard that the Regional Economic Communities have made tremendous progress in various domains since their establishment. For certain RECs, the pace of implementation of their programmes has remained slow, and calls for the support of the different integration players. Given the fact the RECs have different visions of and approaches to integration and different prioritization of action areas, all the RECs should not be expected to progress at homogenous pace, have similar accomplishments and attain the same stage of development and integration.

1.1.1. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

26. As indicated in Article 3 of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty, “the aims of the Community are to promote cooperation and integration leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa in order to raise the living standards of its peoples, and to maintain and enhance economic stability, foster relations among Member States and contribute to the progress and development of African Continent”.

27. The current working programme of the community aims, among others, at strengthening the integration process, translating into reality the regional approach for the implementation of the NEPAD in West Africa and facilitating efforts made to reduce poverty.

28. The action of the ECOWAS focuses on the following areas:

- i. Agriculture
- ii. Environment and natural resources;
- iii. Industry
- iv. Transport, telecommunication and tourism;
- v. Energy
- vi. Trade, customs and payments;
- vii. Statistics
- viii. Currency, finance and fiscality
- ix. Regional security and immigration

³ For more information, see:
ECA (2004, 2006) ; AUC (2008, 2009)



- x. Human resources, social affairs and culture;
- xi. Health;
- xii. Education;
- xiii. Science and technology and
- xiv. Political, judicial and legal affairs.

29. ***ECOWAS has reached the stage of the free trade zone and is preparing for the launching of its customs union in 2009.*** The Commission is working assiduously with all the players of the ECOWAS trade liberation Scheme and the development of the common external tariff. The Conference of Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS held on 9 December 1999 in Lomé decided to create a monetary zone for the ECOWAS region which will be the result of the merger of a second zone for the English speaking countries to be created and the CFA zone. It is therefore to be observed that this community faces some technical problems in the process of realizing its monetary zone. It has consequently been envisaged that the second monetary zone should be created in 2009, after being postponed several times from 2003 to 2007. It therefore seems difficult to proceed in that manner. This is why the ECOWAS Commission, in collaboration with the monetary institute of west Africa (IMAO), the west African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) is in the process of considering other approaches of integration toward the creation of the ECOWAS Monetary Union.

1.1.2 The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

30. The COMESA strategic plan for 2007 – 2010 identifies five strategic priority areas, namely :
- i. Peace, security, democracy and governance
 - ii. Harmonization of policies for the consolidation of regional integration
 - iii. Development of infrastructure in order to promote trade and investment
 - iv. Creation of investment opportunities in the COMESA region and
 - v. Multilateral trade negotiations.

31. ***The COMESA has reached the stage of the free trade zone and it is in the process of establishing the customs union in 2009.*** This deadline was fixed after the postponement of the first date of 2008.

1.1.3 The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

32. According to the strategic vision of the ECCAS by 2025, which was adopted at the XIIIth Conference of Heads of States and Government of the ECCAS in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) from 22 to 31 October 2007, the priority and strategic areas of the community were defined in the short, medium and long term.

33. The priority areas by 2015 which were retained by the ECCAS are the following;



- i. Peace, security and stability: Peace and Security Council in Central Africa (COPAX);
 - ii. The major infrastructures particularly transport: consensual guiding blueprint on transport in Central Africa (PDCT – AC); and
 - iii. Energy, water and energy environmental pool of central Africa (PEAC).
34. Other priority programmes were identified in the following sectors in addition to these priority areas:
- i. The regional food security programme (PRSA), the common agricultural policy (PAC) and the special fund for agriculture; and
 - ii. The customs union and the conclusion of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA).
35. Concerning the long term priority and strategic areas of the ECCAS (2016 – 2025), it was agreed that focus should be put on the elaboration and implementation of a monetary integration policy, the building of capacities for production and the interconnection of electrical networks.

36. *The ECCAS is at the stage of a free trade zone and is planning for the launching of its customs union in 2010.* This community faces several challenges namely, lack of human and financial resources, numerous problems for the liberalization of the movement of persons in the region, etc...which can hinder its integration and force it to revise its timetable.

1.1.4 The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD)

37. According to the Treaty relating to the creation of the CENSAD, the objectives of the Community are the following:
- i. Elimination of all restrictions which hamper the unity of Member States ;
 - ii. Free movement of persons, capital and interest of nationals of Member States , freedom of residence and the carrying out of economic activity;
 - iii. The promotion of external trade through an investment policy in Member States ;
 - iv. The increase between Member States of means of land, air and sea transport and communication;
 - v. Recognition by every member state to nationals of signatory countries of the same rights, benefits and duties recognized to their own citizens in accordance with the provisions of their respective constitutions, and
 - vi. The harmonization of educational, teaching, scientific and cultural systems in the various training cycles.
- 38. *The CENSAD is at the stage of the free trade zone.*** But it has not yet elaborated a distinct road map to strengthen integration between its Member States in



order to pass through the different stages of integration, namely Customs Union, Common market for the region as well as monetary Union and the Economic and Monetary Union. This REC faces numerous challenges, including particularly the multi adherence of its Member States to several RECs especially ECOWAS, AMU, COMESA, EAC and ECCAS. This situation calls for the considerable deployment of efforts in order to harmonize the various programmes between the RECs concerned and also to avert double work.

1.1.5 The Southern African Development Community (SADC)

39. According to the regional programme of the SADC strategic development plan, the priority areas of intervention of the community are the following:

- i. Areas of cooperation and integration :
 - Trade / economic liberalization and development;
 - Infrastructure to support regional integration;
 - Sustainable food security and;
 - Human and social development.
- ii. Cross section areas of intervention:
 - Poverty eradication;
 - The combat against HIV/AIDS;
 - Equality between the sexes and development;
 - Science and technology;
 - Information and communication technology (ICT);
 - Environment and sustainable development;
 - Private sector; and
- iii. Statistics.

40. **The SADC** has reached the stage of the free trade zone and aims at establishing a customs union in 2010. The secretariat is therefore in the process of developing a customs code, preparing a transit system, computerizing customs administrations, elaborating a common external tariff, simplifying documents and a common customs post. Regarding the monitoring of the respect of the criteria of convergence by its Member States, the SADC is elaborating an annual report on the status of macroeconomic convergence in the region in order to create the monetary union in 2016.

1.1.6 The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

41. The prime objective of IGAD consists in carrying out its mandate by achieving the sustainable development of the region. The realization of this objective calls for a regional cooperation and a coordination of sectoral policies. The IGAD strategy



therefore provides a coherent framework designed to guide the implementation of the priority development programmes of the community. In fact, the short and medium term priority areas of intervention of the IGAD are the following:

- i. Food security and environmental protection ;
- ii. Economic cooperation in trade and infrastructural development
- iii. Conflict prevention, management and resolution; and
- iv. Humanitarian affairs.

42. The IGAD started a process of elaborating its own minimum integration plan in November 2008. A meeting was therefore organized in Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia, in order to discuss the draft plan. The new plan aims at repositioning the IGAD as a development institution and thus refocusing its regional integration plan. This will particularly be useful to enable the IGAD to:

- i. Identify consultation mechanisms among Member States on development issues;
- ii. Establish a solid partnership with the other RECs and strong relations with AU/NEPAD;
- iii. Meet the specific needs of Member States in pursuance of a common policy in the key areas;
- iv. Elaborate and adapt strategic development programmes which meet the specific needs of Member States of the IGAD; and
- v. Translate the political will of Member States into concrete action.

43. In this respect, the minimum integration plan takes into account the evaluation of the performance of the IGAD in the implementation of its 2004-2008 strategic plan. The strategic directives of its XIIth summit of Heads of state and Government gave IGAD the mandate to:

- i. Implement the sub regional plan of NEPAD on environment;
- ii. Launch a process of harnessing natural resources for sustainable development;
- iii. Start the regional launching of renewable energies and the protocol on security strategy in order to mitigate the effects of global oil prices;
- iv. Implement the recommendations of the Declaration on high prices of food products;
- v. Make an inventory of achievements made to date in terms of harmonization and regional integration and make recommendations on the way forward;
- vi. Elaborate and implement regional integration and policies designed to make IGAD an effective pillar of the AU.

44. This plan therefore aims, among others, at establishing a free trade zone between its members. This minimum integration plan will enable the mission of this organization to be strengthened by extending its field of action to other areas like trade,



infrastructural development, information communication technology (ICT), development of social affairs and macroeconomic convergence and will fix timeframes for implementation of each of the activities contained in this plan. Since all the members of IGAD are also members of the COMESA, the minimum integration plan underscored the importance of working in collaboration with other RECs particularly COMESA, EAC and SADC in order to harmonize their policies and programmes. IGAD should therefore urgently take the following measures:

- i. Elimination of customs duties with regard to trade;
- ii. Elimination of non tariff barriers and technical obstacles to trade; and
- iii. Implementation of trade policies.

45. Until recently, the implementation of several sectoral plans and strategies adopted by IGAD could not assume its expected role as key player in regional integration. Although the 2004-2008 implementation strategy and strategic plan spells out specific directives for the strengthening of cooperation between Member States , few achievements have been made toward integration in the region and the community is still at the level of coordinating and harmonizing activities of its Member States .

1.1.7 The East African Community (EAC)

46. Considering the results and lessons drawn from the implementation of the second development strategy of the EAC (2001-2005) and taking into account the progress made during the last five years, the scope and the objective of the 2006-2010 strategic development plan of the EAC aims at consolidating and speeding up the integration progress of the community.

47. The third development strategy of the EAC (2006-2010) focuses on the consolidation of the implementation of the customs Union, the conclusion of the protocol on the common market and the ways and means of laying the foundation for the realization of the political and monetary union of the EAC. The strategy also underscores the development of supply capacities of the region, increase in cross border investment in support of infrastructure as well as trade. The community is moreover trying to maximize the use of available resources while trying to strengthen them and while emphasizing activities oriented towards integration.

48. The strategic interventions of the EAC revolve around the following priority sectors:

- i. Agriculture and food security
- ii. Industry
- iii. Tourism and protection of fauna
- iv. Environment and natural resources
- v. Infrastructure
- vi. Health
- vii. Education



- viii. Urban development and housing
- ix. Legal affairs

49. *The EAC is the only community to have reached the stage of a customs union since January 2005 and it hopes to launch the common market in 2010.* Preparatory works have begun for the gradual establishment of the legal and technical instruments which will enable the establishment of the common market.

50. Regarding the monetary union of the EAC, the community has put in place a supervisory mechanism for the respect of the convergence criteria by members which should be crowned by the circulation of the single currency of East Africa. The revised framework of the convergence criteria, adopted in 2007, consists of two stages, 2007-2010 and 2011-2014; each stage meets primary and secondary criteria.

51. The analysis that we have just made distinctly indicates that the RECs do not only develop at a homogenous rate but they are at different stages of the process of the Abuja Treaty.

52. The table below clearly sums up this inconsistent development and highlights the expectations of the RECs.

Table 1: Stage of integration of each REC in relation to the Abuja Treaty

Stages of integration	At each REC level							Abuja Treaty
	ECOWAS	COMESA	ECCAS	IGAD	CEN-SAD	EAC	SADC	
First stage : (5 years) Strengthening of the RECs								1999
Second stage : (8 years) Coordination and harmonisation of activities and gradual elimination of tariff and non tariff barriers				✓				2007
Third stage : (10 years) Free trade zone and customs union	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	2017
	(2009)*	(June 2009)*	(2010)*	To be fixed	To be fixed	✓	(2010)	
	At the continental level							
Fourth stage : (2 years) Continental customs union								2019
Fifth stage : (4 years) Continental common market								2023
Sixth stage : (5 years) Economic and monetary union								2028

Source: African Union Commission, Questionnaire on the MIP



(*) the figures in brackets represent projections of the RECs in order to attain the different stages of integration.

(**) Free Trade Area (FTA) : An agreement between countries eliminating customs duties between them as well as quantitative restrictions to importation but keeping their own trade policy vis-à-vis third countries.

Customs union : it is the strengthening of the free trade area where Member States adopt a common trade policy with common external tariffs. It integrates the FTA.

Common market: Customs Union plus free movement of goods, services and capital between Member States .

Monetary union : a collection of countries which have adopted a common / single currency. It integrates the common market.

Economic and monetary union: it is the most advanced stage of the economic integration process where countries have harmonised their different political, economic, monetary and fiscal policies. It integrates the monetary union.

53. At the fourth stage of integration of article 6(2) of the Abuja Treaty, it is stipulated that “all the RECs should reach the stage of the continental customs union through the coordination and harmonization of tariff and non tariff systems between the RECs and the adoption of a common external tariff”. In order to realize this objective, the African Union Commission should play the role of coordinator between the different RECs and put in place a convergence mechanism between them.

54. On the one hand, if the timetable for integration of the RECs is compared with that of the Abuja Treaty, it is seen that except IGAD and CENSAD, the other communities are in distinct advance in relation to the date envisaged by the Treaty for the creation of a customs union in every REC by the year 2017. However, other communities are still late and face many problems.

55. On the other hand, according to the spirit of the Sirte Declaration of 9.9.1999 which called for the speeding up of the integration process and the shortening of the deadlines fixed by the Abuja Treaty, it is seen that it is necessary to agree on a continental coordination framework convergence and collaboration between the RECs in order to realize the prime objective namely integration of the continent and the African economic community.

56. This consensual framework between Member States, the RECs and the AUC, consisting of essential and targeted integrating elements which are minimum for a successful integration will be the link or the common denominator between the players of African continental integration under the denomination “Minimum Integration Programme”.

57. The analysis which we have just made clearly indicates that the RECs not only develop at a homogenous rate but also that they are at different stages of the process of the Abuja Treaty.

1.2 Challenges and constraints

58. The RECs face many problems and challenges during the implementation of their priority programmes and this leads to a low rate of realization of regional projects in all the sectors and areas. Regional integration in Africa is confronted with a certain number of constraints and problems namely, lack of financial and human resources, the



multi adherence to several RECs, the non elimination of tariff and non tariff barriers, the inadequacy of infrastructure, lack of coherence and links between sectoral cooperation programmes and macroeconomic policies implemented by the RECs, the lack of national coordination mechanisms, the non application of protocols on economic integration, the lack of political will, the inability to include objective plans and programmes of integration in national development plans, the weakness of institutional infrastructure, inadequacy of coordination between the Pan African institutions, lack of cohesion in the face of the many development partners, etc...

59. The lack of financial resources with regard to integration can no longer be underscored. The majority of the RECs depend on the contributions of Member States and development partners in their day to day functioning. Since, the contribution regime of Member States has showed its limits, due to the non payment of financial obligations and owing to the adherence of these States to several RECs.

60. Some RECs, like the ECOWAS and ECCAS have adopted community levy. The other RECs plan to adopt a similar mechanism which should generate their own resources in addition to assistance from donors in order to ensure good coordination.

61. However, the RECs which have operationalised a community collection face major constraints particularly the irregularity of payment of funds collected at the national level, lack of harmonization between national finance laws, the non accessibility of certain Member States to the collected fund due to bottlenecks in the accounting and deposits system.

62. Likewise, regional integration is faced with inadequacy in human resources which is evident in certain RECs and Member States. At the national level, lack of human resources is more evident at the implementation phase of the various decisions and directives. The majority of African countries do not have qualified staff capable of managing projects and implementing them. One of the major problems is the low capacity of absorption of funding for integration where it exists.

63. The implementation of protocols and agreements on free movement is still faced with a certain number of challenges. These relate to security problems between Member States of the same REC, and the non ratification of protocols on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment, the weak implementation of decisions taken on the issue, administrative harassments and corruption.

64. The limited mobility of the factors of production particularly labour across national frontiers is one major constraint to regional integration in Africa. Besides, certain States are reluctant to remove tariff and non tariff barriers which are obstacles to regional trade. This reaction is mainly due to the fear of losing revenue collected at the borders but also possible consequences related to the opening of markets.

65. Concerning the multi adherence of Member States to more than one REC, it is to be observed that in pursuance of the new approach of cooperation and harmonization of programmes between the RECs, concretized by the initiative taken by the three



RECs namely COMESA, SADC and EAC, this problem will not be an obstacle to the integration process in Africa if and only if this example is crowned with success. This is because it can serve as a model to other RECs.

66. Moreover, the lack of physical infrastructure in Africa is the major cause of delay in integration in the regions and among themselves. In fact, the lack of infrastructure in Africa is characterized by:

- Access to electricity for 30% of the population compared with rates ranging from 70% to 90% for other large geographical areas of the developing world (Asia, Central America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and Latin America);
- Access to water and sanitation for 65% of the population compared with rates from 80% to 90% for the other geographical zones;
- A telecommunication penetration rate of 3% to be compared with an average rate of 40% for the other geographical zones and a very low penetration rate of large bandwidth services; and
- A 34% access rate to roads as against 50% for the other geographical zones.

67. Considering the aforesaid, it is admitted that the RECs do not only grow at a homogenous rate but also that they are at different stages with regard to the road map proposed by the Abuja Treaty. It can therefore be retained that the challenges to be addressed in order to reach the final stage of this Treaty are still huge. The constraints to be overcome in order to speed up the regional and continental integration process are also considerable. The minimum integration programme which is the subject of the next chapter is undoubtedly the beginning of a solution to all these handicaps.



II. MINIMUM INTEGRATION PROGRAMME (MIP)

68. This chapter mostly revolves around sectors and subsectors considered to be priority; responsibility of stakeholders; problem of funding, possible challenges and obstacles and essential constitutive elements of phases 1 and 2 of the MIP

2.1 Priority sectors and subsectors

69. The minimum integration programme is made up of sectors and subsectors which the RECs considered priority in order to speed up the integration process of the continent. In each of the priority areas of the MIP, major activities and actions were identified designed first and foremost to speed up the integration process in every REC and then encourage regional cooperation between the RECs in order to realize the prime objective namely the African economic community as stipulated in the Abuja Treaty establishing the community.

70. A close or even crossed scrutiny of the priority programmes of the RECs leads to the idea that generally, the RECs have quasi unanimously retained the sectors which follow as priority. On the whole, they are as follows:

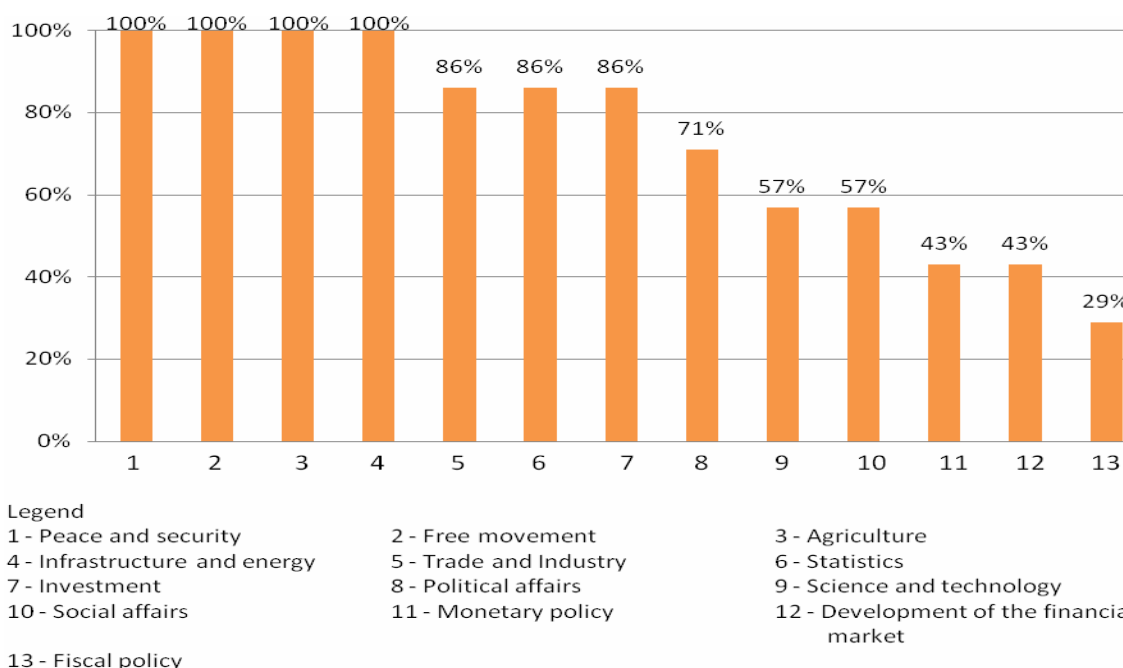
- i. Free movement of persons, goods, services and capital (100%)
- ii. Peace and security (100%)
- iii. Infrastructure and energy (100%)
- iv. Agriculture (100%)
- v. Trade (86%)
- vi. Industry (86%)
- vii. Investment (86%)
- viii. Statistics (86%);

71. Besides the priority sectors mentioned above, the RECs considered it imperative to carry out certain urgent activities described as necessary accompanying measures in the following areas:

- i. Political affairs (71%)
- ii. Science and technology (57%) and
- iii. Social affairs (57%)



Figure1: Priority sectors for the RECs



Source: African Union Commission, Questionnaire on the MIP

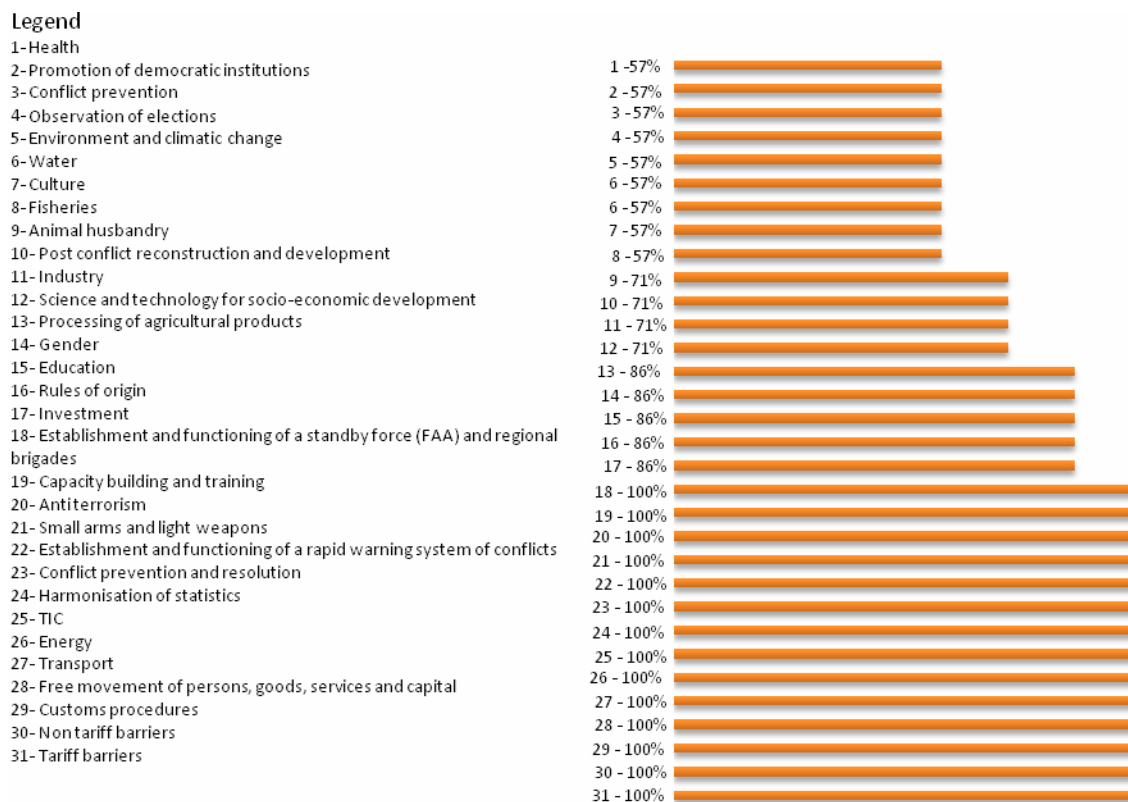
72. The percentages in brackets indicate the degree, even the level of priority which the RECs, in their entirety give to every sector and subsector. These figures were obtained from the examination of the survey conducted on them. It is clearly seen that the free movement of persons, goods, capital and services; peace and security, infrastructure and energy and agriculture constitute the priority of priorities. The sectors and subsectors whose score does not reach 50% are: monetary policy: development of the financial market and fiscal policy. Concerning the RECs, these sections do not constitute short term priorities at the continental level but medium term priorities to be taken into account in the components of the programme of the 2013-2016.

73. But considering interdependent relations between the sectors concerned, is it possible to give least attention to the promotion of these last sectors? The question deserves to be answered.

74. In pursuance of the elaboration of the first phase of the MIP (2009-2012), the implementation strategies correspond to actions to be carried out by the various communities and the AUC in order to establish the customs union in every REC but also to lay the foundation of a continental customs union. The actions, projects, activities or programmes contained in the MIP will help the different RECs, according to their integration stage, to advance in their integration processes, but also to encourage cooperation between the RECs in certain key areas.



Figure 2: Priority subsectors of the MIP



Source: African Union Commission , Questionnaire on the MIP

75. From the consultations held with the RECs, it is seen that the priority subsectors to be retained in the context of the MIP are the following by order of importance:

- Tariff barriers (100%) ;
- Non tariff barriers (100%) ;
- Customs procedures (100%) ;
- Free movement of persons, goods, services and capital (100%) ;
- Transport (100%) ;
- Energy (100%) ;
- Information and Communication Technology (100%) ;
- Harmonisation of statistics (100%) ;
- Conflict prevention and resolution (100%) ;
- Establishment and functioning of a rapid warning system of conflicts and observatories for observation and monitoring (100%) ;
- Programme of borders (100%) ;
- Small arms and light weapons (100%) ;
- Anti terrorism (100%) ;
- Capacity building and development (100%) ;
- Establishment and functioning of an African standby force (FAA) and regional brigades (86%) ;
- Investment (86%) ;



- Rules of origin (86%) ;
- Education (86%) ;
- Gender (86%) ;
- Processing of agricultural products (71%) ;
- Science and technology for socio-economic development (71%) ;
- Industry (71%) ;
- Post conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD) (71%) ;
- Animal husbandry (57%) ;
- Fisheries (57%) ;
- Culture (57%) ;
- Water (57%) ;
- Environment and climatic change (57%) ;
- Observation of elections (57%) ;
- Conflict prevention (57%) ;
- Promotion of democratic institutions (57%) ; and
- Health (57%).

76. The major role of the Commission will be to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the present programme but also assist the various players concerned in the implementation process. In order to give it the necessary conditions for a successful implementation, the MIP is accompanied by plans of action by community and by groups of REC as well as a plan of action for the AUC and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism (see annexes 1 and 2). However, it is to be observed that in the implementation of the 2013-2016 MIP, certain activities of the 2009-2012 programme will still exist because of their characteristic nature.

2.1.1 Trade

Objective 1: Gradual elimination of tariff barriers in the RECs

77. In spite of the efforts made by the RECs there are still tariff barriers between States. The elimination of tariff duties in trade will be achieved through agreements and measures relating to the gradual reduction and finally total elimination of all tariff and non tariff obstacles to trade in every REC.

78. In pursuance of the MIP, the activity to be recommended to the RECs is to take all the necessary measures to gradually eliminate all the tariff barriers between Member States of every REC. In this respect, the RECs are invited to speed up the removal / elimination of tariff barriers between their Member States by putting pressure on them to respect the fixed deadline. It will therefore be useful to adopt accompanying measures which will enable losses in revenue to be incurred due to the elimination the tariff barriers.

Objective 2: Elimination of non tariff barriers in the RECs

79. The Abuja Treaty provides in its Article 32 for the gradual elimination of non tariff barriers to intra community trade.



80. The COMESA has established a computerized system which enables the non tariff barriers problems to be detected and monitored in order to eliminate them. In the near future, SADC and the EAC will use the same system. It is a network system which enables different players (Businessmen, transporters, etc..) to denounce practices which exist at the borders and which represent obstacles to the free movement in the region.

81. There is a focal point in every member state which deals with the monitoring of reports elaborated on the problems of non tariff barriers with the different ministries and national administrations with a view to eliminating all the non tariff barriers to trade among States. *The objective in including this activity in the MIP is to generalize the use of this system in the other RECs. It is therefore necessary to assist the other RECs to develop this mechanism and implement it.*

Objective 3: Simplification and harmonization of rules and origin

82. Article 33 (2) of the Abuja Treaty provides that “the definition of the notion of products originating from Member States and the rules on goods from third States and which are in free circulation are subject to a protocol on the Rules of origin”. At this stage, every REC uses its own rules of origin to determine products which are eligible for preferential treatment. *In this respect, a simplification of the rules is necessary in every community. The second stage will be a necessary harmonization of the rules of origin among the REC in order to elaborate a continental protocol on the rules of origin in the medium term. The activity consists in simplifying regulations and providing support for the elaboration of a continental protocol on the rules of origin.*

Objective 4: Signing of partnership agreements between the RECs

83. Following consultations with the RECs, it seems important that the RECs establish partnership relations among themselves. In fact, certain RECs have already signed partnership agreements for the coordination and harmonization of their activities and programmes. The SADC, COMESA and the EAC have bilateral agreements governing their relations. The IGAD has signed partnership agreements with COMESA and EAC respectively. Likewise, the CENSAD has partnership agreements with the AMU and the ECOWAS. It is to be indicated that the relation between the COMESA, the SADC and the EAC is dynamic and will soon be formalized by the signing of a Tripartite agreement between them.

84. *In pursuance of the MIP, the signing of bilateral agreements between the following is recommended:*

- ECOWAS and ECCAS;
- ECCAS and COMESA; and
- CENSAD and ECCAS.

85. *Moreover, considering the adherence of all the IGAD Member States , except Somalia to the COMESA and adherence of some States , namely Kenya and Uganda to the EAC, it is necessary that the IGAD establishes connection with the harmonization process between COMESA, EAC and SADC in order to be part of it.*



86. *Likewise, it is proposed that another grouping made up of ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU should be established and hence the signing of a multilateral partnership agreement between the two groupings. This approach could speed up the implementation of the various continental programmes designed to harmonize the different regional programmes of the RECs.*

Objective 5: Facilitation of customs procedures and creation of a customs union in each REC with a common external tariff (CET)

87. The constitutive texts of the RECs contain provisions which request every member to harmonize, simplify and standardize their customs formalities and procedures. In the implementation process of this obligation, the various RECs have adopted documents adapted to their particular situations. The Abuja Treaty provides a limited orientation in this respect, in the sense that it provides for a fair harmonization and normalization of these documents, regulations and procedures.

88. *At this stage, it is necessary to request certain RECs which have not yet done so to normalize and harmonize their customs documentations and procedures, by establishing a single customs document valid for all declarations at the borders.*

89. In every region, the Member States of a REC will advance gradually toward the establishment of a common external tariff on products imported from non member countries. Apart from the compatibility with the WTO provision, issues to be discussed in the negotiations and during the implementation of the CET are: tariff levels, conformity, alternative sources of revenue, administration modalities of the CET and the distribution of revenue as well as categorization of products. The arrangements on the reduction / elimination of tariff duties in the RECs should be compatible with the other arrangements elsewhere in Africa. It is necessary to indicate that ECCAS has not yet adopted its CET while IGAD will have to consider possibilities of adhering to the CET of COMESA

90. In every region, the Member States of a REC will advance gradually toward the establishment of a common external tariff on products imported from non member countries. Apart from the compatibility with the WTO provision, issues to be discussed in the negotiations and during the implementation of the CET are: tariff levels, conformity, alternative sources of revenue, administration modalities of the CET and the distribution of revenue as well as categorization of products. The arrangements on the reduction / elimination of tariff duties in the RECs should be compatible with the other arrangements elsewhere in Africa. It is necessary to indicate that ECCAS has not yet adopted its CET while IGAD will have to consider possibilities of adhering to the CET of COMESA.

91. *At this stage, it is imperative for the RECs which have not yet done so to put in place a common external tariff for the community and harmonize their tariff systems with the other RECs. In this case, the activity to be supported is the elaboration of a policy or strategy which could assist Member States to adopt a common external tax.*



2.1.2 Free movement

Objective 6: Complete free movement of persons in the regions and partial among themselves

92. Article 43 of the Abuja Treaty stipulates that “the States shall take the necessary measures for the gradual realization of the free movement of persons and ensure the enjoyment of the rights of residence and establishment for their national inside the community”.

93. IGAD is the only REC which has not elaborated a protocol on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment while COMESA and CENSAD face serious problems in facilitating the free movement of persons in their regions since their protocols have not yet entered into force due to their non ratification by Member States.

94. *In this respect, the elaboration and ratification by the RECs and Member States of protocols on the free movement of persons, rights of residence and establishment in the RECs is a priority in the MIP.*

95. *Certain priority actions at the continental level like visa exemption for Africans holding diplomatic and service passports among the RECs, can facilitate the free movement of persons in Africa. In addition, important instruments on intra and inter regional security and judicial cooperation and the combat against terrorism should be put in place to accompany the liberalization process of the movement of persons. These instruments are guarantees for Member States.*

Objective 7: Free movement of goods in the regions

96. Regarding certain RECs, namely ECOWAS and COMESA, it is imperative for the other communities to create or adopt a community motor insurance regime in order to facilitate trade in their regions. *A harmonization action between the different community motor insurance regimes is also a necessity which should facilitate movement of goods between the regions.*

97. *Harmonization of the axle load and sizes of vehicle and road transit charges in every REC and between them are necessary actions to speed up regional and continental integration.*

Objective 8: Gradual free movement of services and capital in the regions

98. *It is imperative for the RECs which have not yet done so, namely IGAD and CENSAD to elaborate a protocol on the free movement of services and capital in their regions.*

2.1.3 Peace and security

Objective 9: Conflict prevention and resolution and post conflict development

99. In order to achieve this objective, the AUC and the RECs should implement the following activities and programmes:



i) African Union Border Programme (AUBP)

100. Objectives of this programme:

- Delimitation, demarcation, mapping and management of borders ;
- The elaboration of regional agreements on cross border cooperation ;
- Promotion of cross border cooperation with objectives and timeframes to be attained ;
- Establishment of mechanisms for the common management of borders between Member States ;
- Reaffirmation of the borders (intermediary erection markers) and their maintenance ;
- Establishment of a continental or regional mechanism for capacity building, and
- Mobilisation of resources in Africa and partners of the AU for the implementation of the border programme.

ii) Establishment and functioning of an early warning system of conflicts (SARC)

101. This project aims at realising the following objectives:

- Capacity building of resources of the SARC particularly that of the observatory ;
- Finalize the development of customs collection tools ;
- Capacity building for the production of reports on early warning;
- Strengthen the sharing of information and communication between the SARC and the early warning system of the RECs, and
- Improve coordination and collaboration between the SCAR and the stakeholders as provided for in article 12 of the protocol of the Peace and Security Council (PSC).

iii) Establishment and functioning of an African standby force and regional brigades.

2.1.4 Infrastructure and energy

Objective 10: Infrastructural development in Africa

102. Infrastructure plays a major role in the economic growth of countries and in the speeding up of the integration process. The initiatives taken by African States in order to address the problem of lack of infrastructure and ensure the integration of the continent are many including particularly the creation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

103. One of the major objectives of NEPAD is to promote infrastructural development as an integration and development factor of Africa. In this respect, one of the first



actions undertaken within NEPAD was the establishment in 2002, of short term action plan (PACT) on infrastructure which focused on measures and projects considered to be priority. This plan of action hinge on ongoing programmes and initiatives within the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and sectoral organizations. This plan of action is only the first stage which should be followed by the formulation of a short and long term strategic framework. It will spell out policies and strategies, map out priorities and assist in the establishment of partnerships designed to promote economic integration and support the development of trade and commerce.

104. However, after some years of the implementation of the PACT, evaluations carried out to date on the implementation of the PACT underscore delays and inadequacies in the realization of the PACT project. It is necessary to learn from these weaknesses but also to advance further by giving preference to convergence, consensus and political adaptation of measures and projects of unquestionable priority. It is also important to determine the mechanisms and processes for the mobilization of resources, incitement and monitoring which increase the chances for a more effective implementation.

105. In this respect, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and the African Development Bank (ADB) jointly took an initiative on infrastructural development in Africa called PIDA “Programme of Infrastructural Development in Africa”.

106. The objective of PIDA is to enable African decision making authorities to:

- Establish a strategic framework for regional and continental infrastructural development (energy, transport, information and communication technology and water) based on a vision of development, strategic objectives and sectoral policies ;
- Establish a development programme of these infrastructures arranged by order of priority and expressed in sentences; and
- Prepare a strategy and an implementation programme of this programme including particularly a priority plan of action.

107. The PIDA is made up of a series of physical infrastructural projects whose realization is proposed by 2010-2030. These projects can focus on extension or improvement in existing infrastructural creations.

108. This programme will be arranged by levels of priority. The order of priority is essential because it should enable efforts to be focused on a realistic core of projects and to seek consensus from all the stakeholders around such a core. These projects will also be regrouped according to the timeframe envisaged for their implementation (short term: 2010-2015; medium term: 2016-2020 and long term: 2021-2030).

109. The PIDA implementation strategies and processes revolve mainly around the establishment of a consensus on the priority plan of actions. This plan concerns both physical investment programmes and measures of different kinds. It aims to replace the PACT by a practical plan of actions, elaborated first and foremost over the 2010-2015 period. The essential criteria of the arrangement by levels of priority is the alignment



with this strategic framework. The actions target fixed strategic objectives, are in agreement with the sectoral policies while taking particularly into account an analysis of the major constraints of infrastructural development. The achievement of a consensus by the decision making authorities on this plan of priority actions and its manner of managing it constitutes the priority objective of the PIDA.

110. The steering committee is the organ for orientation and approval of the programme. It is made up of representatives of the African Union Commission, the AfDB, the NEPAD Secretariat, the RECs and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

111. In fact, the programme was conceived in order to ensure the most complete participation of RECs as the major stakeholders and that of specialized institutions of the AU and other sectoral organizations concerned. The RECs will be regrouped into five geographical regions as indicated below.

Region	REC
North Africa	AMU, CENSAD
West Africa	ECOWAS, CENSAD
Central Africa	ECCAS
East Africa	COMESA, EAC, IGAD
Southern Africa	COMESA, SADC

112. The RECs will provide liaisons with their Member States , specialized institutions, organs and enterprises engaged in the establishment of infrastructure and service delivery particularly regional financial development institutions. The African Union Commission has the mission to coordinate, harmonize and assume continental leadership in social and economic development and physical integration of the continent

113. In pursuance of the MIP, the only activity to be recommended is to request the RECs to speed up the implementation of the PACT and effectively participate in the development process of the PIDA.

2.1.5 Agriculture

Objective 11: Speeding up of the implementation of the CAADP

114. In 2003, the NEPAD, in concert with its development partners elaborated a **Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)** whose global objective is development focused on agriculture, with a view to eliminating hunger, reducing poverty and food insecurity and opening access to trade expansion. This programme is a harmonized framework in the agricultural sector in all the regions. Considering the agricultural situation in Africa, the effective implementation of initiatives such as the CAADP programme remains the most important factor for the strengthening of regional integration and inter African trade. The African Union Commission is responsible for the coordination of regional programmes in order to ensure that they are harmonized in the various RECs and among themselves.



115. *It is therefore important to observe that in addition to activities carried out by the RECs in pursuance of the CAADP, these interventions are necessary to ensure harmonization at the continental level of policies specially in the following areas :*

- *Harmonization between the different regional food security programmes;*
- *Establishment, where it does not exist, of an information management system on agricultural markets, and*
- *Exchange of experience between the RECs;*

116. Due to the weakness of the infrastructure of markets in Africa, regional markets are served by low transmissions of prices among the markets and therefore face sudden fluctuations in prices. Sometimes one is faced with a situation of acute food shortage in a region while there is food surplus in the country or region. It is necessary to establish from now on, an information management system on agricultural markets.

117. A possible solution to such problems of marketing is the establishment of information systems on agricultural markets. These systems are currently operational in many African countries and regions. An example is provided by the ECOWAS Commission which has a system called SIGOA-TOPS and the COMESA Secretariat which also has an information system on the sale of food and agricultural products called FAMIS.

118. *Considering the increasing importance of cross border and regional trade, information management systems on agricultural markets should be linked among themselves in order to cover all agricultural markets on the continent.*

2.1.6 Industry

Objective 12: Development of the industrial sector in Africa

119. The Xth ordinary session of the African Union Summit held in January 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was devoted to the theme “Africa’s industrial development. At the summit, the African Heads of State and Government adopted a plan of action for the accelerated industrial development of Africa, which was elaborated at the first extraordinary Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI) in September 2007 in Midrand, South Africa.

120. By adopting the plan of action, the Heads of States and Governments of the AU requested the African Union Commission, among others:

- to prioritize the activities listed in the plan of action and develop an implementation plan, and
- organize in collaboration with the RECs, the regional banks, the ECA, UNIDO, the World Bank and other development partners, regional meetings for the effective implementation of the plan of action.

121. In pursuance of the decision taken, the AUC organized in April 2008, in Cairo, Egypt, a first meeting of stakeholders of the industrial sector in order to elaborate the implementation plan for the accelerated industrial development of Africa



122. The meeting produced a draft implementation of the strategy of the African Union for the accelerated industrial development of Africa.

123. The implementation plan is based on seven major areas, namely:

- Harmonization of industrial policies and strengthening of the institutions
- Upgrading of production and trade capacities
- Promotion of infrastructure and energy for industrial development
- Development of human resources for industry
- Systems of industrial innovation and technological development
- Fund and mobilization of resources, and
- Sustainable development.

124. The implementation strategy was presented, discussed and approved by the XVIIIth Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI 18), held in October 2008, in Durban, South Africa. The African Ministers requested the AUC to ensure the effective implementation of the strategy in collaboration with the regional economic communities.

125. In pursuance of the MIP, the two activities to be recommended are the elaboration of a protocol on the promotion of industrial policies in the RECs, which have not yet done so, and the operationalisation of the implementation strategy of the plan of action on industrial development. It is therefore to be observed that this strategy contains a series of priority projects at the regional and continental level to be implemented by the African Union Commission, the RECS and Member States.

2.1.7 Investment

Objective 13: Establish regional and continental platforms in order to attract investment

126. Every REC should develop its own investment code in order to create an enabling environment for foreign, cross border and local investments among its Member States. The elaboration of the investment code in every region will offer a framework which could promote growth in private investments at the regional level and create a harmonized investment climate at the regional level.

127. Harmonization between the different regional protocols is the second stage toward the elaboration of a continental protocol which will serve as a harmonized platform to encourage African investors to develop their activities on the continent but also to attract foreign investors who want to invest in Africa.



2.1.8 Science and technology

Objective 14: Development of the educational system in Africa

128. *Encourage the RECs and Member States to accelerate the implementation of the plan of action of the second educational decade.*

Objective 15: Promote the use of science and technology to eradicate poverty in Africa

129. *Encourage the RECs and Member States to speed up the implementation of the consolidated African plan of action on science and technology.*

2.1.9 Social affairs

Objective 16: Provide access to primary health care

130. *Regarding the combat against HIV/AIDS, it was recommended like COMESA, that an annual roundtable of first ladies should be organized in every REC to discuss social issues particularly relating to HIV/AIDS. The AUC on its part, in collaboration with the RECs and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, should continue to work on the harmonization of regional initiatives on the combat against HIV/AIDS at the regional and continental level.*

Objective 17: Promote the participation of women in economic development

131. In accordance with article 75 of the Abuja Treaty which provides for the integration of women in economic and development activities, it is observed that certain RECs have developed programmes and policies designed to make women participate in the integration process of the continent. Certain RECs have however not yet accorded some importance to the role which women should play in the development of the economies of Member States and regions.

132. In this respect, it is to be recalled that the COMESA has created a regional federation of national business women's associations which was able to facilitate the inclusion of women in the region in the economic cycle of their respective countries and support business women.

133. *Like COMESA, it is recommended that a regional federation of national associations of business women should be created in every REC which seemed to be a good experience.*

134. The ECCAS and ECOWAS have signed a cooperation agreement on the combat against human trafficking particularly of women and children.

135. *It is therefore important that every REC signs a cooperation agreement on human trafficking between Member States before signing between themselves.*

2.1.10 Political affairs

Objective 18: Democratic elections and political power succession



136. *With regard to this issue, it seemed important that the RECs encourage their Member States to ratify the African Charter on democracy, elections and governance.*

Objective 19: Improvement of governance in the RECs

137. *In order to strengthen governance in the RECs, it has also been recommended that every REC should develop its own peer review mechanism.*

2.1.11 Statistics

Objective 20: Put in place instruments which enable the harmonization of statistics in Africa

138. *As and when the integration process speeds up in Africa, reliable statistics become an essential need for the formulation of integration policies and the monitoring and evaluation of the different national, regional and continental programmes.*

139. *The beginning will be the ratification of the African Charter on statistics by AU Member States. This Charter is the legal framework at the continental level and which will ensure harmonization of statistics at the African level. Moreover, the AUC, in close collaboration with the RECs, will elaborate continental guides for the collection of data, harmonization of measuring standards, harmonization of the contents of the various statistical indicators, etc...*

2.1.12 Capacity building

Objective 21: Capacity building of the RECs, the AUC and Member States

140. *In order to ensure a successful harmonization of the MIP, it is imperative to build the capacities of the various players concerned in the areas of integration. In this respect, the AUC in close collaboration with the RECs should organize training sessions in the various sub sectors of the MIP for their staff and for officials of the different Member States.*

141. *Table 2 below presents the different priority sectors and subsectors of the MIP, the objectives of the MIP in its phases 1, 2, and 3 as well as the implementation strategies of the phases (2009-2012).*



Table 2: Summary table of the Minimum Integration Programme

Priority sectors of the MIP	Subsectors of the MIP	N°	Objectives of the first phase (2009-2012)	Objectives of the second phase (2013-2016)	Objectives of the third phase (2017-2020)	Projects, activities and programmes to be implemented in the first phase (2009-2012)
Trade	Tariff barriers (TB)	1	Gradual elimination of tariff barriers (TBs) in all the RECs	Elimination of all the TBs in the RECs	Elimination of all TBs in the RECs and at the continental level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speeding up of the implementation of programme for the elimination of TBs in every REC
	Non tariff barriers (NTB)	2	Elimination of non tariff barriers (NTBs) in the RECs	Gradual elimination of the NTBs in the RECs	Elimination of all the NTBs at the continental level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment / operationalisation of the computerized system in all the RECs in order to detect and eliminate all the non tariff obstacles to trade
	Rules of origin	3	Simplification and harmonisation of the rules of origin	Rules of origin harmonised at the regional level	Rules of origin harmonised at the continental level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplification and harmonisation of the rules of origin in all the RECs and among them
	FTA	4	Signing of partnership agreements between RECs	Creation of two zones : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD, AMU 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing of partnership agreements between RECs Harmonisation of programmes of the RECs
	Customs	5	Facilitation of the customs procedures and establishment of a customs union in every REC with a CET	Customs union in each of the two groups of the REC	Continental customs union with a continental CET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed up the establishment of the customs unions in the RECs Address the problem of multi adherence of Member States to more than one REC. It would encourage the establishment of cooperation between communities with a view to establishing in the long run, customs unions among REC groupings

MINIMUM INTEGRATION PROGRAMME (MIP)



Priority sectors of the MIP	Subsectors of the MIP	N°	Objectives of the first phase (2009-2012)	Objectives of the second phase (2013-2016)	Objectives of the third phase (2017-2020)	Projects, activities and programmes to be implemented in the first phase (2009-2012)
Free movement	Free movement of persons	6	Complete Free movement in the regions and partial among them	Gradual Free movement of persons between the regions	Complete freedom of movement of persons in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed up the effective establishment of regional protocols in the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment • Facilitate free movement for Africans holding diplomatic and service passports • Establish guarantee mechanisms.
	Free movement of goods	7	Free movement of goods in the regions	Gradual freedom of movement of goods between regions	Complete freedom of movement of goods in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish mechanisms which facilitate the free movement of goods in the regions • Harmonisation in the regions of some instruments which facilitate free movement of goods in the regions.
	Free movement of services and capital	8	Gradual freedom of movement of services and capital in the regions	Gradual freedom of movement of services and capital between regions	Complete freedom of movement of services and capital in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment in every REC of a legal framework (protocol) for the free movement of services and capital.
Peace and security	All the sectors	9	Conflict prevention and resolution and post conflict development in Africa	Conflict prevention, resolution and post conflict development in Africa	Conflict prevention and resolution and post conflict development in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment and functioning of an early warning system of conflicts and observatories for observation and monitoring • Establishment and functioning of an African standby force and regional brigades • Implementation of the African Union borders programme.

MINIMUM INTEGRATION PROGRAMME (MIP)



Priority sectors of the MIP	Subsectors of the MIP	N°	Objectives of the first phase (2009-2012)	Objectives of the second phase (2013-2016)	Objectives of the third phase (2017-2020)	Projects, activities and programmes to be implemented in the first phase (2009-2012)
Infrastructure and energy	Transport/energy/ICT	10	Development of infrastructure in Africa	Development of infrastructure in Africa	Development of infrastructure in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed up the implementation of the PACT • Ensure the effective participation of the RECs in the development process of the PIDA
Agriculture	All the sectors	11	Speed up the implementation of the CAADP in order to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate hunger, • Reduce poverty and food insecurity and • Promote growth in trade 	Realise the first phase of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), reduce hunger and poverty by half by 2015	Develop the agricultural sector in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonisation of the various regional programmes on food security; • Establishment where it does not exist, of an information management system on agricultural markets; • Exchange experience among the RECs • Establishment of a special fund for agriculture in every REC
Industry	All the sectors	12	Develop the industrial sector in Africa	Develop the industrial sector in Africa	Develop the industrial sector in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every REC should have a legal framework to promote industrial policies (protocol) • Operationalisation in every REC of the implementation strategy of the plan of action on the industrial development in Africa
Investment	Investment policies	13	Establish a regional and continental platform to attract investors	Increase in local, regional and foreign investments	Increase in local, regional and foreign investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of regional investment protocols, • harmonisation of different protocols and • elaboration of a continental code
Science and technology	Education	14	Development of the educational system in Africa	Development of the educational system in Africa	Development of the educational system in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the RECs and the Member States to implement the plan of action of the second

MINIMUM INTEGRATION PROGRAMME (MIP)


Priority sectors of the MIP	Subsectors of the MIP	N°	Objectives of the first phase (2009-2012)	Objectives of the second phase (2013-2016)	Objectives of the third phase (2017-2020)	Projects, activities and programmes to be implemented in the first phase (2009-2012)
	Science and technology	15	Promote the use of science and technology for the eradication of poverty in Africa	Promote the use of science and technology in order to eradicate poverty in Africa	Promote the use of science and technology for the eradication of poverty in Africa	decade for education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the RECs and Member States to implement the African consolidated plan of action on science and technology
Social affairs	Health	16	Ensure access of Africans to primary healthcare	Ensure access of Africans to primary healthcare	Ensure access of Africans to primary healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the African Health Strategy (2007-2015)
	Gender	17	Promote the participation of women in economic development	Position women as inevitable players in the economic cycle of Member States	Position women as inevitable players in the economic cycle of Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of regional business women associations
Political affairs	Elections and promotion of democratic institutions	18	Democratic elections and changeover of political power	Democratic elections and changeover of political power	Democratic elections and changeover of political power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratification and implementation of the African Charter on democracy, elections and governance
	Governance	19	Improvement in governance in the RECs	Improvement in governance in the RECs	Improvement in governance in the RECs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a peer review mechanism in each REC
Statistics	Harmonisation of statistics	20	Establish instruments which enable the harmonisation of statistics in Africa	Production of reliable and comparable statistics in Africa	Production of reliable and comparable statistics in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratification of the African Charter on statistics by Member States Preparation of continental guide for the collection of data, harmonisation of measuring standards, etc...
Capacity building	All the subsectors	21	Build the capacities of the RECs, the AUC and Member States	Build the capacities of the RECs, the AUC and Member States	Build the capacities of the RECs, the AUC and Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize training sessions in various subsectors of the MIP for officials of the RECs, the AUC and Member States
Fiscal policy	Inflation/ interest rates/ fiscal deficit	22	-----	Harmonisation of fiscal policies at the regional level	Harmonisation of fiscal policies at the regional level	-----

MINIMUM INTEGRATION PROGRAMME (MIP)



Priority sectors of the MIP	Subsectors of the MIP	N°	Objectives of the first phase (2009-2012)	Objectives of the second phase (2013-2016)	Objectives of the third phase (2017-2020)	Projects, activities and programmes to be implemented in the first phase (2009-2012)
Monetary policy	Payment systems/ macroeconomic convergence/ banking sector	23	-----	Establishment of a monetary union in every REC	Establishment of a continental monetary union with a common African currency	-----
Development of the financial market	Transferable stock market	24	-----	Create an enabling environment for the development of national and regional financial markets	Establishment of an African transferable stock market	-----

Source: African Union Commission, Questionnaire of the MIP



142. Concerning objectives numbers 22, 23 and 24, the RECs considered that during the first phase of the MIP (2009-2012), the development sectors of the financial sector, the monetary and fiscal policy should not be priorities at the continental level.

143. Regarding each of the objectives of the MIP, there is a series of activities and projects to be undertaken by the different players. Table 3 below presents the activities and projects of the MIP according to steering responsibility.

144. Moreover, there are a certain number of continental projects and programmes initiated and piloted by the AUC and which are in the process of implementation by the regional economic communities and the Member States according to the principle of subsidiary. All these projects aim at speeding up the integration of the continent in the different sectors. For example, the following programmes and plans can be cited: the short term plan of action (PACT) of the NEPAD, the African infrastructural development programme in Africa (PIDA), the CAADP, the implementation strategy of the plan of action of the industrial development in Africa, the African Union programmes on peace and security, the implementation of the African Charter on statistics, the establishment of African financial institutions (African Monetary Fund, African Central Bank and African Investment Bank) the plan of action of the second educational decade and the consolidated plan of action on science and technology.

145. These programmes and projects constitute a harmonized platform at the continental level in each of the priority sectors of the MIP. After detailed consideration and analysis of all these projects and programmes, it seemed imperative to avoid duplication of efforts, by elaborating or defining new priority projects and activities where there are regional and continental projects already identified or being identified. In this respect, the MIP regroups all these regional and continental programmes which aim at giving a complete overview of all the existing initiatives but also identifying the financial deficits caused by their implementation and try to address them by mobilizing the additional necessary funds.

146. Furthermore, the RECs are in the process of implementing other regional activities but with continental implications. It is to be noted that the RECs have their own minimum programme of integration, with an implementation timeframe, in perfect harmony with their strategic orientations.

147. In pursuance of the PMI, it is therefore necessary to assist the RECs to implement the activities and projects which will be piloted by them and distributed as follows:

- i. Activities being carried out whose speeding up is required ;
- ii. New activities to be undertaken by the RECs in their respective regions, and
- iii. Activities and projects to be defined or rehabilitated and implemented among the RECs.

148. The approach used to select these activities was to identify, within every REC, regional integrating projects with a continental impact, evaluate the rate of their



implementation and compare the timeframes fixed for these projects in relation to the regional and continental timetable. Then, on the basis of the results obtained and performance recorded by each of the RECs in relation to the objectives set by the MIP, a certain number of projects and activities were retained in pursuance of the continental programme.



Table 3: Distribution of activities and projects of the MIP among players according to steering responsibility

Regional and Continental activities and projects piloted by the AUC		
	Sectors	Activities/Projects
	Infrastructure and energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the implementation of the short term plan of action (PACT) of NEPAD • Facilitate the implementation of the programme for Infrastructural Development in Africa (PIDA)
	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP),
	Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement projects contained in the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on industrial development in Africa
	Peace and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment and functioning of a rapid warning system of conflicts and observatories for observation and monitoring • Establishment and functioning of an African standby force and regional brigades • Implement the African Union borders programme
	Science and technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the implementation of the plan of action on the second educational decade • Facilitate the implementation of the plan of action on science and technology
	Social affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the African Health Strategy
	Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish African financial institutions (African Monetary Fund, African Central Bank and African Investment Bank)
	Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the African Charter on statistics and harmonisation of statistics in Africa
	Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonise the different regional investment protocols • Elaborate a continental investment code • Facilitate the implementation of the plan of action on microfinance • Facilitate the implementation of projects identified by the African forum for the private sector.
Regional activities and projects piloted by the RECs		

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Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding up of the implementation of programmes for the elimination of the TBs in every REC • Establishment/ operationalisation of the computerized system in all RECs in order to detect and eliminate non tariff obstacles in Trade • Simplification of the rules of origin in all the RECs • Signing of partnership agreement between the RECs • Establishment of regional customs union and common markets
Free movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate the effective establishment of regional protocols on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment • Facilitate free movement for Africans holding diplomatic and service passports • Establish guarantee mechanisms for free movement • Establish mechanisms which facilitate free movement of goods, services and capital in the regions
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish where there is none, an information management system on agricultural market; • Establish a special fund for agriculture in every REC
Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborate a protocol for the promotion of industrial policies in every REC
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a peer review mechanism in each REC
Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of regional investment protocols / regional investment codes
Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create regional single currencies

Source: African Union Commission, Questionnaire of the MIP



2.2 Analysis of the MIP

2.2.1 Responsibility of the players

149. The question which one can attempt to ask is whether the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP) is necessary, even indispensable for the realization of the objectives of the Treaty establishing the African economic community. Does the MIP have the ingredients likely to booster the implementation process of the regional and continental integration agenda? Has it obtained the adherence of all the stakeholders in this process? Will the RECs have the human and financial resources to implement the identified projects and activities? Finally will the MIP be able to meet the numerous expectations placed on it? Many questions come to mind when one attempts to dwell at length on the expected results of the MIP.

150. The certainty is that the MIP seems not only necessary but of prime necessity if we intend to combine our efforts and coordinate the activities of the regional economic communities (RECs). Although their programmes are practically similar and considering their specificities and realization methods, they are not implemented according to the Abuja Treaty, which summarizes the expectation of the African economic community (AEC) in six stages, of which the REC is the major mainspring. This Treaty therefore stipulates that “a series of specific actions which should be simultaneously undertaken and pursued is assigned to every stage...” The non simultaneousness and the difference in actions carried out by the RECs have caused a disparity between their degrees of integration. Since then, it is indicated that, in the spirit and letter of the Abuja Treaty, a refocusing of activities of the RECs around priority sectors identified by common agreement should be envisaged among them and the African Union, guarantor of the implementation of the Treaty, in order to speed up the integration process of the continent under the form and denomination of a “**Minimum Integration Programme**”.

151. This programme has the advantage of being jointly proposed and accepted by the stakeholders with a specific timeframe in the various phases and structured around projects and activities already ongoing at the regional level or projects and activities to be defined and some of which, through this programme assume a continental nature like the activities initiated within the framework of the detailed programme for the development of African agriculture (CAADP); the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on industrial development in Africa, the establishment of African financial institutions; and projects envisaged in pursuance of the Programme for Infrastructural Development in Abuja (PIDA).

152. Moreover, the key players are the Member States, the regional economic communities and the African Union Commission. It also has the advantage of offering more visibility, and precision to donors, partner institutions of the United Nations system as well as other development partners in the actions to be undertaken.

153. It is to be observed that the success of the programme depends on the capacity on the Member States, the RECs and the AU Commission and the availability of the



required financing, as well as the smooth functioning of the monitoring mechanism envisaged for that purpose. It is also incumbent on the Commission to build its capacities for the coordination and monitoring of the programme's implementation, on Member States to procure the required resources and on RECs to coordinate and harmonise their actions through the prompt conclusion of partnership agreements where there is none.

154. The pyramid and figure no. 3 below perfectly illustrates the distribution among stakeholders of the activities and projects contained in the MIP. The identified players should accept to play their assigned roles in the implementation of the MIP. Each of them is an important link in the implementation chain. The poor performance of one of them risks bringing the entire programme to a standstill. Regarding development partners, they should honour their numerous financial commitments by considerably reducing disbursement deadlines.



PYRAMID OF ACTIVITIES OR PROJECTS OF THE MIP

3rd stage

Inter-Regional Economic Community projects or activities

Cooperation between RECs:

- SADC, COMESA, EAC and IGAD
- ECOWAS, EECAS, CEN-SAD and UMA

2nd stage

National and regional projects which have an impact on the integration initiated, developed and implemented by the REC

- Creation of Customs Union ;
- Creation of the common market ;
- Creation of the economic and monetary union ;
- EPA negotiation ;
- Free movement of persons, goods, services and capital ;

1st stage

Regional and continental projects initiated, developed and coordinated by the African Union Commission

- Implementation of the African Charter on statistics
- Establishment of African financial institutions;
- Implementation of the PIDA ;
- Implementation of the CAADP ;
- Implementation of the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action by industrial development in Africa ;
- Implementation of the African Charter on democracy ;
- Implementation of the plan of action on the second decade for education;
- Implementation of the plan of action on microfinance ;
- Free movement of persons, goods, services and capital ;

Source: Statement by The AUC Chairperson, Dr. Jean Ping at the Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and Governors of central banks, held in Tunis, in November 2008.

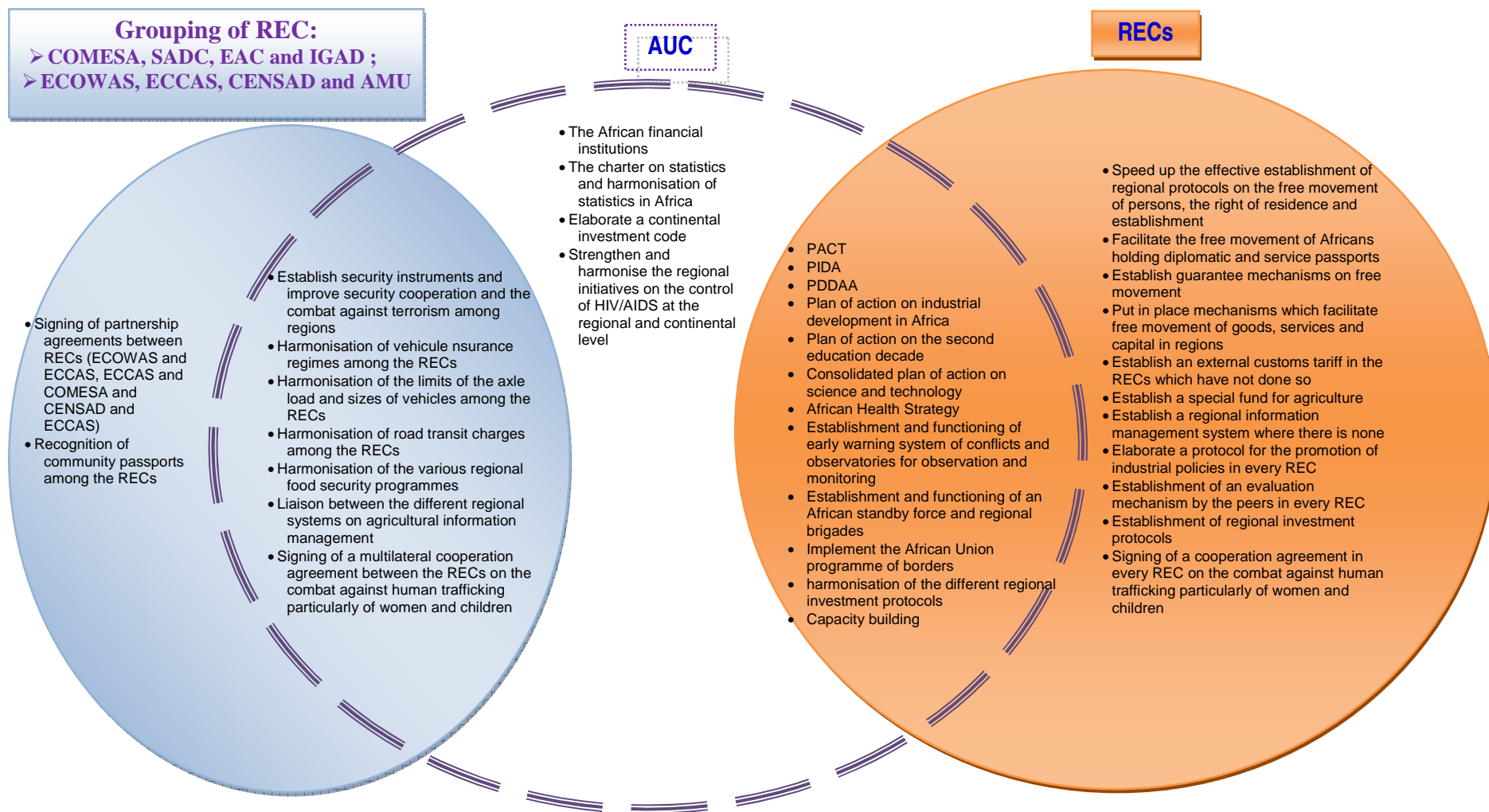


155. In order to provide the necessary conditions for its implementation and success, the MIP is accompanied by plans of action by community and by group of REC namely, COMESA, SADC, EAC, and IGAD; and ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU, as well as a plan of action for the AUC and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Considering the acute needs in terms of funding of the integration process in general and the MIP in particular, the present study recommends the establishment of an “Integration Fund” dedicated to the funding of the proposed fund and proposes, for that purpose, three main sources of funding namely: internal sources, African financial institutions and external sources. After the identification of the different potential sources of funding of the MIP, the AUC will undertake a series of consultations with the RECs in order to map out a strategy for funding the MIP.

156. The major challenges which can hinder or slow down the implementation of the MIP are mainly the lack of financial and human resources at the level of the RECs and the AUC, the lack of leadership and coordination on the part of the AUC, the absence of compatibility between the national policies and regional approaches and at a lower level the multi adherence of countries to several RECs. In this respect, the AUC, in close collaboration with the RECs, should take the necessary measures to address all the challenges and constraints in order to speed up the integration process of the continent.



Figure 3: Distribution of activities, projects and programmes of the MIP among stakeholders according to responsibility in implementation



Source: Figure prepared from table N°3.



2.2.2 Funding of the MIP

157. Considering the acute needs in terms of funding of the integration process in general and the MIP in particular, it was recommended that “an Integration Fund” dedicated to the funding of the programme should be established. The new Fund will therefore be used to support the specialized, regional Funds like those on infrastructure or agriculture and not to be substituted for them. Practically, the Fund will be used to assist the regional Funds by financing part of the project when it is an integrating interregional project which features in the MIP. Such a Fund could be lodged either in the African Development Bank or in the future Investment Bank. The African Investment Bank will have a very important role to play in supporting the integration process in Africa. All the development partners united with the spirit of integration of Africa could contribute to this Fund.

158. In order to speed up the African integration programme and implement the MIP, the need to have financial resources cannot be over emphasized. In general, three important financial sources are proposed namely:

- i. *Internal sources:* Member States should assume the responsibility of providing their contributions for the funding of national, regional and continental integrating projects. In fact, it is necessary that the greatest part of the Funds is mobilized in order to ensure that the programme is adopted by the RECs and countries which are the most responsible authorities for the implementation and success of the MIP. Once the study on the identification of alternative sources of funding is finalized and recommendations adopted and effectively implemented, it could support the implementation of the MIP.
- ii. *The African financial institutions:* the resources pooled for example from existing financial institutions such as the African Development Bank or the planned African Investment Bank could be a major source of funding of the programme.
- iii. *External sources:* the various development partners have on several occasions showed their interest in financing the African integration agenda. But a common and distinct road map with a specific programme and detailed plan of action was what is missing. This new harmonized framework at the continental level will provide an opportunity for donors to contribute to the integration process by funding certain activities or projects of the MIP. This action will enable the different existing initiatives to be rationalized, efforts made by development partners to be complemented and duplication and waste of efforts by Member States and the RECs in monitoring programmes and initiatives at the continental level to be avoided.

159. After the identification of the various potential sources of financing of the MIP, the AUC will undertake a series of consultations with the RECs in order to develop a strategy for the funding of this programme. For this purpose the strategy will have to:



- i. Identify the financing sources of the different RECs;
- ii. Identify the funds used by the RECs in order to implement ongoing activities and projects contained in the MIP;
- iii. Identify the existing funds within the AUC allocated to ongoing activities of the MIP;
- iv. Estimate the necessary amounts for the implementation of each activity or project contained in the MIP;
- v. Establish a strategy for the mobilization of financial resources from development partners;
- vi. Propose the necessary measures for the creation, functioning and management of the integration Fund; and
- vii. Determine the relations between the specialized regional fund in the RECs and the proposed integration Fund.

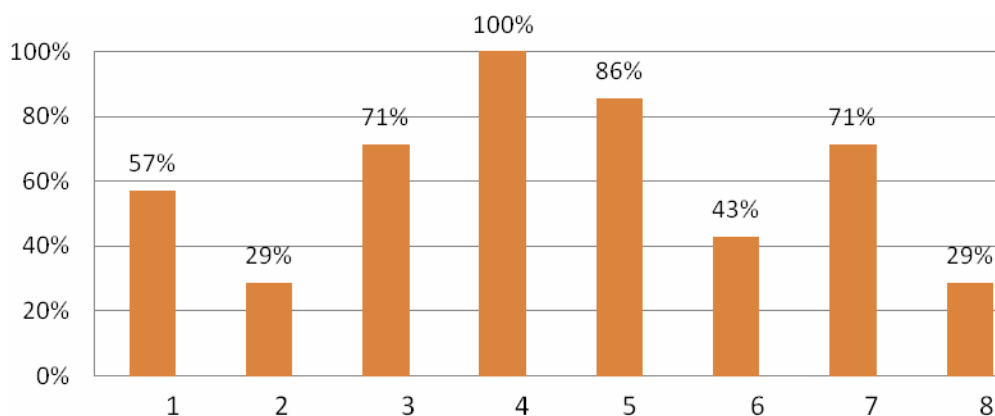
2.3 Constraints

160. The major constraints which can hinder or slow down the implementation of the MIP and hence the speeding up of the integration process are namely, lack of leadership and coordination from the AUC. Other related constraints are added to these key problems namely; the lack of compatibility between national policies and regional approaches and at lesser extent the multi adherence of countries to several RECs. In this case, the question of balance to be found between national sovereignties and the power to be given to the RECs and the AUC deserves to be answered effectively and on a long term basis.

161. Regarding multi adherence, it has been observed that with the new approach of the African Union Commission which consists in working in close collaboration with the RECs and which promotes and supports cooperation among them, particularly the recent initiative of the Tripartite summit between COMESA, EAC and SADC and with the elaboration of the MIP designed to harmonise programmes among the RECs, the multi adherence of Member States to more than one REC could not be a major challenge for the effective implementation of the MIP. The figure below clearly illustrates all the challenges in the implementation of the MIP.



Figure 4: Challenges and constraints in the implementation the MIP



Legend

- 1 - Lack of political will
- 2 - Limited political understanding
- 3 - Lack of human resources
- 4 - Lack of financial resources
- 5 - Lack of leadership and coordination by the AUC
- 6 - Lack of compatibility in national and regional policies
- 7 - Lack of human resources at the AUC
- 8 - Multiple adherence

Source: African Union Commission, Questionnaire of the MIP

162. Therefore, in order to address all the above cited constraints, the following recommendations have been made:

- i. The AUC should take all measures aimed at mobilizing all the internal and external resources needed for the implementation of the MIP;
- ii. The AUC, in collaboration with the REC, should encourage Member States to partly finance the major integrating projects;
- iii. The AUC, in collaboration with the RECs, should organize donors roundtables in order to mobilize the necessary funds for the funding of the MIP;
- iv. The African Union Commission should sensitize Member States on the benefits of integration;
- v. The AUC and the REC should sensitize Member States on the need to implement activities of the MIP at the appropriate time;
- vi. The strengthening of the existing institutions and if need be, the establishment of appropriate institutional arrangements in order to facilitate coordination between the various bodies responsible for implementation and external partners;



- vii. The AUC should intensify consultations with the RECs and effectively use the coordination meeting with them to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the MIP;
- viii. The opening of the AU representation offices in the headquarters of the RECs will facilitate communication with the RECs and ensure a smooth monitoring of the implementation of the MIP;
- ix. In pursuance of their cooperation, the AUC and the RECs should exchange officials in order to benefit from experiences acquired;
- x. The AUC, in collaboration with the RECs should organize sectoral training sessions in order to build the capacities of their staff, and
- xi. Development of a supervisory and evaluation framework in order to monitor progress made toward the realization of the integration objectives and evaluate the results of the programmes and projects focused on these objectives.

2.4 Phase II of the MIP

163. The minimum integration programme will be implemented through a succession of phases of four years duration each in order to take into account the duration of the strategic plan of the AU of which it is an essential component part. Therefore the monitoring, evaluation and updating of these two major projects could be made concomitantly. The first phase of the MIP from 2009 to 2012 is the development basis of the next phases of the programme. But in any work of strategic planning, it is imperative to establish the guiding outlines in the medium and long term. Therefore, during the second phase of the programme 2013 to 2016, the RECs have observed the need to focus on the following issues, in addition to the implementation of certain activities and projects which have not been completed during the first phase of the MIP:

- i. Harmonization of fiscal policies among countries;
- ii. Establishment of regional payment systems;
- iii. Development of capital markets;
- iv. Development of a legal and statutory framework on the free movement of capital;
- v. Harmonization of monetary policies;
- vi. Adoption of a continental common external tariff;
- vii. Monitoring of the macroeconomic convergence of countries;
- viii. Harmonization of statistics on national accounts and monitoring of the macroeconomic convergence, and
- ix. Investment promotion and improvement of the investment climate.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

164. The minimum integration programme is the missing link in the big loop for the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community animated by Member States, the regional economic communities (RECs), the African Union Commission (AUC) and development partners.

165. If it is acknowledged that the RECs are working in specific environments with projects and programmes which are adapted to their situations, it is as much an urgent need which they must respond to their capacity, as mainstays of the AEC. It is the coordination and harmonization of their activities around priority programmes jointly negotiated that are designed to speed up integration of the African continent.

166. The success of the ambitions programme will depend on the will and determination of each stakeholder to play its role and effectively translate into realities its share of the programme according to the plan of action which spells out the programme and which falls within the general context of the AU Strategic Plan. The programme also includes a monitoring and evaluation mechanism designed to report on its realization with the help of periodic reports to be drafted both by the RECs and the AUC.

167. The RECs will coordinate the implementation of regional projects for which they and their Member States are respectively responsible while the AUC will have the responsibility of facilitating the implementation of certain regional projects and coordinate all the continental activities. Every player in the integration process of Africa is called upon to find in the Minimum Integration Programme not only a tool for coordinating its projects with those of others but also and particularly an illustration of the will of a whole continent to eradicate hunger, sickness, avoid the spectre of conflicts and take advantage of its considerable human, technical and natural potentialities in order to realize its legitimate aspirations of development and to take its proper place on the international scene.

168. Africa should be part of the players of the current changes in the world by using, in cohesion and unity, its political, democratic and economic influence in order to be the focus of decisions which will reshape the world and pave the way for the future.



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ANNEXES



ANNEX 1: IMPLEMENTATION PLANS OF THE MIP

The successful implementation of the minimum integration programme depends on concerted efforts of Member States, RECs, the AUC, and other development partners. At this stage, only plans of action of the RECs and the African Union Commission will be presented. According to the principle of subsidiarity, the RECs, which is the mainstay of the AU are in the best position to coordinate the implementation of the MIP at the regional level and distribute the tasks among the various Member States. Regarding the joint activities among the identified REC groups, the AUC should work with all the RECs concerned in order to ensure the successful implementation of the programme of consultations with these groups, namely the ECOWAS, CENSAD, ECCAS and particularly the AMU group and the COMESA, EAC, SADC, and IGAD group..

At sectoral meetings which the AUC plans to organize with the RECs, more detailed plans of action will be developed after the adoption of the MIP in every sector by experts in that field in order to adapt them to the needs of every REC.

A.1 General Plan of action of the MIP

With regard to every MIP activity, there is a result obligation, a fixed indicator for the realization of the objective as well as a distribution of responsibilities. The time frame for the implementation of the MIP spreads over four years (2009-2012) which corresponds to the period covered by the African Union Strategic plan for the same period. This choice was made in order to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation work of the programme and ensure harmony between activities of the RECs and those of the African Union Commission.

Table n°3 presents the various priority actions to be undertaken by the different players in pursuance of the MIP's implementation.



Table 4: Plan of action of the Minimum integration programme

Integration stage	Priority Sectors	Priority Subsectors	N°	Action and activities	Time Frame				Expected results	Indicators	Responsibility
					2009	2010	2011	2012			
FTZ in every REC	Trade	Tariff barriers (TB)	1R (*) 4	Speeding up of the implementation of programmes for the elimination of TBs in every REC	X	X	X		The TBs are eliminated in every REC	Elimination rate of TBs	AUC, REC, MS
		Non tariff barriers (NTB)	2R	Establishment of a computerised system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of NTBs in the RECs which have not yet done so	X	X			Every REC has its system	Many RECs which have established the system	ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD, CENSAD
			3R	Operationalisation of the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of NTBs	X	X			The system is operational	Level of operationalisation of the system (Many monitoring reports produced and many problems resolved compared to those declared)	SADC, COMESA, EAC
			4R	Simplification of the rules of origin in every REC	X	X	X		Simplified rules of origin in the RECs	Many RECs have simplified their rules of origin	REC, MS
		5C	Harmonisation of the rules of origin among the RECs				X	Harmonised rules of origin among the RECs	Many RECs have harmonised their rules of origin	AUC, REC, MS	
	Free movement	Free movement of persons	6C	Visa exemption for Africans who have diplomatic and service passports.	X				Free movement of Africans who have diplomatic and service passports	Many countries require a visa for holders of diplomatic and service passports	MS, AUC, REC,
			7R	Elaboration of the protocol on the free movement of persons the right of residence and establishment within the RECs where it does not exist.	X	X			Protocols on the free movement of persons, right of residence and establishment within the RECs have been elaborated	Many RECs have a protocol	IGAD, AUC, MS
			8R	Ratification of the protocols relating to the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment within the RECs which have not yet done so.	X	X	X		Protocols on the free movement of persons, right of residence and establishment within the RECs have been ratified	Many countries have ratified protocols	COMESA, CENSAD, IGAD, MS
			9R	Effective implementation of protocols on the free movement of persons, right of residence and establishment within every REC	X	X	X	X	Protocols on the free movement of persons, right of residence and establishment within the RECs are implemented	Problems in the implementation of the protocol	AUC, REC, MS

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			10 C	Recognition of community passports among the RECs	X	X			Passports of the RECs are recognised	Many community passports recognised among the RECs	REC, MS	
			11 R	Put security instruments in place and improve security cooperation and the fight against terrorism in every REC	X	X	X		There are security instruments and for the combat against terrorism in every REC	Many RECs are being endowed with instruments of security and the fight against terrorism	REC, MS	
			12 C	Put security instruments in place and improve security cooperation and the combat against terrorism among regions				X	Security cooperation among countries has improved.	Many instruments have been put in place	COMESA, EAC, CENSAD, ECCAS, SADC, ECOWAS, MS	
			13 C	Signing of agreements between the RECs on judicial cooperation	X	X			Judicial cooperation agreements have been signed among the RECs	Many agreements have been signed	REC, MS	
			Free movement of goods	14 R	The creation or adoption of a community motor insurance regime in every REC	X	X			Every REC is endowed with a motor insurance regime	Many RECs have not established motor insurance	ECCAS, SADC, IGAD, CENSAD MS
				15 C	Harmonisation of motor insurance regimes among the RECs			X	X	The motor insurance regimes are harmonised	Many RECs have harmonised their motor insurance regime with other RECs	REC, MS
				16 R	Harmonisation of limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles among the RECs	X	X	X	X	Limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles are harmonised	Many RECs have harmonised the limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles	REC, MS
				17 C	Harmonisation of limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles among the RECs				X	The limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles are harmonised among the RECs	Many RECs have harmonised among themselves the limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles	REC, MS, AUC
				18 R	Harmonisation of road transit charges in the RECs	X	X			Harmonised road transit charges	Many RECs have harmonised the road transit charges	SADC, ECCAS, MS
			Free movement of services and capital	19 C	Harmonisation of road transit charges among the RECs			X	X	Road transit charges harmonised among the RECs	Many RECs have harmonised road transit charges among themselves	REC, MS, AUC
20 R	Preparation of a protocol on the free movement of services and capital in the RECs which have not yet done so	X		X			The existence of a protocol on the free movement of services and capital in every REC	Many RECs have prepared the protocol	IGAD, CENSAD, AUC			
Continental FTZ		Partnership agreements	21 C	Signing of bilateral partnership agreement between the RECs which have not yet done so	X			Agreement signed between : ECOWAS and ECCAS ECCAS and COMESA CENSAD and ECCAS	Many partnership agreements signed between the RECs	AUC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, COMESA and CENSAD		

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				22 C	Signing of a partnership agreement between ECOWAS, ECCAS, CEN-SAD and UMA	X	X			Agreement signed between ECOWAS and ECCAS, CEN-SAD and UMA	The agreement has been signed	ECOWAS, ECCAS, CEN-SAD and UMA, AUC	
				23 C	Setting up of ECOWAS, ECCAS, CEN-SAD and UMA steering committee	X	X			The steering committee is in place	The existence of a steering committee	ECOWAS, ECCAS, CEN-SAD and UMA, AUC	
				24 C	Establishment of a connection by IGAD in the harmonisation process between COMESA-EAC and SADC	X				IGAD is part of the COMESA-EAC-SADC	IGAD is a member of the steering committee	IGAD, COMESA-EAC-SADC	
				25 C	Signing of a multilateral partnership agreement between the two groups			X	X	Agreement signed between the two groups	The agreement has been signed	AUC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, COMESA and CENSAD	
	Customs union in every REC	Customs	Facilitation of customs procedures		26 R	Introduction of a single customs document valid for all declarations at the borders in every REC where there is none	X	X			Every REC is endowed with a single customs document valid for all declarations at the borders	Many RECs have introduced the single customs document	ECCAS, IGAD, AUC, MS
					27 R	Establishment of a clearing mechanism in every REC where there is none	X	X			A clearing mechanism to check losses in revenue in every REC is in place	Many RECs have established the mechanism	ECCAS, SADC, IGAD, CENSAD, MS
					28 R	Establishment of an external customs tariff in the RECs which have not yet done so	X	X			Every REC is endowed with an external customs tariff	Many RECs have not established an ETT	ECCAS, AUC
					29 C	Harmonisation of a tariff system among the RECs		X	X	X	The tariff systems are harmonised among the RECs	Many RECs have harmonised their tariff systems	AUC, REC, MS
					30 R	Harmonisation between the various customs computerized systems used by member committees in every REC	X	X	X	X	The systems are harmonized	Many countries use the harmonised system	AUC, REC, MS
	Continental customs union												
Infrastructure and Energy		Infrastructure and Energy	31 R	Speed up the implementation of the PACT and effectively participate in the development process of the PIDA	X	X	X	X	The RECs speed up the implementation of the PACT and effectively participate in the development process of PIDA	Many RECs have sped up the implementation of the PACT and effectively participated in the development process of PIDA	REC, AUC		
		Agriculture	Agricultural prices	32 R	Continue to implement the integrated programmes for agricultural development in Africa (CAADP) in all RECs	X	X	X	X	The CAADP is implemented	Progression level of the implementation of the CAADP	REC, AUC, MS	
		Food security	33 C	Harmonisation between the various regional food security programmes	X	X	X	X	Regional food security programmes are harmonised	Harmonisation level of the regional food security programmes	REC, AUC,		

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		Information management systems on agricultural markets	34 R	Creation of a regional information management system on agricultural markets where there is none	X	X	X		Every REC is endowed with its own regional agricultural information management system	Existence of a regional agricultural information management system REC	ECCAS, SADC, EAC, IGAD, CENSAD, AUC, MS
			35 C	Liaison between the various regional information management system on agricultural markets				X	The systems are all interrelated	The systems are all interrelated	REC, AUC
		Exchange of experience	36 R	Exchange of experience between the RECs in agriculture	X	X	X	X	The RECs exchange their experiences	Many visits among the RECs	AUC, REC
	Industry	Industrial Policies	37 R	Every REC should have a legal framework for the implementation of industrial policies	X	X			Every REC is endowed with a protocol	Many RECs have adopted a protocol on industry	AUC, REC
			38 R	Operationalization in every REC of the strategy for implementing the plan of action for the development of industry in Africa	X	X	X	X	The RECs apply the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on industrial development in Africa	Many RECs apply the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action for industrial development in Africa	REC
	Investment	Investment promotion	39 R	Development and adoption of a regional investment code in the RECs which have not done so	X	X	X		An investment code in every REC	Many protocols elaborated and adopted	ECCAS, SADC, AUC
			40 C	Harmonisation of regional investment codes and elaboration of a continental investment code				X	A code has been elaborated	Existence of the code	AUC, REC
	Social affairs	Gender	41 R	Creation of a regional federation of national business women associations in every REC	X	X	X	X	A regional federation of national business women associations by the REC	Many federations created	REC, MS, SC
			42 R	Signing of a cooperation agreement in every REC on human trafficking, particularly of women and children	X	X			The agreement has been signed	Many RECs have signed an agreement on the combat against human trafficking	AUC, REC, MS
			43 C	Signing of a cooperation agreement between the RECs on the combat against human trafficking particularly of women and children			X	X	The agreement has been signed	Many RECs have signed the multilateral agreement	AUC, REC, MS
		Health (combat against HIV/AIDS)	44 R	Speeding up of the implementation of the African Health strategy	X	X	X	X	Advanced implementation of the African health strategy	Implementation of the strategy's projects	REC, MS, AUC
			45 R	Organization of an annual round table of first ladies in every REC to discuss social issues relating particularly for HIV/AIDS	X	X	X	X	Roundtables of first ladies are organised in every REC to discuss social issues relating particularly to HIV/AIDS	Many round tables organised	REC, AUC

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			46 C	Harmonisation of regional initiatives for the combat against HIV/AIDS at the continental level	X	X			The regional initiatives of the combat against HIV/AIDS are harmonised at the continental level	Harmonisation levels of the regional initiatives	AUC, REC, United Nations agencies
Peace and Security	Conflict prevention and resolution			Rapid warning system of conflicts and observatories for observation and monitoring							
				Establishment and functioning of an African Standby Force (FAA) and regional brigades							
	Small arms and light weapons										
	Post conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD)										
	Programme of borders										
Science and technology	Education	R		Implementation of the plan of action of the second education decade	X	X	X	X	Implementation of the plan of action of projects	Adoption of the plan of action by the RECs	AUC, REC, MS
	Science and Technology for socio economic development	R		Implementation of the consolidated plan of action for science and technology	X	X	X	X	Implementation of the plan of action of projects	Adaptation of the plan of action by the REC	AUC, REC, MS
Political affairs	Governance	R		Elaboration of an evaluation mechanism by the peers in every REC	X	X	X	X	Every REC is endowed with an evaluation mechanism by the peers	Existence of the evaluation mechanism by the peers in the REC	REC, MS
	Elections, promotion of democratic institutions	C		Ratification of the African Charter on democracy, elections and governance	X	X			The Charter has come into force	Ratification of the Charter by 2/3 of Member States	MS, REC, AUC
Statistics	Harmonisation of statistics	C		Ratification of the statistics by African States	X	X			The Charter has come into force	Ratification of the Charter by 2/3 of Member States	MS, REC, AUC
		C		Preparation of continental guides for the collection of data, harmonisation of measurement standards etc...	X	X			The guides are prepared	Many guides have been prepared	AUC, REC, National statistical institutes
Capacity building	NTBs	R		The RECs which have not yet done so should recruit a coordinator for the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	X	X	X	X	Every REC is endowed with a coordinator for the system	Many RECs have recruited a coordinator	AUC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, CENSAD, IGAD
	Customs	R		Invite officials of Member States to visit the RECs in order to have an idea of what the RECs are doing with regards to customs cooperation	X	X	X	X	Officials of Member States are familiarized with the secretariat's work	Many officials of Member States have visited the RECs	COMESA, ECOWAS, EAC, ECCAS, IGAD, CENSAD, MS
	Statistics	C		Build human capacities of national statistical institutes	X	X	X	X	The human capacities of the national statistical institutes have been built	Many officials have been trained	AUC, REC, MS

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			Training	C	Develop training modules for officials of the RECs and the AUC in the various areas	X	X			The modules have been prepared	Many modules have been elaborated	AUC, REC
				R	The AUC should organize training sessions at the regional level in the various areas	X	X	X	X	Training sessions in the various areas are organized	Many sessions have been organised	AUC, REC
				R	Train national focal points on the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	X	X			Officials of Member States are trained on the system	Many officials have been trained	AUC, REC, MS
				C	Exchange officials between the AUC and the RECs	X	X	X	X	Exchange of experiences between the staff of the AUC and the RECs	Many officials have been exchanged	AUC, REC



A.2 Implementation plan by REC

The priority activities listed in the MIP call for different actions and approaches from one community to the other in pursuance of their implementation. In fact, according to the theory of variable geometry, which enables the RECs to progress at different paces, certain communities are making considerable efforts in specific sectors and areas while others have already gone beyond that stage. For example, in the process of establishing a customs union, the community which has established the customs union cannot be requested to wait for the others to do likewise but on the contrary, it should encourage the others to step up their efforts and request the REC which is at the stage of establishing a customs union to advance towards a common market and closely cooperate with the other RECs in order to enable them to benefit from its experience.



1.2.1 ECOWAS Plan of Action

Table 5 : ECOWAS Plan of action

Number of activity	Priority subsectors	Priority actions and activities	Results	Indicators	Time frame						Responsibility	Risks	Funding
					2009 Phase I(a)	2010 Phase I(b)	2011 Phase I(c)	2012 Phase I(d)	2013-2016 Phase II				
1 R	Tariff barriers	Gradual elimination of tariff barriers	The TBs between States have been eliminated	Rates applied among the States	X	X	X	X	X	ECOWAS	Reluctance of the MSs		
2 R	Non tariff barriers	Establishment of a computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	ECOWAS is endowed with its computerized system for monitoring3 problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	Operationalization level of the system (many monitoring reports produced and many problems resolved in comparison with those declared)	X	X				ECOWAS	Lack of funding		
4R	Rules of origin	Simplification of the rules of origin in the ECOWAS region	Simplified rules of origin in the RECs	Simplicity level of the rules of origin	X	X	X			ECOWAS			
6C	Free movement of persons	Visa exemption for Africans holding diplomatic and service passports	Free movement of Africans holding diplomatic and service passports	Many countries require a visa for holders of diplomatic and service passports	X					ECOWAS, MS			
9R		Effective implementation of the protocols relating to the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment within every REC	Protocols relating to the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment within the RECs are implemented	Implementation problems of the protocol	X	X	X	X	X	ECOWAS, MS			
11 R		Establish security instruments and improve security cooperation and the combat against terrorism in every REC	Security cooperation between ECOWAS countries has been improved	Many instruments have been put in place	X	X	X			ECOWAS, MS			
16 R		Free movement of goods	Continue to work on the harmonisation of the limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles in the ECOWAS region	Limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles have been harmonised	State of harmonisation	X	X	X	X			ECOWAS, MS	

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	Standby Force (FAA) and regional brigades											
	Small arms and light weapons										ECOWAS	
	Post conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD)										ECOWAS	
											ECOWAS	
R	Education	Implement the plan of action of the second education decade	The plan of action of the second education decade has been implemented	Implementation rate of the action plan	X	X	X	X	X		ECOWAS	
R	Science and technology	Implement the consolidated plan of action on science and technology	The consolidated action plan on science and technology has been implemented	Implementation rate of the action plan of action	X	X	X	X	X		ECOWAS	
R	Governance	Elaboration of an evaluation mechanism by the peers for the community	The mechanism has been elaborated	Process in the elaboration of the mechanism	X	X	X	X				
R	Capacity building	Recruit a coordinator for the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	The coordinator is at post	Many reports are drafted by the coordinator	X	X	X	X				
R		Invite officials of Member States to visit the community in order to have an idea of what the REC is doing with regard to customs cooperation	Customs officials of Member States are familiarized with the work of the Commission	Many officials have visited the Commission	X	X	X	X	X			
R		Train national focal points on the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	Officials of Member States and the RECs are trained on the system	Many officials have been trained	X	X						
C		Exchange officials between the AUC and the RECs	Exchange of experiences between the staff of the AUC and the RECs	Many officials have been exchanged	X	X	X	X				



1.2.2 COMESA Plan of action

Table 6 : COMESA plan of action

Number of activity	Priority sub sectors	Priority actions and activities	Results	Indicators	Time frame					Responsibility	Risks	Funding
					2009 Phase I(a)	2010 Phase I(b)	2011 Phase I(c)	2012 Phase I(d)	2013-2016 Phase II			
1R	Tariff barriers	Gradual elimination of tariff barriers	The TBs between States have been eliminated	Rates applied among the States	X	X	X			COMESA		
3R	Non tariff barriers (NTB)	Operationalisation of the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of NTBs	The system is operational	Operationalization level of the system (many monitoring reports produced and many problems resolved in comparison to those declared)	X	X				COMESA		
4R	Rules of origin	Simplification of the rules of origin in the region	Simplified rules of origin in the RECs	Simplicity level of the rules of origin	X	X	X			COMESA		
6C	Free movement of persons	Visa exemption for Africans holding diplomatic and service passports	Free movement of Africans holding diplomatic and service passports	Many countries require a visa for holders of diplomatic and service passports	X					COMESA		
8R		Ratification of the protocol on the free movement of persons, work, services and the right of establishment and residence of COMESA	The protocol is ratified by at least seven Member States	Many Member States have ratified the protocol	X	X	X			COMESA, MS		
9R		Effective implementation of the protocol on the free movement of persons, work, services and the right of establishment and residence of COMESA	The protocol is implemented	Many problems in process of implementation of the protocol	X	X	X	X	X			

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11C		Put security instruments in place and improve security cooperation and the combat against terrorism in the COMESA	Security cooperation between countries is improved	Many instruments put in place	X	X	X				COMESA, MS		
16C	Free movement of goods	Continue to work on the harmonisation of the limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles in the COMESA region	The limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles are harmonised in the COMESA region	State of harmonisation of the limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles	X	X	X	X			COMESA, MS		
21C	Partnership agreements	Signing of cooperation agreement with the ECCAS	The agreement is signed	The agreement is signed	X						COMESA, ECCAS		
27R	Customs	Establishment of a clearing mechanism in the COMESA	A clearing mechanism of the losses in revenue for the COMESA	Existence of a clearing mechanism for losses in revenue	X	X					COMESA		
30R	Customs	Harmonisation between the various computerized customs systems used by member countries in every REC	The systems are harmonised	Many countries use the harmonised system	X	X	X	X			COMESA, MS		
31R	Infrastructure and energy	Speed up of the implementation of the PACT and effectively participate in the development process of the PIDA	Implementation of the PACT is sped up and the community has effectively participated in the PIDA development process	Realisation level of projects of the PACT	X	X	X	X	X		COMESA		
32R	Agricultural policies	Continue to implement the integrated programme of agricultural development in Africa (CAADP)	The CAADP has been implemented	Progression level of the implementation of the CAADP	X	X	X	X	X		COMESA		
38R	Industrial policies	Operationalisation of the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on industrial development in Africa	Development of the industrial sector	The COMESA applies the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on industrial development in Africa	X	X	X	X	X		COMESA		
42R	Gender	Signing of cooperation agreement on the combat against human trafficking, particularly of women and children	The agreement is signed	Many States which have signed the agreement	X	X					COMESA		
44R	Health	Speed up the implementation of the African health strategy	The strategy is implemented	Many projects are implemented	X	X	X	X	X				
	Conflict prevention and resolution										COMESA		
	Establishment and functioning of rapid										COMESA		

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	warning system of conflicts and observatories for observation and monitoring;												
	Establishment and functioning of an African Standby Force (FAA) and regional brigades										COMESA		
	Small arms and light weapons										COMESA		
	Post conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD)										COMESA		
R	Education	Implementation of the plan of action of the second education decade	The plan of action of the second education decade has been implemented	Implementation rate of the plan of action	X	X	X	X	X		COMESA		
R	Science and technology	Implementation the consolidated plan of action on science and technology	The consolidated plan of action on science and technology has been implemented	Implementation rate of the plan of action	X	X	X	X	X		COMESA		
R	Governance	Elaboration of an evaluation mechanism by the peers for the community	The mechanism has been elaborated	Process in the elaboration of the mechanism	X	X	X	X					
R	Capacity building	Invite officials of Member States to visit the community in order to have an idea of what the REC is doing with regard to customs cooperation	Customs officials of Member States are familiarized with the secretariat's work	Many officials have visited the secretariat	X	X	X	X	X				
R		Train national focal points on the computerized system to monitor problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	Officials of Member States and the RECs are trained on the system	Many officials have been trained	X	X					COMESA		
C		Exchange officials between the AUC and the RECs	Exchange of experiences between the staff of the AUC and the RECs	Many officials have been exchanged		X	X	X	X			COMESA	



1.2.3 ECCAS Plan of action

Table 7 : ECCAS Plan of action

Number of the activity	Priority sub sectors	Priority actions and activities	Results	Indicators	Time frame					Responsibility	Risks	Funding
					2009 Phase I(a)	2010 Phase I(b)	2011 Phase I(c)	2012 Phase I(d)	2013-2016 Phase II			
1R	Tariff barriers	Gradual elimination of tariff barriers	The TBs between States are eliminated	Rates applied among the States	X	X				ECCAS, MS		
2R	Non tariff barriers (NTB)	Establishment of a computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	The ECCAS is endowed with its computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	Operationalization level of the system (many monitoring reports produced and many problems resolved in comparison with those declared)	X	X				ECCAS		
4R	Rules of origin	Simplification of the rules of origin in the region	Simplified rules of origin in the RECs	Simplicity level of the rules of origin	X	X	X			ECCAS	Lack of Funding	To be sought
6C	Free movement of persons	Visa exemption for Africans holding diplomatic and service passports.	Free movement of Africans holding diplomatic and service passports	Many countries require a visa for holders of diplomatic and service passports	X					ECCAS		
9R		Effective implementation of the protocol relating to free movement and the right of establishment of nationals of ECCAS Member States	Protocol on free movement and the right of establishment of nationals of ECCAS Member States is effectively implemented	Many problems in the implementation process of the protocol	X	X	X	X	X	ECCAS, MS		
11R		Establish security instruments and improve security cooperation and the combat against terrorism in the ECCAS region	Security cooperation between countries has been improved	Many instruments have been put in place	X	X	X			ECCAS, MS		

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14 R	Free movement of goods	Establishment of a community motor insurance regime for the ECCAS	The ECCAS is endowed with a motor insurance regime	Existence of a motor insurance regime	X	X						
16 R		Launch a programme for the harmonisation of the limits of axle load and sizes of vehicles in the ECCAS region	The limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles are harmonised	Many MSs have harmonised limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles	X	X	X	X	X	ECCAS, MS		
18 R		Harmonisation of road transit charges in the ECCAS	Road transit charges are harmonised	Many MSs have harmonised road transit charges	X	X				ECCAS, MS		
21 C	Partnership agreements	Signing of cooperation agreement with COMESA	The agreement is signed	Signing of agreement	X	X				ECCAS, COMESA		
21 C		Signing of cooperation agreement with CENSAD	The agreement is signed	Signing of agreement	X	X				ECCAS, CENSAD		
21 C		Signing of cooperation agreement with ECOWAS	The agreement is signed	Signing of agreement	X	X				ECCAS, ECOWAS		
26 R	Facilitation of customs procedures	Introduction of a single customs document valid for all declarations at the borders in the ECCAS	The ECCAS is endowed with a single customs document valid for all declaration at the borders	The single customs document has been put in place	X	X				ECCAS		
27 R	Customs	Clearing mechanism in the ECCAS	A clearing mechanism for losses in revenue for the ECCAS	Existence of a clearing mechanism for losses in revenue	X	X				ECCAS		
28 R	CET	Establishment of instruments of trade policy at the CU (adoption of CET of the CEMAC)	Common customs tariff (CET – ECCAS)	Existence of CET-ECCAS	X	X				ECCAS		
30 R	CET	Harmonisation between the various computerized customs systems used by ECCAS members	The systems are harmonised	Many countries use the harmonised system	X	X	X	X		ECCAS		

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31 R	Infrastructure and energy	Speed up of the implementation of the PACT and effectively participate in the development process of the PIDA	The implementation of the PACT is sped up and the community has participated effectively in the development process of the PIDA	Realisation level of PACT projects	X	X	X	X	X	ECCAS		
32 R	Agricultural policies	Continue to implement the integrated programme for agricultural development in Africa (CAADP) in all the RECs	The CAADP has been implemented	Progression of the implementation of the CAADP	X	X	X	X	X	ECCAS		
34 R	Information management systems on agricultural markets	Establishment of a regional information management system on agricultural markets	The ECCAS is endowed with its agricultural information management system	Existence of a regional agricultural information management system	X	X	X					
37 R	Industrial policies	Elaborate a protocol on the promotion of industrial policies	The ECCAS is endowed with a protocol on the promotion of industrial policies	Existence of a protocol	X	X				ECCAS		
38 R		Operationalisation of the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on industrial development in Africa	Development of the industrial sector	The ECCAS applies the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on the industrial development in Africa	X	X	X	X	X	ECCAS		
39 R	Investment	Elaborate an investment code of ECCAS harmonised with the other regional codes	The investment code has been adopted	The investment code of the ECCAS has been elaborated and adopted						ECCAS		
41 R	Gender	Establishment of a regional federation of national associations of business women	The federation is operational	The federation exists	X	X	X	X				
44 R	Health	Speeding up of the implementation of the African health strategy	The strategy has been implemented	Many projects have been implemented	X	X	X	X	X			
45		Organisation of an	Advocacy on issues	Many roundtables	X	X	X	X	X			

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R		annual round table of first ladies to discuss social issues relating particularly to HIV/AIDS	relating to the combat against HIV/AIDS	have been organised								
	Conflict prevention and resolution										ECCAS	
	Establishment and functioning of a rapid warning system of conflicts and observatories for observation and monitoring;										ECCAS	
	Establishment and functioning of an African Standby Force (FAA) and regional brigades										ECCAS	
	Small arms and light weapons										ECCAS	
	Post conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD)										ECCAS	
R	Education	Implement the plan of action of the second education decade	The plan of action of the second education decade has been implemented	Implementation rate of the plan of action	X	X	X	X	X		ECCAS	
R	Science and Technology	Implement the consolidated plan of action on science and technology	The consolidated action plan on science and Technology has been implemented	Implementation rate of the plan of action	X	X	X	X	X		ECCAS	
R	Governance	Elaboration of an	The mechanism has	Progress in the	X	X	X	X			ECCAS	

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		evaluation mechanism by the peers for the community	been elaborated	elaboration of the mechanism								
R	Capacity building	Recruit a coordinator for the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	The coordinator is at post	Many reports have been drafted by the coordinator	X	X	X	X				
R		Invite officials of Member States to visit the community in order to have an idea of what the REC is doing with regard to customs cooperation	The customs officials of Member States are familiarized with the work of the secretariat	Many officials have visited the secretariat	X	X	X	X	X			
R		Train national focal points on the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	The Officials of Member States and the RECs are trained on the system	Many officials have been trained	X	X						
C		Exchange of experience between the staff of the AUC and the RECs	Many officials exchanged	X	X	X	X					



1.2.4 CEN-SAD Plan of Action

Table 8 : CENSAD Plan of action

Number of activity	Priority sub sectors	Priority actions and activities	Results	Indicators	Time frame					Responsibility	Risk	Funding
					2009 Phase I(a)	2010 Phase I(b)	2011 Phase I(c)	2012 Phase I(d)	2013-2016 Phase II			
1R	Tariff barriers	Gradual elimination of tariff barriers	The TBs between States have been eliminated	Rates applied among the States	X	X	X			CENSAD, MS		
2R	Non tariff barriers (NTBs)	Collaborate with the ECOWAS in order to ensure the effective establishment of a computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	The computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs has been put in place	Operationalization level of the system (many monitoring reports produced and many problems resolved in comparison with those declared)	X	X				CENSAD, MS		
6C	Free movement of persons	Visa exemption for Africans holding diplomatic and service passports.	The Free movement of Africans holding diplomatic and service passports	Many countries require a visa for holders of diplomatic and service passports	X					CENSAD, MS		
8R		Ratification of the protocol on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment	The protocol has been ratified	Many States have ratified the protocol	X	X	X			CENSAD, MS		
9R		Effective implementation of the protocol on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment	Protocol on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment within the RECs has been implemented	Problems relating to the implementation of the protocol				X	X	CENSAD, MS		
10C		Recognition of community passports of other RECs	Community passports are known by CENSAD	Many community passports recognised by the CENSAD	X	X						
11R		Put security instruments in place and improve security cooperation and the combat against terrorism in the CENSAD region	There are instruments for security and the combat against terrorism in the CENSAD	Existence of instruments for security and the combat against terrorism	X	X	X			CENSAD, MS		

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14R	Free movement of goods	Adoption of the ECOWAS motor insurance regime	The CENSAD is endowed with a motor insurance regime	The CENSAD has adopted the ECOWAS motor insurance regime	X	X					CENSAD, ECOWAS, MS		
16R		Work in close collaboration with the ECOWAS on the harmonisation of limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles in the CENSAD region	The limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles are harmonised with those of the ECOWAS	Harmonisation level	X	X	X	X	X		CENSAD, ECOWAS, MS		
18R		Harmonisation of road transit charges in the CENSAD area	The road transit charges are harmonised	Many MSs have harmonised the road transit charges	X	X					CENSAD, MS		
21C													
	Free movement of services and capital	Preparation of a protocol on the free movement of services and capital	The CENSAD is endowed with a protocol on the free movement of services and capital	The existence of a protocol on the free movement of services and capital	X	X					CENSAD, MS		
	Partnership agreements	Signing of a cooperation agreement with ECCAS	The agreement has been signed	Existence of a cooperation agreement	X						CENSAD, ECCAS		
31R	Infrastructure and energy	Speed up the implementation of the PACT and effectively participate in the development process of the PIDA	The Implementation of the PACT is sped up and the community has effectively participated in the development process of PIDA	Realisation level of projects of the PACT	X	X	X	X	X		CENSAD, MS		
32R	Agricultural policies	Continue to implement the integrated programme for agricultural development in Africa (CAADP)	The CAADP has been implemented	Progression level of the implementation of the CAADP	X	X	X	X	X		CENSAD, MS		
34R	Information management systems on the agricultural markets	Establishment of a regional information management system on agricultural markets	The CENSAD is endowed with its own regional information management system	Existence of a regional agricultural information management system	X	X	X				CENSAD, MS		
37R		Elaborate a protocol on the promotion of industrial policies	The CENSAD is endowed with a protocol on the promotion of industrial policies	Existence of a protocol	X	X					CENSAD, MS		
38R	Industrial policies	Operationalisation of the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on industrial development in Africa	Development of the industrial sector	The CENSAD applies the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on industrial development in Africa	X	X	X	X	X		CENSAD, MS		

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39R	Investment	Elaborate an investment code of the CENSAD harmonised with the other regional codes	The investment code has been adopted	The investment code of CENSAD has been elaborated and adopted							CENSAD, MS		
41R	Gender	Establishment of a regional federation of business women	The federation is operational	The federation exists	X	X	X	X					
42R	Gender	Signing of a cooperation agreement between Member States on the combat against human trafficking particularly of women and children	The agreement has been signed	Many States have signed the agreement	X	X							
44R	Health	Speeding up of the implementation of the African health strategy	The strategy has been implemented	Many projects implemented	X	X	X	X	X		CENSAD, MS		
45R		Organisation of an annual round table of first ladies to discuss social issues relating particularly to HIV/AIDS	Advocacy on issues relating to the combat against HIV/AIDS	Many roundtables organised	X	X	X	X	X				
	Establishment and functioning of a rapid warning system of conflicts and observatories for observation and monitoring;										CENSAD, MS		
	Establishment and functioning of an African Standby Force (FAA) and regional brigades										CENSAD, MS		
	Small arms and light weapons										CENSAD, MS		
	Post conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD)										CENSAD, MS		
R	Education	Implement the action plan	The action plan of the second	Implementation rates of	X	X	X	X	X		CENSAD, MS		

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		of the second education decade	education decade has been implemented	the plan of action								
R	Science and Technology	Implement the consolidated plan of action on science and technology	The consolidated plan of action on science and technology has been implemented	Implementation rates of the plan of action	X	X	X	X	X	CENSAD, MS		
R	Governance	Elaboration of an evaluation mechanism by the peers for the community	The mechanism has been elaborated	Progress in the elaboration of the mechanism	X	X	X	X				
R	Capacity building	Recruit a coordinator for the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	The coordinator is at post	Many reports are drafted by the coordinator	X	X	X	X				
R		Invite officials of Member States to visit the community in order to have an idea of what the REC is doing with regard to customs cooperation	Customs officials of Member States are familiarized with the work of the secretariat's work	Many officials have visited the secretariat	X	X	X	X	X			
R		Train national focal points on the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	Officials of Member States and the RECs are trained on the system	Many officials have been trained	X	X						
C		Exchange officials between the AUC and the RECs	Exchange of experience between the staff of the AUC and the RECs	Many officials have been exchanged	X	X	X	X				

1.2.5 SADC Plan of Action



Table 9 : SADC Plan of action

Number of activity	Priority sub sectors	Priority actions and activities	Results	Indicators	Time frame					Responsibility	Risks	Funding
					2009 Phase I(a)	2010 Phase I(b)	2011 Phase I(c)	2012 Phase I(d)	2013-2016 Phase II			
1R	Tariff barriers	Gradual elimination of tariff barriers	The TBs between States are eliminated	Rates applied among the States	X	X	X			SADC, MS		
3R	Non tariff barriers (NTBs)	Operationalisation of the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	The system is completely operational	Level of operationalization of the system (many monitoring reports produced and many problems resolved in comparison with those declared)	X					SADC, MS		
4R	Rules of origin	Simplification of the rules of origin in the SADC region	Simplified rules of origin in the RECs	Simplicity level of the rules of origin	X	X	X			SADC, MS		
6C	Free movement of persons	Visa exemption for Africans holding diplomatic and service passports.	Free movement of Africans holding diplomatic and service passports	Many countries require a visa for holders of diplomatic and service passports	X					SADC, MS		
9R		Effective implementation of the protocols on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment within the SADC	The protocol on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment within the SADC has been implemented	Problems relating to the implementation of the protocol	X	X	X	X	X	SADC, MS		
10C		Recognition of community passports of the other RECs	Community passports are known by the SADC	Many community passports are recognised by the SADC	X					SADC, MS		
11R		Establish security instruments and improve security cooperation and the combat against terrorism in the SADC area	Instruments for security and the combat against terrorism exist in SADC	Existence of instruments for security and the combat against terrorism	X	X	X			SADC, MS		
14R	Free movement of goods	Establishment of a community motor insurance in the SADC	The SADC is endowed with a motor insurance regime	Existence of a community motor insurance regime	X	X	X			SADC, MS		

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16R		Continue to work on the harmonisation of the limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles in the SADC area	The limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles are harmonised	Level of Harmonisation	X						SADC, MS		
18R		Harmonisation of road transit charges in the SADC region	Harmonised road transit charges	Many MSs have harmonised road transit charges	X						SADC, MS		
27R	Customs	Establishment of a clearing mechanism	The SADC is endowed with its own clearing mechanism	Existence of the mechanism	X	X					SADC, MS		
28R	CET	Develop a common customs tariff for the SADC region	CET is developed	Existence of a CET-SADC	X	X					SADC, MS		
31R	Infrastructure and energy	Speed up of the implementation of the PACT and effectively participate in the development process of the PIDA	The implementation of the PACT is sped up and the community has effectively participated in the development process of the PIDA	Level of realisation of projects of the PACT	X	X	X	X	X				
32R	Agricultural policies	Continue to implement the integrated programme for agricultural development in Africa (CAADP)	The CAADP has been implemented	Progression level in the implementation of the CAADP	X	X	X	X	X				
34R	Information management systems on agricultural markets	Establishment of a regional information management system on agricultural markets	The SADC is endowed with its own regional agricultural information management system	Existence of a regional agricultural information management system	X	X	X						
38R	Industrial policies	Operationalisation of the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on industrial development in Africa	Development of the industrial sector	The SADC applies the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on the industrial development of Africa	X	X	X	X	X				
	Investment	Elaborate a regional code to promote investments	A code has been elaborated	Rate of progress in the elaboration of the code	X	X							
41R	Gender	Establishment of a regional federation of national associations of business women	The federation is operational	The federation exists	X	X	X	X					
42R	Gender	Signing of a cooperation agreement between Member States on the combat against human trafficking particularly of women and children	The agreement is signed	Many States have signed the agreement	X	X							
44R	Health	Speeding up of the implementation of the African health strategy	The strategy has been implemented	Many projects have been implemented	X	X	X	X	X				
45R		Organisation of an annual	Advocacy on issues	Many round tables	X	X	X	X	X				

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		round table of first ladies to discuss social issues relating particularly to HIV/AIDS	relating to the combat against HIV/AIDS	have been organised								
	Conflict prevention and resolution											
	Establishment and functioning of a rapid warning system of conflicts and observatories for observation and monitoring;											
	Establishment and functioning of an African Standby Force (FAA) and regional brigades											
	Small arms and light weapons											
	Post conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD)											
R	Education	Implement the plan of action of the second education decade	The plan of action of the second education decade has been implemented	Implementation rate of the plan of action	X	X	X	X	X	SADC		
R	Science and Technology	Implement the consolidated plan of action on Science and Technology	The consolidated plan of action on science and Technology has been implemented	Implementation rate of the plan of action	X	X	X	X	X			
R	Governance	Elaboration of an evaluation mechanism by the peers for the community	The mechanism has been elaborated	Progress in the elaboration of the mechanism	X	X	X	X				
R	Capacity building	Invite customs officials of Member States to visit the secretariat	Familiarize the officials of Member States with the work of the secretariat	Many officials have visited the secretariat								
R		Train national focal points on the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs										
R		Train national focal points on the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	Officials of Member States and the RECs are trained on the system	Many officials trained	X	X						
C		Exchange officials between the AUC and the RECs	Exchange of experience between the staff of the AUC and the RECs	Many officials exchanged	X	X	X	X				





1.2.6 IGAD Plan of action

It is important to recall that all the IGAD Member States except Somalia, are also members of the COMESA whose integration strategy is geared toward the integration of the market through the development of trade and investment. However, all the COMESA Member States have not adhered to the free zone trade zone. Besides, Kenya and Uganda are also members of the EAC, while Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya and the Sudan are members of CENSAD.

In this respect, the IGAD members are faced with the disastrous effects of their dual membership of different RECs, the loss of the human and financial resources, the multiplicity of programmes and initiatives, etc. They should therefore find a certain synergy and coordination with the other communities.

In the integration process mapped out by the IGAD minimum integration plan, it is very important for Member States of the IGAD to agree on the way in which they are going to implement the free trade zone of the IGAD or at least create a preferential trade zone as a minimum requirement while respecting the commitments made by their Member States in the context of the other communities of which they are also members. In this respect, a road map should be elaborated for the development of intra IGAD trade which is a formidable challenge for the region.



Table 10 : IGAD Plan of action

Number of activity	Priority sub sectors	Priority actions and activities	Results	Indicators	Time frame					Responsibility	Risks	Funding
					2009 Phase I(a)	2010 Phase I(b)	2011 Phase I(c)	2012 Phase I(d)	2013-2016 Phase II			
1R	Tariff barriers	Gradual elimination of tariff barriers	The TBs between States have been eliminated	Rates applied among the States	X	X	X			IGAD, MS		
3R	Non tariff barriers (NTBs)	Collaborate with the COMESA on the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	The computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs is operational	Level of Operationalisation level of the system (many monitoring reports produced and many problems resolved in comparison with those declared)	X	X						
4R	Rules of origin	Establishment and simplification of rules of origin harmonised with those of COMESA and EAC	Simplified Rules of origin harmonised with those of COMESA and EAC	State of harmonisation of the rules of origin of the IGAD with those of the COMESA and EAC	X	X				IGAD, MS		
6C	Free movement of persons	Visa exemption for Africans holding diplomatic and service passports.	Free movement of Africans holding diplomatic and service passports	Many countries require a visa for holders of diplomatic and service passports	X					IGAD, MS		
7R		Elaboration of a protocol on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and	a protocol on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment with	Existence of the protocol	X	X				IGAD		

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		establishment	the IGAD has been elaborated									
8R		Ratification of the protocol on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment	The protocol has been ratified	Many States have ratified the protocol	X	X	X				IGAD, MS	
9R		Effective implementation of the protocol on the free movement of persons, the right to residence and establishment	Protocol on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment within the RECs has been implemented	Problems relating to the implementation of the protocol	X	X	X	X	X		IGAD, MS	
10C		Recognition of community passports of the other RECs	Passports of other RECs are recognised	Many community passports recognised	X							
14R	Free movement of goods	Adoption of a community motor insurance regime of the COMESA	IGAD uses the COMESA motor insurance regime	IGAD has adopted the COMESA motor insurance regime	X	X						
16R		Work in close collaboration with the COMESA on the harmonisation of the limits of axle load and sizes of vehicles	The limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles are harmonised	Harmonisation level	X	X	X	X	X			
18R		Harmonisation of road transit charges in the IGAD region	harmonised road transit charges	Many MSs have harmonised road transit charges	X	X						
20R	Free movement of services and capital	Elaboration of a protocol on the Free movement of services and capital	IGAD is endowed with a protocol on the Free movement of services and capital	Existence of the protocol	X	X						
24C	Partnership agreements	Establishment of connection by IGAD to the harmonisation process between COMESA-EAC-SADC	IGAD is part of the COMESA-EAC-SADC steering committee	IGAD is member of the steering committee	X							
27R	Customs	Establishment of a clearing mechanism	The clearing mechanism for losses in revenue has been established	Existence of the mechanism	X	X						
31R	Infrastructure and energy	Speed up of the implementation of the PACT and effectively participate in the development process of the PIDA	The Implementation of the PACT is sped up and the community has participated in the development process of the PIDA	Realisation level of the PACT projects	X	X	X	X	X			
32R	Agricultural policies	Continue to implement in	The CAADP has been	Implementation level	X	X	X	X	X			

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	monitoring;											
	Establishment and functioning of an African Standby Force (FAA) and regional brigades										IGAD	
	Small arms and light weapons										IGAD	
	Post conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD)										IGAD	
R	Education	Implement the plan of action of the second education decade	The plan of action of the second education decade has been implemented	Implementation rate of the plan of action	X	X	X	X	X			
R	Science and Technology	Implement the consolidated plan of action on Science and Technology	The consolidated plan of action on science and Technology has been implemented	Implementation rate of the plan of action	X	X	X	X	X			
R	Governance	Elaboration of an evaluation mechanism by the peers for the community	The mechanism has been elaborated	Progress in the elaboration of the mechanism	X	X	X	X				
R	Training	Recruit a coordinator for the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	The coordinator is at post	Many reports drafted by the coordinator	X	X	X	X				
R		Invite the officials of Member States to visit the community in order to have an idea of what the REC is doing with regards to customs cooperation	Customs officials of Member States are familiarized with the work of the secretariat	Many officials have visited the secretariat	X	X	X	X	X			
R		Train national focal points on the computerized system to monitor problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	Officials of Member States and the RECs are trained on the system	Many officials trained	X	X						
C		Exchange officials between the AUC and the RECs	Exchange of experience between the staff of the AUC and the RECs	Many officials exchanged	X	X	X	X				



1.2.7 EAC Plan of Action

Table 11 : EAC Plan of action

Number of activity	Priority sub sectors	Priority actions and activities	Results	Indicators	Time frame					Responsibility	Risks	Funding
					2009 Phase I(a)	2010 Phase I(b)	2011 Phase I(c)	2012 Phase I(d)	2013-2016 Phase II			
1R	Tariff barriers	Gradual elimination of tariff barriers	The TBs between States have been eliminated	Rates applied among the States	X	X				EAC, MS		
3R	Non tariff barriers (NTBs)	Operationalisation of the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	The computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs is operational	Level of operationalisation of the system (many monitoring reports produced and many problems resolved in comparison with those declared)	X					EAC, MS		
4R	Rules of origin	Simplification of the rules of origin in the East African region	Simplified rules of origin in the RECs	Simplicity level of the rules of origin	X					EAC, MS		
6C	Free movement of persons	Visa exemption for Africans holding diplomatic and service passports.	Free movement of Africans holding diplomatic and service passports	Many countries require a visa for holders of diplomatic and service passports	X					EAC, MS		
10C		Recognition of community passports by the other RECs	Community passports are known by the EAC	Many community passports are recognised by the EAC	X					EAC, MS		
16R	Free movement of goods	Continue to work on the harmonisation of the limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles in the EAC region	Limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles are harmonised	Harmonisation level	X	X				EAC, MS		
18R		Harmonisation of road	Harmonised road	Many MSs have						EAC, MS		

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		transit charges in the EAC region	transit charges	harmonised road transit charges								
30R	Customs	Harmonisation between the various customs computerized systems used by EAC member countries	The systems are harmonised	Many countries use the harmonised system	X	X	X	X	X	EAC, MS		
31R	Infrastructure and energy	Speed up the implementation of the PACT and effectively participate in the development process of the PIDA	Implementation of the PACT has been sped up and the community has effectively participated in the development process of the PIDA	Realisation level of the PACT projects	X	X	X	X	X	EAC, MS		
32R	Agricultural policies	Continue to implement the integrated programme for agricultural development in Africa (CAADP)	The CAADP has been put in place	Progression level	X	X	X	X	X	EAC, MS		
34R	Information management systems on agricultural markets	Establishment of a regional information management system on agricultural markets	The EAC is equipped with its own regional agricultural information management system	Existence of a regional agricultural information management system	X	X	X			EAC, MS		
										EAC, MS		
38R	Industrial policies	Operationalisation of the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on industrial development in Africa	Development of the industrial sector	The EAC applies the strategy for the implementation of the plan of action on industrial development in Africa	X	X	X	X	X	EAC, MS		
41R	Gender	Establishment of a regional federation of national associations of business women	The federation is operational	The federation exists	X	X	X	X		EAC, MS		
42R		Signing of a cooperation agreement between Member States in the area of the combat against human trafficking particularly of women and children	The agreement has been signed	Many States have signed the agreement	X	X				EAC, MS		
44R	Health	Speeding up of the implementation of the African health strategy	The strategy has been implemented	Many projects have been implemented	X	X	X	X	X			
45R		Organisation of an annual round table of first ladies to discuss social issues	Advocacy on issues relating to the combat against HIV/AIDS	Many round tables have been organised	X	X	X	X	X			

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		relating particularly to HIV/AIDS										
	Conflict prevention and resolution									EAC, MS		
	Establishment and functioning of a rapid warning system of conflicts and observatories for observation and monitoring;									EAC, MS		
	Establishment and functioning of an African Standby Force (FAA) and regional brigades											
	Small arms and light weapons											
	Post conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD)											
	Harmonisation of statistics											
R	Education	Implement the plan of action of the second education decade	The plan of action of the second education decade has been implemented	Implementation rates of the plan of action	X	X	X	X	X			
R	Science and Technology	Implement the consolidated plan of action on Science and Technology	The consolidated action plan on science and Technology has been implemented	Implementation rate of the plan of action	X	X	X	X	X			
R	Governance	Elaboration of an evaluation mechanism by the peers for the community	The mechanism has been elaborated	Progress in the elaboration of the mechanism	X	X	X	X				
R	Training	Invite the officials of Member States to visit	customs officials of Member States are	Many officials have visited the	X	X	X	X	X			

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		the community in order to have an idea of what the REC is doing with regards to customs cooperation	familiarized with the work of the secretariat	secretariat								
R		Train national focal points on the computerized system for monitoring problems relating to the elimination of the NTBs	The Officials of Member States and the RECs are trained on the system	Many officials have been trained	X	X						
C		Exchange officials between the AUC and the RECs	Exchange of experience between the staff of the AUC and the RECs	Many officials exchanged	X	X	X	X				



A.3 Implementation plans by groupings of REC

In pursuance of the implementation of the activities of continental nature of the MIP, the approach preferred was designed to build on what currently exists in the RECs, and to develop it. In fact, a framework for cooperation has been established between COMESA, EAC and SADC. In that study it was recommended that it should be enlarged to include IGAD, which is already an observer.

1.3.1 Grouping: COMESA, SADC, EAC and IGAD

On 22 October 2008, the Tripartite Summit of Heads of State and Government of COMESA, EAC and SADC was held in Kampala, in UGANDA and discussed strategies aimed at strengthening regional integration in Eastern and Southern Africa in order to attain the objectives of the African Union (AU) namely, to speed up economic integration of the continent.

The summit accepted the idea of the development of a harmonisation programme of trade arrangements between the three regional economic communities, the facilitation of the free movement of business men and the joint implementation of interregional infrastructural programmes as well as institutional provisions which could promote cooperation between the three regional economic communities.

Regarding trade, customs and economic liberalisation, the Tripartite summit :

- approved the prompt establishment of a free trade zone which encompasses Member States of the three RECs; and
- requested the three RECs to undertake a comprehensive study on the following issues, among others:
 - the elaboration of a road map within 6 months for the establishment of the free trade zone which takes the principle of variable geometry into consideration;
 - a legal and institutional framework to support the free trade agreement, and
 - measures aimed at facilitating the movement of business men within the three RECs;

The planned free trade agreement is considered as a necessary mechanism for the reduction of obstacles in trade intra and inter REC and the establishment of a larger regional market. A bigger market is likely to yield economic gains and well being through price reduction, a wider choice and a better quality and improvement of productivity which could lead to an increase in trade flows in the region. The establishment of common rules of origin will enable added value and competitiveness to be enhanced and also the promotion of investment in the area of the three RECs to be boosted

In relation to what was agreed at the Tripartite summit, it is essential that Member States of the IGAD, who are also members of COMESA, except Somalia, work in close collaboration with the other RECs in order to align their programmes and activities with those envisaged by the steering committee of the three communities.



Table 12 : Plan of action of the Grouping: COMESA, SADC, EAC and IGAD

Number of activity	Priority sub sectors	Priority actions and activities	Results	Indicators	Time frame					Responsibility	Risks	Funding
					2009 Phase I(a)	2010 Phase I(b)	2011 Phase I(c)	2012 Phase I(d)	2013-2016 Phase II			
5C	Rules of origin	Harmonisation of the Rules of origin between the four RECs	The rules of origin are harmonised	Harmonisation level				X	X	COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
10C	Free movement of persons	Recognition of community passports between the RECs	Passports of the RECs are recognised between them	Many community passports recognised between the RECs	X	X	X	X	X	COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
12C		Establish security instruments and improve security cooperation and the combat against terrorism between regions	Security cooperation between countries has been improved	Many instruments put in place				X	X	COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
13C		Signing of agreements Between the RECs on judicial cooperation	Cooperation agreements on judicial cooperation are signed between the RECs	Many agreements signed	X	X				COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
15C	Free movement of goods	Harmonisation of the motor insurance regimes between the RECs	The motor insurance regimes are harmonised	Many RECs have harmonised their motor insurance regime with other RECs			X	X	X	COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
17C		Harmonisation of the limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles between the RECs	Limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles are harmonised between the RECs	Many RECs have harmonised between them the limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles				X	X	COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
19C		Harmonisation of road transit charges between the RECs	Harmonised road transit charges between the RECs	Many RECs have harmonised road transit charges among themselves			X	X	X	COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
29C	Customs	Harmonisation of tariff systems between the RECs	The continental CET is adopted	Many RECs have adopted the continental CET			X	X	X	COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
33C	Food security	Harmonisation between the various regional	Regional food security	Harmonisation level of the regional food	X	X	X	X	X	COMESA, SADC, EAC,		

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		food security programmes	programmes are harmonised	security programme						IGAD		
35C	Information management systems on agricultural markets	Liaison between the various regional agricultural information management systems	The systems are interrelated	The systems are interrelated				X	X	COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
38R	Exchange of experience	Exchange of experience between the RECs in agriculture	The RECs exchange their experiences	Many visits between RECs	X	X	X	X	X	COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
40C	Investment	Harmonisation of the regional investment codes	The codes are harmonised	Many codes are harmonised				X	X	COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
43C	Gender	Signing of a multilateral cooperation agreement between the RECs on the combat against human trafficking particularly of women and children	The agreement has been signed	Many RECs have signed the agreement	X	X	X			COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		
46C	Combat against HIV/AIDS	Strengthening and harmonisation of regional initiatives on the combat against HIV/AIDS at the regional and continental level	The regional initiatives on the combat against HIV/AIDS are strengthened and harmonised at the continental level	Extent of harmonisation of regional initiatives	X	X				COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD		



1.3.2 Grouping : ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU

In light of the initiative of the Tripartite summit which brought together COMESA, SADC and the EAC, it is necessary to do likewise in other regions. In pursuance of this study, it is proposed that a second REC grouping made up of ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU should be established. The existence of many examples of sectoral cooperation between these groupings guided us to make this proposal. In fact, CENSAD is already working with the ECOWAS and the AMU in many areas, particularly relating to the combat against desertification. The ECCAS and the ECOWAS have signed an agreement on the combat against human trafficking, particularly of women and children. In this respect, it is recommended that this cooperation should be strengthened and extended to cover the four RECs. The table below is a draft plan of the implementation of the MIP for this grouping of communities.



Table 13 : Plan of action of the Grouping : ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU

Number of activity	Priority sub sectors	Priority actions and activities	Results	Indicators	Time frame					Responsibility	Risks	Funding
					2009 Phase I(a)	2010 Phase I(b)	2011 Phase I(c)	2012 Phase I(d)	2013-2016			
5C	Rules of origin	Harmonisation of Rules of origin among these RECs	Rules of origin are harmonised	Level of Harmonisation				X	X	ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
10C	Free movement of persons	Recognition of community passports among the RECs	Passports of the RECs are recognised among them	Many community passports recognised among the RECs	X	X				ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
12C		Establish security instruments and improve security cooperation and the combat against terrorism between regions	Security cooperation between countries has been improved	Many instruments put in place	X	X	X			ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
13C		Signing of agreements between the RECs on judicial cooperation	Judicial Cooperation agreements have been signed between the RECs	Many agreements signed	X	X				ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
15C	Free movement of goods	Harmonisation of the motor insurance regimes between the RECs	The motor insurance regimes are harmonised	Many RECs have harmonised their motor insurance regime with other RECs			X	X	X	ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
17C		Harmonisation of the limits of axle load and sizes of vehicles between the RECs	Limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles are harmonised between the RECs	Many RECs have harmonised between them the limits of axle load and sizes of vehicles				X	X	ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
19C		Harmonisation of road transit charges between the RECs	Road transit charges are harmonised between RECs	Many RECs have harmonised the road transit charges			X	X	X	ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
22C	Partnership agreements	Signing of a partnership agreement with the ECOWAS, the ECCAS, the CEN-SAD and AMU	Agreement signed	Agreement signed	X					ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
23C		Establishment of a steering committee of ECOWAS, ECCAS,	The steering committee is in place	The existence of the steering committee	X	X				AUC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		

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		CEN-SAD and AMU										
29C	Customs	Harmonisation of tariff systems between the RECs	The tariff system between RECs are harmonised	Harmonisation level		X	X	X	X	AUC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
33C	Food security	Harmonisation in the various regional food security programmes	Regional food security programmes are harmonised	Harmonisation level of the regional food security programmes	X	X	X	X	X	AUC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
35C	Information management systems on agricultural markets	Liaison between the various regional agricultural information management systems	The systems are interrelated	The systems are interrelated				X	X	AUC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
38R	Exchange of experience	Exchange of experience between the RECs in agriculture	The RECs exchange their experiences	Many visits among RECs	X	X	X	X	X	ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
40C	Investment	Harmonisation of the regional investment codes	The codes are harmonised	Many codes harmonised				X	X	AUC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
43C	Gender	Signing of a multilateral cooperation agreement between the RECs on the combat against human trafficking particularly of women and children	The agreement has been signed	Many RECs have signed the agreement	X	X	X			ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
46C	Combat against HIV/AIDS	Strengthening of the regional initiatives on the combat against HIV/AIDS at the continental and regional level	The regional initiatives on the combat against HIV/AIDS are strengthened and harmonised at the continental level	Extent of harmonisation of regional initiatives	X	X				ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		



1.4 Implementation plan: African Union Commission

The AUC which will mostly play the role of continental coordinator of the MIP will have to implement some actions contained in the MIP, in addition to assistance in terms of human and financial resources which it could put at the disposal of the RECs. The major activities to be implemented by the AUC are listed in the table below.



Table 14 : Implementation Plan: African Union Commission

Number of activity	Priority sub sectors	Priority actions and activities	Results	Indicators	Time frame					Responsibility	Risks	Funding
					2009	2010 Phase I(b)	2011 Phase I(c)	2012 Phase I(d)	2013-2016			
5C	Rules of origin	Harmonisation of the Rules of origin between the RECs	The rules of origin are harmonised	Level of Harmonisation				X	X	AUC, REC		
12C	Free movement of persons	Put security instruments in place and improve security cooperation and the combat against terrorism between the regions	Food Security between countries has been improved	Many instruments established	X	X	X			AUC, REC, MS		
13C		Signing of agreements between the RECs on judicial cooperation	Judicial cooperation agreements are signed between the RECs	Many agreements signed	X	X				AUC, REC, MS		
15C	Free movement of goods	Harmonisation of motor insurance regimes between the RECs	The motor insurance regimes are harmonised	Many RECs have harmonised their motor insurance regimes with other RECs			X	X	X	AUC, REC		
17C		Harmonisation of the limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles between the RECs	Limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles are harmonised in the REC	Many RECs have harmonised among themselves the limits of the axle load and sizes of vehicles				X	X	AUC, REC		
19C		Harmonisation of road transit charges between the RECs	Road transit charges are harmonised between the RECs	Many RECs have harmonised road transit charges among themselves			X	X	X	AUC, REC		
22C	Partnership agreements	Signing of a partnership agreement between the ECOWAS, the ECCAS, the CEN-SAD and AMU	Agreement signed	Agreement signed	X					AUC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
23C		Setting up of a steering committee of ECOWAS, ECCAS, CEN-SAD and AMU	The steering committee is established	The existence of a steering committee	X	X				AUC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, CENSAD and AMU		
25C		Signing of an agreement on multilateral partnership	Agreement signed between two groupings	The agreement is signed			X	X	X	AUC, REC		

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		between the two groupings of the REC										
29C	Customs	Harmonisation of the tariff systems between the RECs	The tariff systems between the RECs are harmonised	Harmonisation level		X	X	X	X	AUC		
33C	Food security	Harmonisation of the various regional food security programmes	The Regional food security programmes are harmonised	Harmonisation level of the regional food security programmes	X	X	X	X	X	AUC, REC		
35C	Information management systems on agricultural markets	Liaison between the various regional agricultural information management systems	The systems are interrelated	The systems are interrelated				X	X	AUC, REC		
40C	Investment	Harmonisation of regional investment codes and elaboration of a continental investment code	The codes are harmonised and a code is elaborated	Many codes are harmonised and existence of a continental code				X	X	AUC, REC		
43C	Gender	Signing of a multilateral cooperation agreement between the RECs on the combat against human trafficking particularly of women and children	The agreement is signed	Many RECs have signed the agreement	X	X	X			AUC, REC		
46C	Health	Strengthening and harmonisation of the regional initiatives on the combat against HIV/AIDS at the regional and continental level	The regional initiatives on the combat against HIV/AIDS are strengthened and harmonised at the continental level	Extent of harmonisation of regional initiatives	X	X				AUC, REC		
C	Election promotion and democratic institutions	Ratification of the African Charter on democracy, election and Governance	The Charter is ratified	Many countries have ratified the Charter	X	X						
C	Statistics	Ratification of the African Charter on statistics by Member States	The Charter is ratified	Many countries have ratified the Charter	X	X				AUC, MS		
C		Preparation of continental guides for the collection of data, harmonisation of measurement standards	The guides are prepared	A number of guides are prepared	X	X				AUC, National Statistical Institutes, REC		

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C		Strengthen the human capacities of the national statistical institutes	The human capacities of the national statistical institutes are built	Many officials trained	X	X	X	X	X	AUC, MS		
C		Develop Training modules for officials of the REC and the AUC in the various areas	The modules are prepared	Many modules elaborated	X	X				AUC, REC		
C		The AUC should organize training sessions at the regional level in the different areas	Training sessions are organised in different areas	Many sessions organised	X	X	X	X	X	AUC, REC		
C		Exchange officials between the AUC and the RECs	Exchange experiences between the staff of the AUC and the RECs	Many officials exchanged	X	X	X	X	X	AUC, REC		



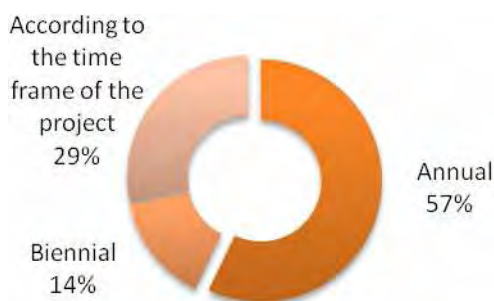
ANNEXE 2: Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism

The MIP is accompanied by a monitoring and evaluation mechanism focused on the expectations of envisaged results in order to evaluate the progress in the implementation of activities and actions listed in the programme.

Regarding the MIP monitoring and evaluation mechanism, the RECs are agreed on the need to take into consideration the specificity of every activity and project identified in the programme. In fact, certain projects currently being implemented within the REC are monitored in terms of a time frame and mechanisms established by each of them and monthly or quarterly reports are produced respectively by the officer in charge of projects on the field and the project coordinator at the community level. The RECs will play the role of regional coordinator of all the projects and activities to be implemented by them. Moreover, they will ensure the monitoring of the activities of which the responsibility falls on the Member States of every REC.

It is also necessary to note that the progress made in the implementation of the MIP will feature in an annual report by the RECs. The African Union Commission will ensure the coordination and harmonization of all the activities at the continental level. In this respect, it will draft an annual report on the monitoring of activities of the MIP on the basis of the different reports produced by the RECs and present it to the decision making organs namely, summits of the African Union as well as the Conference of African Ministers of integration.

Figure 5 : Monitoring of the MIP

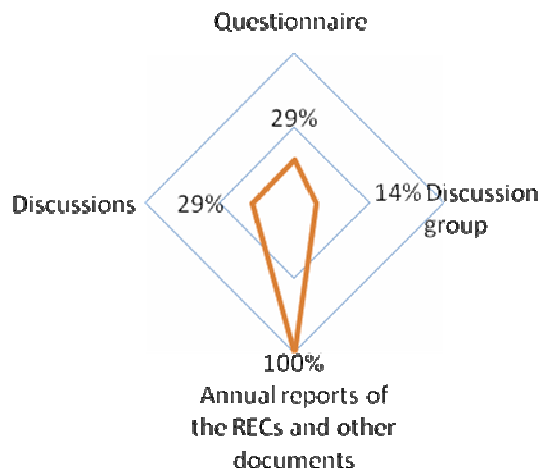


Source : African Union Commission , Questionnaire on the MIP

The monitoring report should contain necessary information, namely the status of implementation of the activity in relation to the result and indicator fixed beforehand, problems encountered and if possible make recommendations and a new time frame for implementation, etc. Regarding the evaluation of the MIP, it has been recommended that taking into consideration the duration of the implementation of the first phase of four years of the MIP, 2009 – 2012, a biennial evaluation of the programme based on the annual monitoring reports and other documents produced by the RECs should be made.



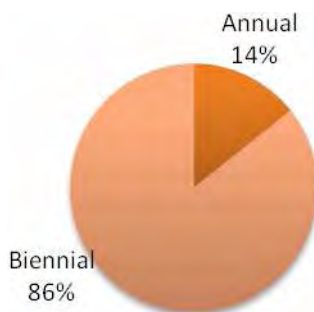
Figure 6 : Evaluation and monitoring methods of the MIP



Source : African Union Commission , Questionnaire on the MIP

The biennial evaluation exercise for the implementation of the MIP will enable us to identify the weak points of the programme and the challenges confronted by the different parties concerned in the realization of the programme.

Figure 7 : Evaluation of the MIP



Source : African Union Commission , Questionnaire on the MIP

The objective of the evaluation of the MIP is first and foremost to assess the level of realization by the programme’s activity in general but also in relation to the objectives set at the initial phase of elaboration. In pursuance of the elaboration of monitoring reports by the RECs, it is necessary to specify the type of data to be collected by sector or subsectors in relation to each of the MIP activities.

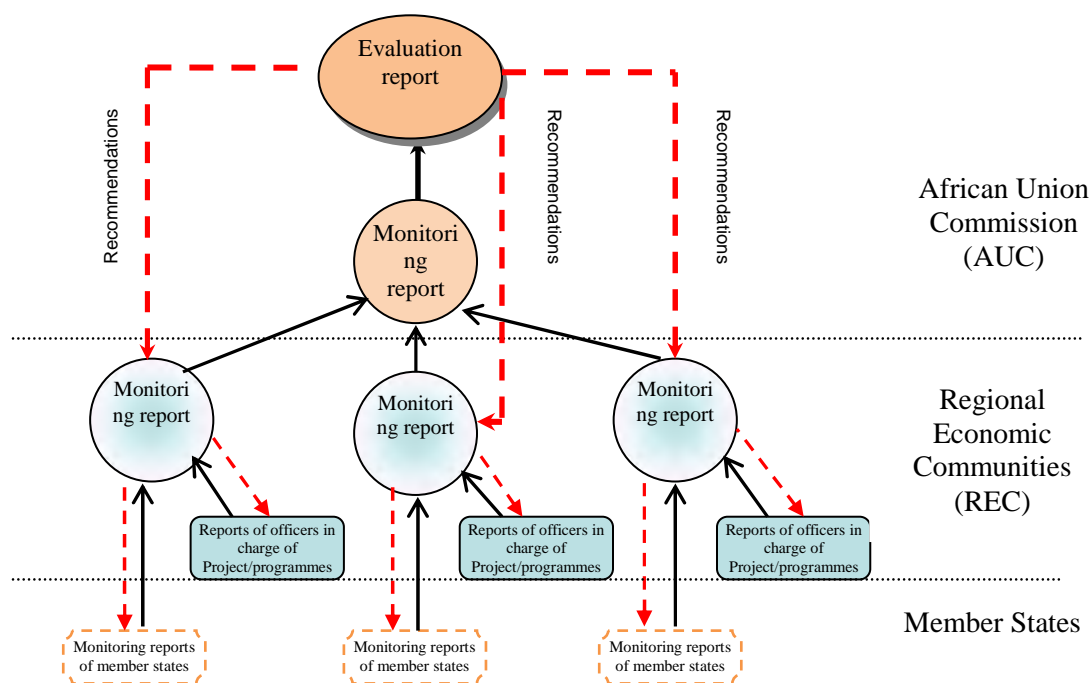
The RECs have moreover underscored the urgent need to implement article 21(1) of the protocol on relations between the African Union and the RECs which provides for the opening of liaison offices of the African Union in every head office of the RECs in order to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the MIP. The role of these offices will be, among others, to improve



communication and exchange information between the Commission and the RECs, and coordinate the implementation at the regional level.

The African Union Commission has programmed a certain number of sectoral meetings to discuss the modalities for the implementation of the MIP. These meetings will also be used to monitor and evaluate the progress made in every sector / subsector and by REC in the various actions registered in the MIP. At these meetings, the AU and the RECs should therefore consider the problems and challenges identified during the implementation period of the programme and make recommendations which will be incorporated in the final evaluation report of the MIP and in the subsequent phase of the programme.

Figure 8 : Structure of the evaluation and monitoring mechanism of the MIP





ANNEX 3

Detailed Programme for the Development of African Agriculture



A3: Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

The integrated programme for agricultural development in Africa was drawn up in order to address the major challenges in agriculture in Africa. Among them are difficulties related to markets/commercial trade, technological obstacles and political constraints which lead to the reduction in agricultural production and hence food insecurity. The programme was adopted by the AU summit of July 2003, held in Maputo, Mozambique. All the RECs in Africa were given the mandate to implement it in their respective regions. The NEPAD is the key organ responsible for the implementation of the CAADP programme.

The overall objective of the CAADP is to assist African countries to attain a high level of growth through development focused on agriculture. It also aims at eliminating hunger, reducing poverty and food insecurity and promoting trade expansion. The CAADP targets an agricultural growth rate of 6 percent a year, likely to enable African States to implement the first phase of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), reduce hunger and poverty by half by 2015.

At the onset, the CAADP programme was based on four mainstays.

- Mainstay 1: Extend the zone under the sustainable management systems of lands and reliable regularisation of waters ;
- Mainstay 2: Improve rural infrastructure and capacities related to trade for a better access to the market ;
- Mainstay 3: Ensure an increased food availability and the reduction of famine ;
- Mainstay 4: Improve agricultural research, dissemination and adoption of technology ;
- Mainstay 5: Sustainable development of animal husbandry, fisheries and forest resources;

During the proclamation of the CAADP programme, African States agreed to commit at least 10% of their budget to agriculture and agricultural development. The RECs should therefore determine the orientation to be adopted at the national and regional level in accordance with the global vision of the Abuja Treaty of 1991, in order to possibly establish an African common market and an economic and monetary union. Regarding the implementation of the CAADP, agreements should be concluded at the national, regional and continental level which highlight policies, strategies and key programmes, existing differences, investment levels and dialogue mechanisms required for an effective, large scale implementation.



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