

IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTINENTAL & REGIONAL INTEGRATION INITIATIVES BY AFRICAN REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

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Project description

- **What?** African Union Integration Initiatives
- **Goal?** Through African Union create one African economy and attain **sustainable economic growth** because merging economies will overcome developmental challenges
- **How?**
 - ❑ Since the 1980s, **efforts** have been made to shift **towards economic integration** as evidenced in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Abuja Treaty that was signed in 1991. The Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community proposes **a linear step by step integration process from free-trade to customs and/or monetary unions** where separate economic, monetary, fiscal and social policies of individual countries would be harmonized.
 - ❑ In order to **speed up** the attainment of the African Economic Community, the **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)** were established. These RECs work as **building blocks** and implementing arms of the AU and group together individual countries **into sub-regions for regional integration**

What I learned at IOB?

- ❑ IOB familiarized me with **multidisciplinary tools** that enhanced my capacity **to understand interactions among stakeholders &** that contribute to **an enhanced conceptualization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes**
- ❑ I have interacted with **high level stakeholders in negotiating for policy change** and support on development programme. This required skills, some of which were enhanced by IOB.
- ❑ Courses on Governance have helped me understand **the role that policy makers play in development.**
- ❑ The track on local institutions has enhanced my **understanding of developments in the South.**
- ❑ IOB helped me with such skills on analyzing household data , which I am using on **analyzing indicators** on integration.

Alumnus/a role in project

- ❑ **coordinating the regional integration initiatives across the continent, by** organizing coordination meetings where achievements against the Abuja treaty steps are shared. The meetings come up with recommendations for policy action (e.g. I have been engaged in following up the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area and the protocol on the free movement of people and services)
- ❑ **reviewing the African Regional Integration Indicators, a document with five dimensions** (trade, macroeconomic policy and financial integration, free movement of persons and infrastructure integration) **to assess continental integration.**
- ❑ ensure that **all continental frameworks are aligned to the AU's Agenda 2063.** This is a 50 year continental framework with aspirations and goals for Africa's structural transformation process



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