"African integration: the state of the Union, 60 years later"

Call for papers

1. Context

On May 25, 1963, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was born in Ethiopia, more precisely in Addis Ababa. The creation of the OAU was possible thanks to the efforts of 32 States gathered in congress and determined to lay the foundations of a political and economic union of Africa, and this from the aftermath of the independence of the countries of the continent. The sovereignty of newly independent states was thus linked to the unity of the continent.

This ambition of unity is part of the initial vocations of pan-Africanism, which translated, moreover, the ambition of an African government, according to the vision of the Ghanaian president of the time, Kwame Nkrumah. In his credo a "Union Government for Africa" (Lecoutre, 2007), the idea of institutionalizing common policies and political unity at the continental level was already emerging. This is an approach that makes the construction of an African political identity a condition for the continent's prosperity and development. Updated by the 2007 Accra Declaration, whose integration model reaffirms the "United States of Africa" project, this idea is supported by certain African leaders such as Colonel Muammar Gaddafi (one of the contemporary champions of the "United States of Africa"). Already with the creation, in 2002, of the African Union, the project of a Union Government for Africa and of the United States of Africa was taking shape. But the approach has been reversed.

It so happened that in 1999, the member states of the OAU came to the conclusion that the replacement of the OAU by the African Union (AU) was a necessary condition for accelerating the integration process of the continent, thus giving birth, in 2002, to the AU at the Durban Summit.

From this institutional evolution, some questions can be raised: What remains of the unitary dreams of the beginning of pan-Africanism? Has the AU succeeded in removing the image that was once attached to the OAU, namely, if not an instrument serving the interests of the great powers, then at least a "union of heads of state"? 60 years after the birth of the OAU and 40 years before 2063, what assessment can be made and what prospects can be drawn for "The Africa we want"?

The Political economy Papers takes a closer look. This thematic issue will feature original contributions on various dimensions of African unity as well as on the dynamics of African integration in the global economy.

2. Content
The reflections will be organized around six great topics, declined, as an indication, as follows

I. The impact of intra-regional trade on Africa's integration into the global economy
The aim here is to take stock of the debates on the continent’s economic marginalization through the role that trade plays in Africa's adaptation process in an interconnected world.

II. The attractiveness of FDI in Africa: between environmental constraints and development opportunities
The papers in this theme will analyze the evolution of investment flows in a comparative perspective and will identify the types of structuring projects mobilized, including international projects in the field of renewable energy. Particular attention will be paid to the issue of CSR.

III. Political and socio-economic integration
Proposals in this theme will focus on the following aspects: i) free trade; ii) common sectoral policies (monetary, fiscal, defense, sustainable development; etc.).

IV. Unity and solidarity
Proposals under this theme will address and not be limited to issues such as common crisis management (endemics and pandemics; famine, etc.).

V. Sovereignty and territorial integrity of States
The articles in this theme should address the continent's responses in terms of unity and solidarity to situations related to stability, peace and security.

VI. International cooperation and liberal institutionalism
The articles referred to here will concern such diverse subjects as i) Africa in international negotiations; ii) the common position on major contemporary issues; iii) Africa and the Francophonie or Africa and the Commonwealth; iv) the creation of common institutions; v) the role of the Diasporas in the construction of African unity; etc.

VII. Harmonization of legal regimes and international legal cooperation
The articles referred to here will focus on the dynamics of harmonization of legal regimes (OHADA) as well as on the continent’s adherence to international legal instruments and their application (United Nations Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, etc.)

VIII. Governance, good governance, and democracy
The question of governance from the perspective of African unity can be posed from various angles. For this issue, the focus is on the defense and application by African states of certain common values conducive to transparent state management, the building of democratic institutions and citizen participation. Articles assessing the implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights would also be welcome in this theme.

3. Drafting Committee
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4. **Terms and conditions**

Interested authors should adhere to the following timeline:

- June 17, 2022: Call for proposals (1 page)
- October 1, 2022: deadline for submission of proposals
- October 15, 2022: Confirmation of selected proposals
- January 15, 2023: deadline for receipt of manuscripts (Articles should not exceed 25 pages (including tables, graphs and bibliography) and half-spaced (or 50 000 characters)
- January 15-April 15, 2023: review and validation of final manuscripts
- May 2023: issue date

N.B.: Proposals and Manuscripts should be sent to mballa@ualberta.ca

5. **Instructions for Authors and Publication Ethics**

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