

ISCTE  **IUL**
Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

School of Sociology and Public Policy

**The role of regional organization in building up African socio-economic
development. The case of CEMAC**

SAMA HAMLET MASANGO NJINU

Dissertation submitted as a partial requirement to obtain a master's degree in
International studies

Supervisor:
Professor Dr. Clara Carvalho
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Abstract:

The Economic Community of Central African states (CEMAC) is a regional organization working on the context of socio-economic development trends in the African continent. Pursuing these objectives of achieving the region development in real break in time, CEMAC works within the framework of the Regional Economic Program (PER) and the vision 2025.

This dissertation aims at discussing the role of CEMAC as a socio-economic development driver or lever, through the regional economic program and the vision 2025 which are considered development strategies toward the creation of an emerging bloc. This work analyses the role that CEMAC is playing in socio-economic development and the 2025 vision of the CEMAC region as a targeted market, the dynamism of the private sector, the level of food security and the influence of the present generation in influencing public policies.

It was observed that CEMAC is contributing to the socioeconomic development of Africa and is leveraging the development of various economies in the region. Another finding is that the youth are using music to influence political powers, as an expression of agency and identity politics to create societal awareness.

Keyword: African union, economic community of central African states, regional organsaitons, economic development, social development

Resumo:

As tendências do desenvolvimento socio-económico no continente africano exigem da Comunidade Económica dos Estados da África Central (CEEAC) um papel preponderante como organização regional que fortalece África no que concerne o desenvolvimento. Existem estratégias para alcançar este desenvolvimento a médio prazo, como o Programa Económico Regional e a Visão 2025.

Esta dissertação é baseada na temática do desenvolvimento socio-económico para perceber se a CEEAC representa um motor ou uma alavanca neste sentido, considerando o Programa Económico Regional e a Visão 2025 como estratégias de desenvolvimento na formação um bloco emergente. Analisaram-se as estratégias da CEEAC que têm como alvo o mercado, o dinamismo no sector privado, o nível de segurança alimentar e a influência da atual geração de jovens. Observamos que a CEEAC contribui no desenvolvimento socio-económico da África e que tem influenciado o percurso de emergência de várias economias na região. Por outro,

percebeu-se que a juventude utiliza a música para influenciar os poderes políticos, expressando a sua capacidade de agência e as políticas identitárias que contribuem para criar uma consciência social.

Palavras Chave: União Africana, Comunidade Econômica dos Estados da África Central, comunidades regionais, desenvolvimento econômico, desenvolvimento social

Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to SAMA and MASANGO's family and some extra-ordinary people who have been very instrumental in the process of the research.

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Glossary of acronyms

- AAC African Accounting Council
- AALAE African Association for Literacy and Adult Education
- AAPAM African Association for Public Administration and Management
- ABRT African Business Round Table
- ACARTSOD African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development
- ACBF African Capacity Building Foundation
- ACMAD African Centre for Meteorological Applications and Development
- ACMS African Centre for Monetary Studies
- ACP African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
- ACHPR African Commission on Human and People’s Rights
- AERC African Economic Research Consortium
- ADB African Development Bank
- ADB Group: African Development Bank Group
- ADF African Development Fund
- AFCAC African Civil Aviation Commission
- AFOPDA African Oil Palm Development Association
- AFRATC African Air Tariff Conference
- AFRAA African Airline Association
- AFREXIMBANK African Export Import Bank
- AFRNET African Feed Resources Network
- AFRICARE African Reinsurance Corporation
- AGC African Groundnut Council
- AIEDP African Institute for Economic Development and Planning
- AIO African Insurance Organization
- AMSC African Management Services Company
- AMU Arab Maghreb Union
- ANAI African Network for Administrative Information
- APDF African Project Development Facility

- APPA African Petroleum Producers Association
- ATO African Timber Association
- AU African Union

- BASE African Bureau for Educational Sciences / World Association for Educational Research (WAER)
- BEAC Bank of Central African States
- CFA French acronym African Financial Community
- CEN-SAD Community of Sahel-Saharan States
- CEMAC Central African Economic and Monetary Union
- CMA Common Monetary Area
- COMESA Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
- COBAC Central African Banking Commission
- EAC East Africa Economic Community
- ECA- Economic Commission for Africa
- ECCAS Economic Community of Central African States
- ECDPM European Centre for Development Policy Management
- ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States
- EPA Economic Partnership Agreements
- EU European Union
- FTA Free Trade Agreement
- GAVI Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
- ICA (French acronym) African Cultural Institute
- IGAD Intergovernmental Authority on Development
- IGOs Inter Governmental Organisations
- IMF -International Monetary Fund
- OAU- Organisation of African Unity
- OCAM- Organisation Commune Africaine et Mauricienne
- OECD Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- PER French acronym Regional Economic Program
- PTA Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States
- REC Regional Economic Community
- SADCC Southern African Coordination Conference
- SADC Southern African Development Community

- SACU South African Customs Union
- UAPT (French acronym) African Posts and Telecommunications Union
- UAM Union Africaine et Malgache
- UDE Équatorial Customs Union
- UEAC Union of Central African States
- UDEAC Economic and Custom Union of Central Africa
- UMAC Central African Monetary Union
- UEMOA West African Economic and Monetary Union
- UNECA United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Introduction

This dissertation discusses the role of regional organisations in contributing to African socioeconomic development with focus on the Central African Economic and Monetary Community better known by its French acronym CEMAC¹. Hence the main objective of this research dissertation is to investigate the role of CEMAC in socioeconomic development in the African continent. In order to address this objective, the dissertation starts by a brief history of regional organisations. It further analyses the objectives and the structure of the African Union (AU²) which is the umbrella organisation that includes every regional institution in Africa. We revisit the creation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU, 1963-2002)³ and the reforms that led to the establishment of the AU in 2002. It is important to note that the AU is the major foundation of all organizations in the African continent, thus to better understand regional organisations these are approached through the perspective of the African Union and its organs such as members of the commission and portfolios of the commission of the AU.

The central issue in this study is to achieve an in-depth understanding of the CEMAC organisational structure, its journey from creation, its contribution towards socioeconomic development and the various commissions involved. This dissertation portrays the various functions of the commissions; in addition, it follows its members and presents the day-to-day running of the organization. In regard to the aforementioned, the study also reviews the economic situation of the regional body and provides an in-depth analysis of the fifth African Union-Europeans Union summit that took place in 2017. This summit, organised by the African Union involved other regional organisations and organs of the AU such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as related organisations. And its further cohort organisation and countries of economic interest such as the EU, the United States of America, and the countries of the eastern bloc (Asia).

¹ *CEMAC is the Central Africa Economic and Monetary Community which was created in 1994 and became operational after countries of the CEMAC bloc ratify the treaty in 1999; it has six members which make up the community.*

² *AU is referred to African Union; the organization replaces the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and is consist of all the fifty-five member countries all on the African continent. It was established on May 26, 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.*

³ *OAU is the Organization of African Unity and it was established on May 25, 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with thirty-two signatory government.*

The analysis of the history of regional organizations in Africa under the main frame of the AU which embodies all regional organisations in the African continent is of prime importance to this study. Therefore, it analyses the process of formation of the AU and its objectives with an in-depth examination of its institutional organisation responsible for the smooth functioning of the organisations. From there, we look at the main regional organisations in Africa. The research is focused on the CEMAC organisations, which is analysed through its history, organisational framework and economic climate. In this aspect, this study mentions the aid of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a fund-support program which gives urgent assistance to the adjustments of the various economies of CEMAC. Therefore, the IMF approves financial assistance for CEMAC' member states such as the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and Extended Credit Facility (ECF). In order to have a closer view of the CEMAC activities, this study goes beyond the organisation structure of CEMAC, and follows its activities, as expressed in both its agenda communicated on the official webpage and the social media (Twitter and Facebook accounts) . For instance, the CEMAC Day which is celebrated every year on March 16 and the tenth edition focused the theme of strengthening youth entrepreneurship as a guarantee for inclusive and sustainable development in the CEMAC zone.

As this dissertation is concerned with the economic development of the CEMAC, some of the major concepts at stake need to be further defined. Regional organisations are international organisations that incorporate international membership and encompass geopolitical entities that operationally transcend a single nation. Their membership is characterised by boundaries and demarcations characterised by a defined and unique geography such as continents or geopolitics such as economic blocs. The Cambridge Dictionary defines socioeconomic as the relation to the differences between groups of people caused mainly by their financial situation. Which implies consisting of both the social and economic background that impact people's improvement. Development, on the other hand, is the process in which someone or something grows or changes and become more advanced. Social development is about improving the well-being of every individual in the society so that they can attain their full potential. To be more explicit, social development means investing in people which entail the removal of all barriers so that all citizens can journey towards their dreams with confidence and dignity through improving and helping people to move forward on their path to self-sufficiency. Economic development is the process in which an economy grows or changes and becomes more advanced, especially when both the economic and social conditions are improved.

Furthermore, based on salmon Valley Business and Innovation Centre (SVBIC), economic development refers to economic wealth of countries, regions or communities for the well-being of their inhabitants. From a policy perspective, economic development can be defined as every effort that seeks to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for the community by creating and or retaining jobs and supporting or growing income and the tax base.

Methodology of Research

There are almost no other studies conducted on socio-economic development and the conditions of CEMAC by other scholars or researchers. This was a limiting factor that obliged the researcher to find other sources of information. Therefore, the analysis of CEMAC and its role in international relations was based on documentary research including academic journals, articles and books, reports from the main international institutions working on the continent, analyses from think-tanks. This research was conducted on online libraries such as b-on, Library Genesis, Google Scholar, and some physical libraries such as Lisbon University Institute (ISCTE-IUL), Getafe Library Madrid, Bibliotheca Municipal das Caldas da Rainha, Portugal, Fábrica das Palavras-Biblioteca Municipal de Vila Franca de Xira, Portugal, Biblioteca Ricardo de La Vega, Madrid, Infanta Elena Public Library, Seville, Bezirkszentbibliothek, Berlin, and the European centre for development policy management (ECDPM) web site (a think-tank). The reference manager software Mendeley was used to help organizing the reference and save some of the resources from different sources. Literature review and documentary research were complemented with a comprehensive and empirical analysis on CEMAC as an organization. Documents and articles were analysed from the official webpage of CEMAC such as the regional economic program (PER) and the 2025 vision of CEMAC. A close view at the CEMAC's Twitter and Facebook page helped to better understand the agenda, daily activities and general working schedule of the organization. This diverse information was complemented with a direct approach both to CEMAC and ECDPM, based on e-mails exchanges and interviews. The difficulties in establishing communications with CEMAC were a continuous constraint for the research as a whole. The official webpage of the institution has not been updated for a long period of time and virtually all documents were in French and needed much time for all to be translated for the purpose of this research.

Structure of the work

The first chapter is about the literature review focusing specific authors, books and articles relevant to the question of research. Hence, the literature guides the research to the examination of CEMAC and the international relations out of the African continent with other regional and economic communities. Another focus was on development and developmental policies of the EU and African relations.

The second chapter of this study is on the history of regional organizations in the African continent. Therefore, this chapter examines the establishment of the OAU and later the AU and the setbacks of the OAU with postcolonial vision of pan-Africanism. Furthermore, it concentrated on various summits from the sixth extraordinary session in 1999 to the Durban summit in 2002 which launched the AU. As a result, its further analysis the objectives of the AU, its organizational structure and portfolio and later the main regional organisations in Africa.

The third chapter focuses on the history of the CEMAC region with a clear definition of CEMAC, the organization framework with illustrative image of the organizational structure of the CEMAC commission. In addition, the analysis of the economic climate of the CEMAC region with the aid of IMF macroeconomics stability and growth through the fund support program such as the EFF and ECF which was given to CEMAC members states to bring about economic stability and growth. Thus, the research analyses CEMAC in the milieu of international relations with the use of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)⁴ trade report, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) economic and social development overview and some authors whom have published books and scientific articles about CEMAC international relations.

The fourth chapter of the study analyses the rising aspects of the socio-economic development of CEMAC with the aid of the PER and the 2025 vision of CEMAC, of which the preparatory phase stance between 2010 to 2015 and the emergence phase from 2016 to 2025. Therefore, this elaborates on what established CEMAC as a regional organization in African participating

⁴ *OECD is The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development which is a group of thirty-four-member countries that discuss and develop economic and social policy and it was establish in 1961 with headquarters in Paris, France.*

actively to ensure socioeconomic development. In order to improve the economy and social well-being of the over 51 million inhabitants across the CEMAC bloc (made of six member countries) the organisation promotes the development of an improved market, foster the growth of small and medium enterprise (SME), ensure the provision of food security, promote a dynamic private sector, promote youth development in relation to music and political climate, improves the supply of raw material, and guarantee better exports and imports of energy and raw material.

Chapter five discuss possible answers to the departing questions. It provides a brief answer to the questions using international cooperation and partnership as well as strengthening regional programmes that should be adapted to CEMAC economic and trade diplomacy to foster the new vision of an emerging bloc. The economic partnership agreement (EPA) and PER are all examples which have brought about real break in the growth dynamics of CEMAC. Therefore, CEMAC solidifies itself as a major player in the economic community of central African states (ECCAS⁵) thereby ensuring good business with neighbouring bloc ECOWAS and cooperation trade agreement with United States, Europe, India, China and as well as multinational companies.

Finally, Chapter Six analyses CEMAC's activities based on its agenda which shows the work/daily activities of the institution such as the CEMAC day which is celebrated on March 16 all over the entire bloc.

It is important to bear in mind that this dissertation is based solely on academic motivation to clarify the aforementioned question of the study and not professional obligations or objectives. The objectives have never been to discredit any previous opinion or academic documents, or research carried out in this line of research or in the CEMAC zone or international communities or organisations but rather the desire to study the reality of how this institution which embodies six-member states functions and is contributing in building Africa's socioeconomic development.

⁵ ECCAS is the economic community of central African states established in October 18, 1983 to promote regional economic co-operation in central African states

Chapter One

1.1 Literature Review

The literature review was narrowed down to specific authors, books and articles which are relevant to the question of research. The aforementioned studies focus either on the CEMAC region or in the role of individual member states. These authors examine CEMAC and international relations, not just within the African continent but across other regional and economic communities. Some studies focus on development issues and policies, while others examine the relations between the EU and the African continent.

Nonetheless, this assessment will not be completed without looking at CEMAC and international relations and the findings of some authors such as Abrahamsen (2016), Nunn and Price (2004), Mshoma (2009), Helly (2013), Harman and Brown (2013), Taylor (2006), as well as some organisations such as UNECA⁶, OECD and think tank organisation like ECDPM⁷ which in 2006 played crucial role via emphasis of regional EPA negotiation. Thus Abrahamsen (2016) elaborated on research about Africa's place within the international relations whereas Nunn and Price (2004) elaborated on managing development and Africa relationship between the EU as formalized by treaties. On the other hand, Mshomba (2009) brings out the weakness and strengths of Africa, both domestically and internationally. The author argues that this has resulted in African governments putting more effort on multilateral organisations. Just like other authors, Helly (2013) wrote a report on the EU and Africa relations since the Lisbon Summit (2007) analysed the strategic partnership that is fostering development and cooperation between the two continents. Harman and Brown (2013) point out that the description of Africa in that relationship is too optimistic. Taylor (2006) focuses on oil diplomacy being perpetuated by China thereby changing power configurations in Africa. A survey was carried out to

⁶ *UNECA is the United Nation Economic Commission for Africa which was established in 1958 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to encourage economic cooperation among member states of African continent.*

⁷ *ECDPM is the European Centre for Development Policy Management which is a think and do tank with main goal to broker effective development partnerships between the EU and the Global South particularly Africa, the organization was establish in 1986 and headquarters in Maastricht, Netherlands*

understand the socioeconomic development and the present dynamics of youthful generation in relation to music and political power in Cameroon (Nyamnjoy and Fokwang, 2005).

Abrahamsen (2016)⁸, who leads a study on Africa's place within international relations, argued that bringing Africa into this field of study cannot be simply a question of 'add Africa and stir'. The continent does not enter the discipline as a neutral object of study but overdetermined and embedded within the politics and structure of the academe, as well as influenced by a complex and changing geopolitical context. The discipline of international relations, as described on Stanley Hoffmann's 1977 study, is based on an American social science. When the African continent is occasionally mentioned in an international relations study, its treatment is readily dismissed by Africanists as superficial, erroneous or western-centric.

Nunn & Price (2004)⁹, on managing development, elaborated on Africa's relationship with the EU which has been formalized since the beginning of the European integration project in the evolving Yaoundé, Lomé and Cotonou agreements. This relationship has shifted in line with emerging global framework for neoliberal accumulations which involved re-designing of developmental strategies and their locking-in, in the long term. Theoretically, this global shift in the organization of both production and social relations, which has been well documented, and changing dominant patterns of production in advanced industrial economies, has been highlighted at length. To buttress this, the Abuja treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC), with considerably emphasis being given to the strengthening of sub regional and regional communities as vehicles for enhancing cooperation, requires active involvement of member states in regional cooperation. Therefore, it involved building internal competitiveness in areas such as trade, regional economic cooperation and investment. These will go a long way to strengthen regional economic communities both at institutional and sectorial levels with emphasis on the rationalization, harmonization and coordination of their activities. Also revitalizing African domestic and external trade, strengthening intra-African trade, strengthening institutional capacity to accelerate the process of monetary, financial

⁸ **Abrahamsen, R. (2017).** *Africa and international relations: Assembling Africa, studying the world.* *African Affairs*, 116(462), 125–139. <https://doi.org/10.1093/afraf/adw071>

⁹ **A. Nunn, S. Price (2004)** *Managing development: EU and African relations through the evolution of the Lomé and Cotonou agreement*

integration and tourism and as well Africa's development through the building of blocs is essential for the process of regional integration.

Mshomba (2009), states that: "weakness domestically and internationally, African governments have traditionally turned to multilateral organisations more often than most other governments have". The author stresses that it was at the United Nations (UN), where the African region is better represented at the general assembly with its 53 members than any other region that the African governments have pursued their most active diplomacy. Thus, both the UN and World Trade Organization (WTO), that has provided a leverage playing field for the small economies of Africa, have been providing support that goes from developmental assistance to peacekeeping process and to provide members of WTO an opportunity to better understand their trade and trade-related policies and practices. In this particular are mentioned the case of Chad and Congo where UN peacekeeping troops have provided support, counter terrorism tactics and bring forth political stability.

Helly (2013), on a publication on the EU and Africa summits, analyses the overall assessment of the relations between Africa and the EU after the adoption of the joint African-Europe strategy in Lisbon in 2007. He looks into four key variables in the relationship such as economy, development, governance and political and multilateralism. It should be emphasised here that during the Lisbon declaration, African and European leaders declared they "are determined to give the new strategic partnership the necessary means and instruments that will enable it to fulfil the joint strategy and the action plan. And to do so we have created a comprehensive and effective follow-up mechanism that can deliver these goals and show us the results on the occasion on the third summit that shall be held in 2010". Furthermore, this resolved to build a new strategic political partnership for the future, thereby overcoming the traditional donor-recipient relationship thus building common values and goals in the pursuit of peace and stability, democracy and the rule of law, as well as progress and development.

Harman and Brown (2013) state that the African continent offers much for the understanding of international relations, but it remains a particular blind spot. Africa's descriptions vary from an afro-optimism, that emphasize the need and scope to focus on good news stories, to the opposite position, where these positive indicators are ignored in favour of a stereotype focus on the continent as the centre of disease, corruption and violence. These contradictory positions led the authors to consider that the discipline of international relations is too westernized and

there are inconsistencies between the discipline theoretical constructs and African realities. Therefore, to understand the Africa continent with concepts of liberalism, constructivism, and realism, scholars are limited to the western concepts of statehood, civil society, and political processes of state formation.

Besides the academic approach, international organisations and specific institutions also have focused on the potentialities of the African continent in international relations and the role of regional organizations. This is highlighted in the report of UNECA (1990) stating that the core representative for the UN through its economic commission, UNECA, encourages economic cooperation amongst member states in Africa. Departing from an analytical overview of the economic and social development in the African continent, the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) provides technical assistance to regional communities and intergovernmental organization (IGOs¹⁰). Therefore, from the analysis of UNECA (1990) on the overview of economic and social development in Africa, the organization gives technical assistance to regional communities and IGOs on ways to further economic cooperation and integration and ensuring food security. The ECA promotes regional and sub regional integration in Africa through trade, regional economic cooperation and integration, poverty alleviation through sustainable development, human resource development and social transformation, infrastructural and structural transformation, cooperation and relations with other organization and partners. Hence, the UNECA regional advisory service programme is instituted to search for solutions to the developmental problems confronting African governments and their IGOs

Reports from think-tanks such as ECDPM, make a distinction between the various regional organizations in Africa and the regional EPA¹¹ negotiations which elaborates economic activities through trade between Africa and other countries.

Regional organisations in African are development levers since these organisations help to promote economic and social growth which are an integral part of development in any society.

¹⁰ *IGOs are Intergovernmental Organisations which are composed primarily of sovereign states or of those intergovernmental organisations. IGOs are established by treaties or other agreements that act as a charter creating the group.*

¹¹ *EPA is the Economic Partnership Agreement which is a scheme to create a free trade area between the European Union and the African continent, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States*

The best example is ECOWAS which promotes economic integration to achieve collective self-sufficiency for its member states through the creation of a single large trade bloc, thereby building a full economic and trade union amongst the West African states. This is similar to that of CEMAC and most regional organisations which fall under the canopy of the AU. Therefore, the aim of most of these regional economic communities with different names in different regions across Africa is to drive the economy towards development.

Chapter Two.

2.1 History of Regional Organization

Africa is the world's second largest and most populous continent. It is composed of 54 countries and 2 disputed territories. The continent hosts the largest diversity of ethnic, cultural and languages identities. It also offers a large variation of environments, economies, historical bonds and government systems. Most states originated from the process of decolonization in the 20th century and cooperation is made through the establishment of the African Union with its headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Figure. I: Map of Africa showing the different countries

Source: Africaguide official website

The continent faces numerous problems relating to poverty, health, education, integration, political crisis, civil war, coup d'état and border disputes, not forgetting social and economic challenges. With the aim of eradicating both the European political powers and the western influence in Africa, the African Union, former OUA, encouraged African governments to become more Afrocentric by adopting policies feasible for the continent and void of human rights infringements. These policies paved the way for the creation of some regional organisations under the banner of the AU that acts as umbrella organisation for the continent.

The African continent has experienced the creation of more than 500 intergovernmental organizations but just barely 200 of these organisations still exist, although new ones are continually emerging as reforms are being made. However, many of these new bodies have been observed to show only slightly differences in objectives, names and memberships compared to the old and already existing organisations. The objectives, institutional structure and membership of many of these organisations often change, and it is sometimes very difficult to follow what is happening in the arena of African regional organisation.

Africa's unity cannot be analysed without revisiting the OAU which in various attempts aimed at establishing a universal African organisation before its demise.

- The first step towards this unity was taken after the independence of Ghana and Guinea in 1957 and 1958 respectively.
- These two countries together with the others then independent African states met in Accra, Ghana in 1958 for the first conference of African states.
- Another conference was held in Casablanca, Morocco in January 1961, the Heads of states of Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco and representatives of Libya and the Algerian provisional government agreed on the Casablanca charter, which paved the way for the setting up of an African Military Command (AMC) and an African Common Market (ACM) of which the political radical root of the OAU were represented.
- Three similar conferences were held by francophone countries at Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Brazzaville, Congo and Yaoundé, Cameroon during the 1960 and 1961 with these groups known as the Brazzaville group. They strove first for unity amongst themselves and had a cold attitude towards the Casablanca group.

- Eventually, these conferences led to the establishment of the Union Africaine et Malgache (UAM), which was later the Organisation Commune Africaine et Mauricienne (OCAM) which was dissolved in 1985.
- President William Tubman of Liberia launched a more functionalist-inspired plan for African cooperation and the initiative was discussed at Saniquellie, Liberia in 1959, at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1960.
- Finally, at the Monrovia conference in Liberia in May 1961 which was attended by the heads of states or representatives of the 19 countries that is the Brazzaville group plus seven others. Nevertheless, these group of countries met again in January 1962 in Lagos, Nigeria to establish a permanent secretariat and a standing committee of finance ministers and accepted a draft treaty for the organisation of inter-African and Malagasy states.

The emperor Haile Selassie managed to bring together the leader of 32 independent African states at the conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 1963. In this meeting was signed the Charter of the Organization of African Unity by 30 heads of states favoured by the Monrovia group and the federal idea supported by the Casablanca group. The OAU defended and postcolonial vision of pan-Africanism, and many African political and intellectual leaders, such as Kwame Nkrumah, Haile Selassie, Julius Nyerere, Ahmed Sekou Touré, Thomas Sankara and Muammar Gaddafi, all stressed the need for collective self-reliance, solidarity and power consolidation in Africa and that will enable self-reliance, allowing the continent's potential to independently provide for its people to be fulfilled.

2.2 African Union

The establishment of the AU was an event of great magnitude in the institutional evolution of the African continent. In September 9, 1999, the heads of states and governments of the OAU issued a declaration (the Sirte Declaration) calling for the establishment of an AU with the aim of accelerating the process of continental integration which will enable Africa to play its rightful role at the global economy while addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems compounded with the advent of globalization. Before that date, in July 1996 the assembly decided to convene an extraordinary session to expedite the process of economic

and political integration in the continent. From that date, four summits have been held leading to the official launching of the African Union in July 9, 2002. These summits include:

1. The Sirte extraordinary session (1999) decided to establish the AU
2. The Lomé summit (2000) adopted the constitutive act of the union
3. The Lusaka summit (2001) drew the road map for the implementation of the AU
4. The Durban summit (2002) launched the AU and convened the 1st assembly of the heads of states of the AU.

The vision of the AU is that of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena. Therefore, the AU has a different agenda from the OAU which was supporting liberation movements in the erstwhile African territories under colonialism and apartheid but moved to spear-heading Africa's development and integration.

2.3 Objectives or purpose of the AU:

The AU objectives are to propel Africa's integration, prosperity and peace championed by citizens of the continent. Thus, these objectives advocate:

- To achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples of Africa
- To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its member states
- To accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent
- To promote and defend African common position on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples
- To encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the charter of the UN and the universal declaration of human rights
- To promote peace, security, and stability on the continent
- To promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance
- To promote and protect human and people's rights in accordance with the African charter on human and people's rights and other relevant human rights instruments
- To establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations

- To promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies
- To promote cooperation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of African peoples
- To coordinate and harmonize the policies between the existing and future regional economic communities (REC) for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the union
- To advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields; particularly science and technology
- To work with relevant international partners in the eradication of preventable diseases and the promotion of good health on the continent.

Furthermore, the AU is an institutional organisation which is responsible for the smooth functioning of the organisation to ensure it achieve the various objectives. The organs of the AU are as listed below:

1. The assembly
2. The executive council
3. The commission
4. The permanent representative's committee
5. Peace and security council (PSC)
6. Pan-African parliament
7. ECOSOC: The economic, social and cultural council
8. The court of justice
9. The specialized technical committees
 - The committee on rural economy and agricultural matter
 - The committee on monetary and financial affairs
 - The committee on trade, customs and immigration matters
 - The committee on industry, science and technology, energy, natural resources and environment
 - The committee on transport, communications and tourism
 - The committee on health, labour and social affairs
 - The committee on education, cultural and human resources
10. The financial institutions
 - The African central bank
 - The African monetary fund
 - The African Investment Bank

11. The AU commission which is the key organ playing a central role in the day-to-day management of the AU

2.4 Members of the commission:

The members of the commission consist of its organs as well as the persons responsible for the smooth functioning of the commission and responsible for attaining the objectives and purposes of the AU. The main responsible are the following:

- The Chairperson
- The Deputy chairperson
- The Eight (8) commissioners and
- The Staff members

2.5 Portfolios of the commission

The portfolio implies the position and duties of the various organs and range of services offered by the AU to both the African continent and the world at large to ensure the objectives and purpose of the AU. It consists of the following:

1. Peace and security which is in charge of conflict prevention, management and resolution, and combating.
2. Political affairs which is in charge of human rights, democracy, good governance and the electoral institutions.
3. Infrastructure and energy (include energy, transport, communications, infrastructure and tourism).
4. Social affairs (include health, children, drug control, population, migration, labour and employment, sports and culture).
5. Human resources, sciences and technology
6. Trade and industry (trade, industry, customs and immigration matters)
7. Rural economy and agriculture
8. Economics affairs

2.6 Main regional organisations in Africa

The AU which encompass all the regional organisations on the African continent has recognized the Regional Economic Communities (REC), other economic organisations, energy-based organisations, river and lake organisations, peace and security organisations and environmental organisations. Based on ECDPM talking points blog, Byier (2017) explained the main regional organisations in African consist of the following: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Community of Sahel Saharan State (CEN-SAD), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and other economic organisation which consist of Central African Economic And Monetary Union (CEMAC), Economic Community Of The Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Gulf Of Guinea Commission (GGC), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Mano River Union (MRU), Southern African Customs Union (SACU), West African Economy And Monetary Union (UEMOA). Most or all of these regional organisations have common purpose or objectives which are:

- To promote economic integration among its members.
- To promote intra-regional agricultural trade, widening and deepening cooperation amongst the partner states.
- To promote and strengthen a harmonious cooperation in order to realize a balanced and self-sustained economic development.
- To achieve economic unity through the implementation of the free movement of people, goods and services.
- To promote regional economic cooperation and integration
- To promote the integration of member states into the global economy.
- To act as mediators and provide forum for the coordination of conflicts through resolution of conflicts
- To increase the bargaining power of Africa in global negotiation for instance G20, UN, climate change negotiation and the WTO.

Most of these regional organisations in the African continent have an identical purpose which is to promote development in their various blocs thereby interacting with other blocs and as well as the global economy to advance the region and the continent at large.

A look at the OAU which gave birth to AU would revealed lists of other regional organisations which play major role in the African continent. All of these organisations are embodied under the canopy of the AU, listed as continental organisation. These comprise organisations in the northern Africa, west and central Africa, eastern and southern Africa and are therefore listed as follows:

i. Continental Organizations

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States – ACP

African Development Bank – ADB

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa – ECA

ii. Organizations in Northern Africa

Arab Maghreb Union – AMU

iii. Organizations in West and Central Africa

CFA Francs Zone – CFA

Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAS

West African Economic and Monetary Union – UEMOA

Central African Economic and Monetary Union – CEMAC

iv. Organizations in Eastern and Southern Africa

Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States – PTA

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa – COMESA

Southern African Coordination Conference – SADCC

Southern African Development Community – SADC

South African Customs Union – SACU

Common Monetary Area – CMA

East Africa Economic Community – EAC

Intergovernmental Authority on Development – IGAD

Community of Sahel-Saharan States – CEN-SAD

v. Other Regional Organization in Africa

African Project Development Facility – APDF

African Reinsurance Corporation – AFRICARE

African Accounting Council – AAC

African Air Tariff Conference – AFRATC

African Airline Association – AFRAA

African Association for Literacy and Adult Education – AALAE

African Association for Public Administration and Management – AAPAM
African Bureau for Educational Sciences – BASE/ World Association for Educational Research (WAER)
African Business Round Table – ABRT
African Capacity Building Foundation – ACBF
African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development – ACARTSOD
African Centre for Meteorological Applications and Development – ACMAD
African Centre for Monetary Studies – ACMS
African Civil Aviation Commission – AFCAC
African Commission on Human and People’s Rights – ACHPR
African Cultural Institute – ICA (French acronym)
African Development Bank Groupe – ADB Group
African Development Fund – ADF
African Economic Research Consortium- AERC
African Export Import Bank – AFREXIMBANK
African Feed Resources Network – AFRNET
African Groundnut Council – AGC
African Institute for Economic Development and Planning – AIEDP
African Insurance Organization – AIO
African Management Services Company – AMSC
African Network for Administrative Information – ANAI
African Oil Palm Development Association – AFOPDA
African Petroleum Producers Association – APPA
African Posts and Telecommunications Union – UAPT (French acronym)
African Timber Association – ATO

2.7 Overlaps between the regional organisations in Africa

Most often these regional organisations are members of either one or two organisations in the continent. For instance, members of CEMAC are also members of ECCAS as illustrated in figure II. Likewise, members of ECOWAS are members of COMESA and ECCAS. Hence this demonstrates an overlap between the relationships of the regional organisations in Africa.

M14. Regional organisations in Africa and countries members

Source: auteur

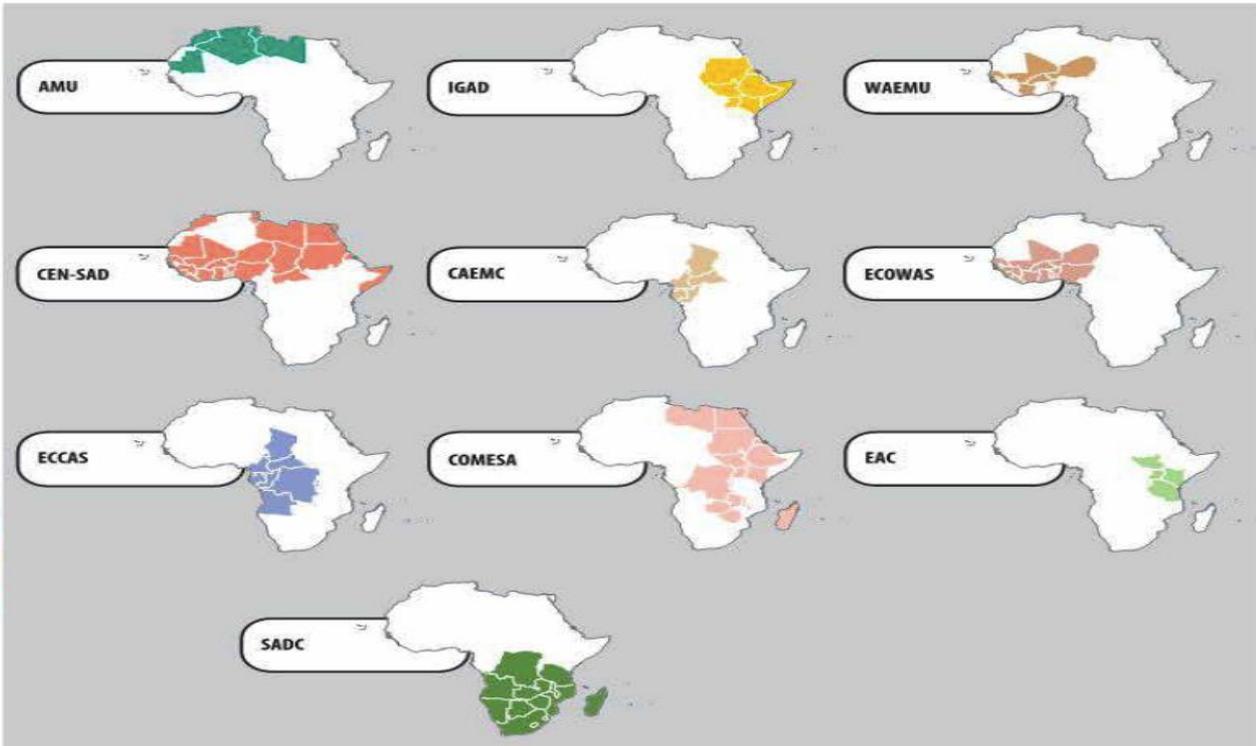


Figure II: Overlaps between the regional organisations in Africa

Source: CIRAD (2016), Agricultural research for development centre

M15. Overlaps between the regional organisations in Africa

Source: auteur

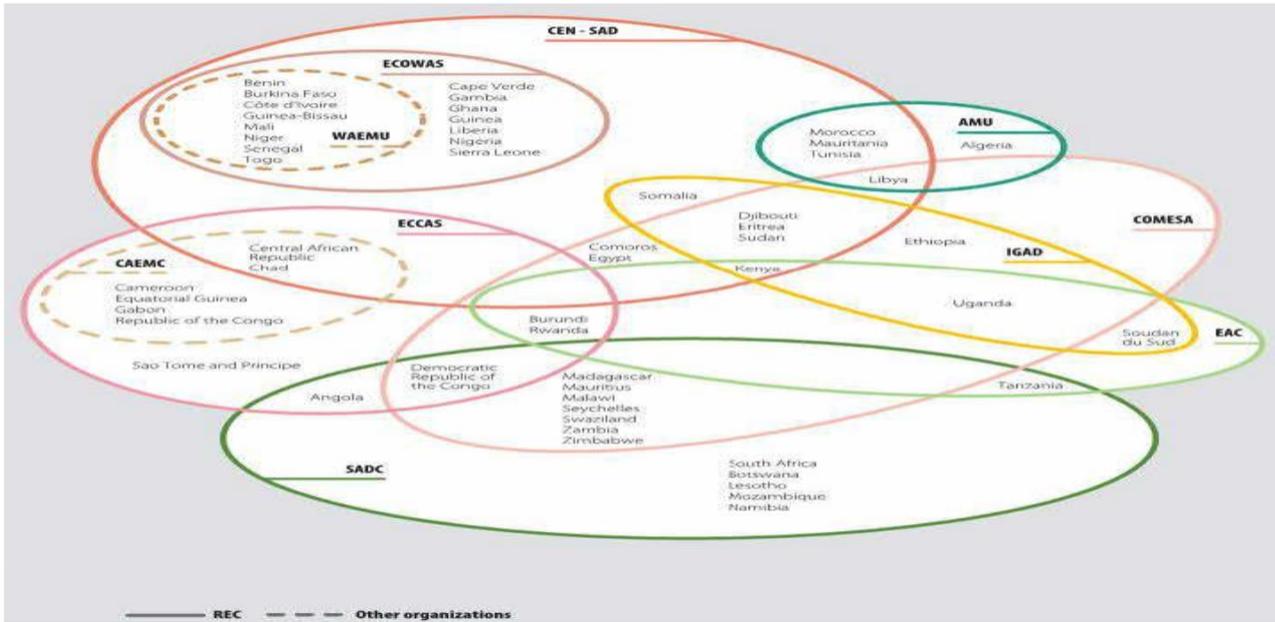


Figure III: Regional organizations in Africa and countries members

Source: CIRAD (2016), Agricultural research for development centre

Comparing these organisations showed that they all have a common goal which is geared towards development; however, socioeconomic development varies amongst these regional organisations. For instance, ECOWAS with a population of over 335 million inhabitants covers a surface area of over five million kilometres represent approximately one-third of the sub-Saharan Africa's total population. SADC with a population of over 227 million covers a surface area of over nine million kilometres, COMESA with a population of over 390 million inhabitants covers a surface area of over twelve million kilometres and the CEMAC with 51 million inhabitant covers over a surface area three million square kilometre.

In 2010 ECOWAS developed a comprehensive industrial policy which was the first attempt in fostering regional industrialization in the West African region. Youth policy in ECOWAS faces a lack of political traction which makes youth employment perceived as a natural issue for instance private sector actors are more concerned about trade or transport reforms than reforms in the area of youth employment. Meanwhile, CEMAC is working on the industrialization to process raw materials and revamp the private sector to be more participatory in development. Youths are taking up in start-up and music culture to emphasize on political and social mishaps to be corrected for a better region. Nevertheless, all these regional organisations are embodied within the African continent and play a role towards African development, integration, social and economic development and thus keep building up Africa which provides an atmosphere of Afrocentrism.

Chapter Three

3.1 HISTORY OF CEMAC

CEMAC is an intergovernmental organisation formed in 1999 with headquarter in Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR¹²) and comprises of six different countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.



Figure IV: Map showing the CEMAC region

Source: Adapted from the CEMAC official website (www.cemac.int)

The CEMAC bloc is estimated to have a total population of over 51 million and a total surface area of approximately three million square kilometres. Earlier efforts to create an economic cooperation and integration within the region goes as far back as the French colonial time. In recent times, the members jointly established an economic and monetary union in 1994 which was later ratified in 1999 with aim of strengthening the existing customs and monetary union earlier put in place during colonization. Prior to gaining independence from French colonial

¹² CAR is the Republic of Central Africa is a landlocked country in Central African bordered by Chad to the north, Sudan to the northeast, South Sudan to the east, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the South, Republic of Congo to the Southwest and Cameroon to the west, has a land area of 620000 square kilometres and estimated population of 4.6 million inhabitants

rule, the Union Douaniere Equatoriale (UDE¹³) was formed in 1959 by the Central African Republic (CAR), the Republic of Congo, Gabon and Chad. Later in 1960, the countries of CAR, the Republic of Congo, Chad and Gabon formed the Union des Républiques de l'Afrique Centrale which was later dissolved when these countries gained independence. UDE remained a functioning institution after the independence of its members, with Cameroon joining in 1961. On December 8, 1964, the five countries of the UDE met in Brazzaville, Congo to establish the Union Douanière et Economique de l'Afrique Centrale (UDEAC)¹⁴ which was formed under the Brazzaville treaty. UDEAC was created with the aim of forming a customs union which would promote economic integration among its members and facilitates free trade between member states while implementing a common external tariff on imported factors of production from non-member countries. Due to the economic crisis which occurred in the late 1980's and 1990's, the member states of UDEAC became highly concerned with a vision to establish a customs union and needed to create a more efficient integration initiative. With the advent of UDEAC and a set of goals on customs union, there were several infrastructures and projects towards the creation of a harmonized fiscal and custom agreement. Due to the disagreement within the group, Chad and CAR threatened to leave UDEAC but failed due to much pressure from France. The UDEAC treaty was officially revised in a bid to address these misunderstandings.

In 1972 a joint action was strengthened by two monetary cooperation agreements between UDEAC member states and France. These agreements paved the way for the creation of a common central bank known as Bank of Central African States (BEAC¹⁵) and a single currency known as financial cooperation in central Africa (France CFA¹⁶). Despite the aforementioned lacked free movement of factors of production and finances, cooperation, communication and

¹³ *UDE is the Union Douaniere Equatorial which means the Equatorial Customs Union which was created in 1959 by the Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Gabon and Chad to ease and have a union custom tariff.*

¹⁴ *UDEAC is the Union Douaniere et Economie de l'Afrique Central which is the Economic and Customs Union of Central Africa which was establish under the treaty of Brazzaville and replaces UDE*

¹⁵ *BEAC from its French acronym is the Bank of Central African States establish to serve the CAMAC region as a central bank and the sole issue of the legal tender and was established in 1972 with the headquarters in Yaoundé, Cameroon*

¹⁶ *CFA is Financial Cooperation in Central Africa and the official legal tender of the CEMAC region issued by BEAC to serve the six-member states of CEMAC which was introduced to the French colonies in Equatorial Africa in 1945 replace the French Equatorial African Franc.*

commitment from the member states. This posed major challenges to the organisation. In order to rectify this, there was a debate regarding the establishment of a new institution which would reinforce economic, monetary and financial integration.

UDEAC member states therefore went on to the signing of a treaty to create an economic union which was aimed at promoting the regional integration process through the establishment of a monetary union with the use of the central Africa CFA franc as a single currency. The outcome led to CEMAC in March 1994 in N'Djamena, Chad, in line with the revival of economic and social integration ventures which were sweeping across the African continent. The Malabo declaration in 1999 marked the official announcement of CEMAC following its ratification and adoption of an action plan under this declaration.

3.2 THE ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF CEMAC

CEMAC being an economic organisation is compared with other regional organisations such as IOC, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, COMESA, SACU, GGC, G5 SAHEL and COMIFAC which all exist to promote African unity, peace, stability, economic and social development. All these organisations foster development trends in the African continent thus CEMAC is not different from any other regional body in African since it operates on the same basis of promoting development through economic and social integration.

CEMAC, acting as a major regional organisation within the central African region, is a major lever within these countries since it encompasses a body which helps to regulate economic and monetary policies with an ultimate goal to establish a central African common market. However, CEMAC is not aimed just at economic or monetary policies development, it is also working on establishing a common market and plays a role in maintaining peace, security and stability in central Africa. These are essential prerequisites for economic and social development and not forgetting the development the culture of human integration within the region and the world at large.

CEMAC is considered to be one of the most structured of all the members of the African Regional Economic Community (REC's¹⁷) which is built on policies and measures aimed at fostering regional, economic and financial integration among all member states. Some of the institutional structures were adopted from UDEAC but are meant to be more complicated. The

¹⁷ *REC is referred to Regional Economic Community which is built on several policies and measures to promote regional, economic and financial integration amongst member states.*

CEMAC treaty identifies the Central African Economic Union (UEAC¹⁸), the Central African Monetary Union (UMAC¹⁹), the Parliament and the Court of Justice as the main institutions to promote harmonization of member states. Other principal organs were created to help achieve CEMAC's objectives. These include: the CEMAC commission, the councils of ministers, inter-state committee, BEAC, Central African Banking Commission (COBAC²⁰) and the Institution de Financement du Development.

The conference of heads of states is the greatest body of the community which consist of political leaders of CEMAC member states who are known to be the highest decision-making power of the institution. They act by means of supplementary acts and often come together yearly to discuss regional and institutional issues and the granting of access to new members. This conference also determines the policies which governs the community and the actions of the UEAC and UMAC structures. At this conference, heads of various organs are elected with the exception of development bank for central African states otherwise referred to Banque de Developpement des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (BDEAC²¹) in French. The UEAC and UMAC are considered to be the organisation's two pillars and have clearly outlined missions. UEAC is headed by the council of ministers and confined to at most three representatives from each member state which meets twice a year. UMAC which is the monetary unit is run by a ministerial committee which is made up of two ministers from each member state delegated by the minister of finance and is headed by a president who is appointed annually.

¹⁸ *UEAC is the Central African Economic Union is an economic integration pillar for the CEMAC region which strengthen the competitiveness of economic and financial activities, convergence on sustainable performance by coordinating economic policies and making national budgetary policies consistent with the common monetary policy and create a common market for the freedom of movement of goods, services, capital and persons and establish the coordination of national sectorial policies, implement common actions and adopt common policies particularly in areas such as agriculture, fishing, tourism, trade, livestock, transport and community land, large scale infrastructure, telecommunications, ICT., social dialogue, gender issues, good governance and human rights*

¹⁹ *UMAC is the Central African Monetary Union which aims to consolidate the achievements of monetary cooperation based on a common currency, the CFA francs and a common central Bank, the BEAC*

²⁰ *COBAC is the Central African Banking Commission, created by the convention of 16 October 1990 is the supervisory body for all credit institutions and microfinance institution in the CEMAC*

²¹ *BDEAC is the Development Bank for Central African States was created in December 3. 1975 with headquarters in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo which is a multilateral development bank in charged with financing the development of member states of CEMAC*

The court of justice made up of a judicial chamber and an auditing chamber (known in French as chambre des comptes), is not only responsible for issues related to compliance but it is as well responsible for regulating CEMAC accounts and that of the parliament. The parliament on the other hand which was elected in 2004 following an inter-parliamentary commission formed in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June 2000 is in charge of regulating the regional institutions therefore it is aimed at promoting regional integration at a political level. Following its transformation in 2007 from the executive secretariat, the CEMAC commission was created by the heads of state on the framework of the EU commission to strengthen the CEMAC organisation.

3.3 Organisational Structure of The CEMAC Commission

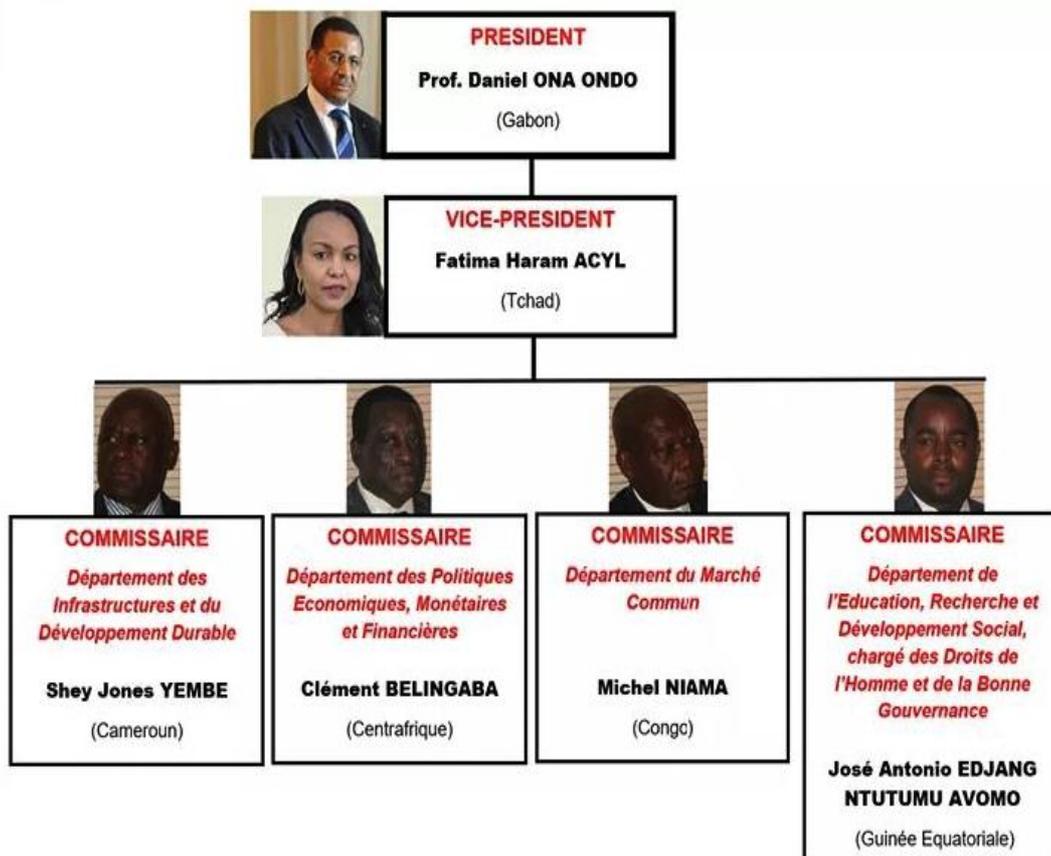


Figure V: Organisational structure of the CEMAC Commission

Source : Social media page, CEMAC Commission

Based on the organisational structure depicted above on the figure V, the CEMAC commission is headed by a president from Gabon: Professor Daniel Ona Ondo and a Vice-President from

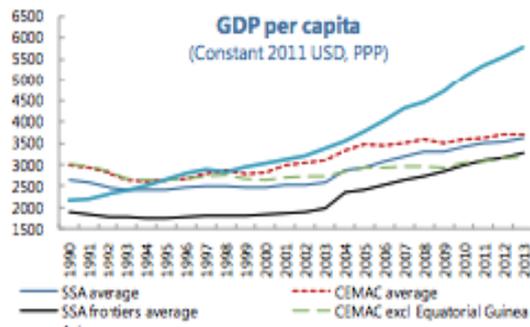
Chad, Fatima Haram Acyl. With four commissioners from the other CEMAC member countries such as the commissioner of the department of infrastructure and sustainable development; Shey Jones Yembe from Cameroon, commissioner of the department of politics, economy, monetary and finance; Clément Blingaba from the Republic of Central Africa, commissioner of the department of common markets; Michel Niama from the Republic of the Congo and commissioner of educational research and social development in charge of human rights and good governance; José Antonio Edjang Ntutumu Avomo from the Republic of Guinea Equatorial. All these various organs and operatives work in collaboration to see the smooth functioning of the CEMAC commission.

3.4 The Economic climate of CEMAC

As reported by IMF (2015), the average growth rate of CEMAC has been unsatisfactory and the economic growth in CEMAC is lagging. This demonstrates that, from the past two decades, average growth rate in CEMAC has been slower than the average of entire sub-Saharan African (SSA)²². These accounts for many CEMAC member states to aspire reaching emerging country status within the next two decades. On the other hand, CEMAC member states can be comparable to sub-Sahara African emerging market frontier economies and to certain groups of Asian countries. Average per capita income in SSA, African frontier economies and Asian peers have risen steadily. The average per capita (GDP) in CEMAC has grown more modestly since the early 2000, as illustrated in the chart below (the upper right panel which states and shows the country disaggregation). Average CEMAC per capita growth largely stems from the oil boom in Equatorial Guinea as shown in figure VI. However, since 2005 and despite the oil prices, CEMAC experienced a stalled convergence process towards SSA income level with per capita income gap remaining at 30 per cent, a tendency maintained until recently. Therefore between 2000 and 2013, the average per capita real GDP growth in CEMAC was 1.4 percentage points slower than the SSA frontier countries (middle right panel of the figure VI on the next page).

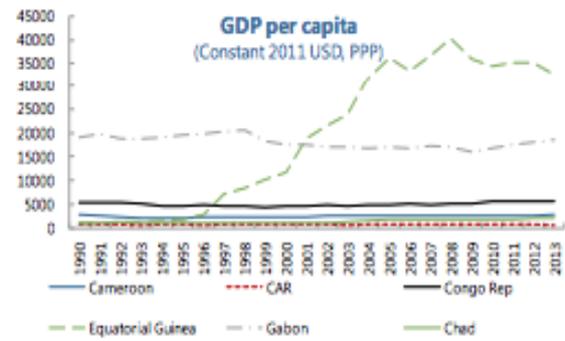
²² SSA refers to the sub-Saharan African countries such as Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger and Nigeria.

Average per capita GDP growth in CEMAC was slower than in most comparator countries in the past two decades.



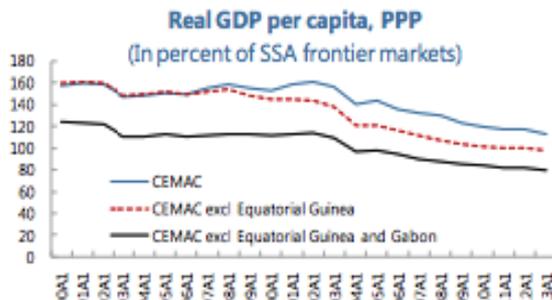
Sources: IMF WEO, WDI

However, there were important disparities among CEMAC countries.



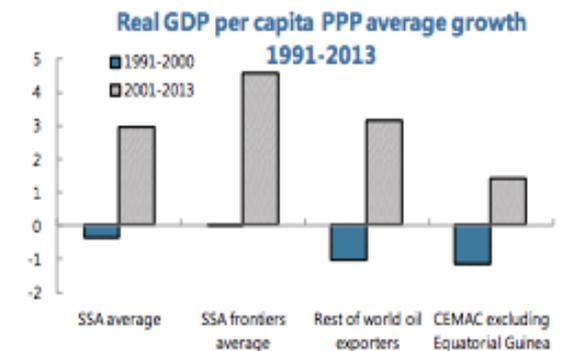
Sources: IMF WEO, WDI

With the exception of Equatorial Guinea, the income differential with frontier economies declined from 160 percent to 100 percent because of the faster growth in frontiers economies.



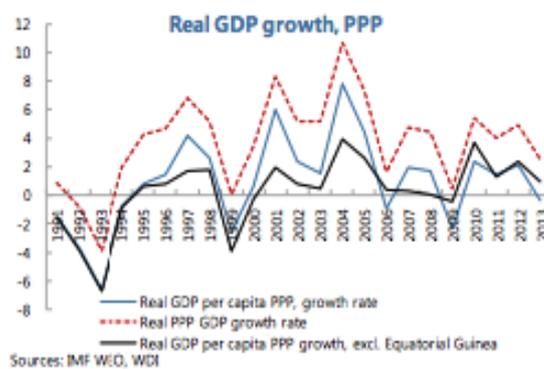
Sources: IMF WEO, WDI

CEMAC's per capita GDP growth was slower than in frontier markets or the SSA average and the gap widened in the last decade.



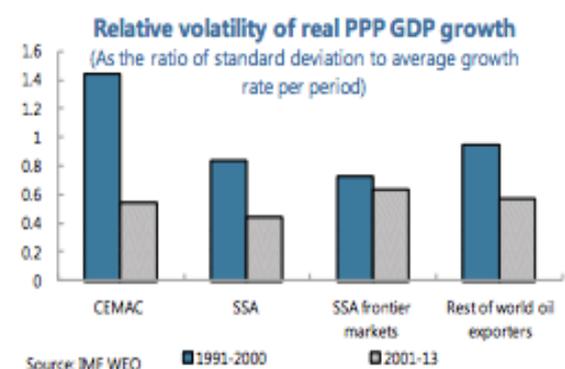
Source: WDI

The growth rate has been volatile, reflecting oil price volatility.



Sources: IMF WEO, WDI

Volatility in CEMAC was higher than in peer countries, but in line with other oil producers.



Source: IMF WEO

Figure VI: CEMAC's Governance and Business Climate Profile

Source: World Bank Doing Business Indicators Database.

Oil sector performance explains rapid per capita growth in Equatorial Guinea and the severe contraction of the Gabonese economy in 1993. Gabon underwent an economic recession in 1999 with real GDP contracted by 9.6 per cent. This reflected a drop in oil output by 11.4 per cent with an estimated 8.9 per cent decline in real non-oil GDP which was caused by a sharp contraction in activity in the non-oil sector due to drastic cuts in the public investment program and weak performance of the public corporate sector and as well a lackadaisical attitude of the private sector.

Furthermore, the CEMAC’s competitiveness challenge has rated CEMAC’s limited progress in business climate reforms which had an impact on its overall competitiveness. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has developed a competitiveness index which is closely related to countries productivity. Based on WEF²³ 2014-2015 Global Competitiveness (GCI) rank three CEMAC members (Gabon, Cameroon and Chad) respectively appeared on the following position 105, 115 and 145 of 143 countries. The CEMAC average rank would be 121 of 143 countries as show below (figure VII).

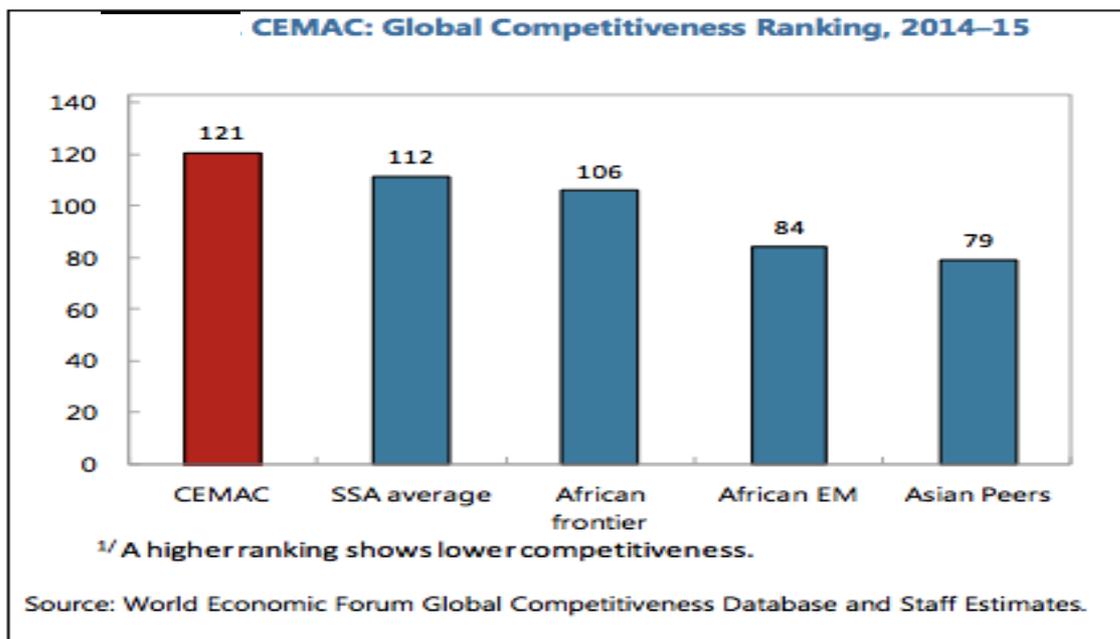


Figure VII: CEMAC Global Competitiveness Ranking 2014-2015

Source: World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Database and Staff Estimates

²³ *WEF is the World Economic Forum is an independent international non-profit foundation committed to improving the state of the world by engaging in business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas and was founded in 1971 with headquarters in Switzerland*

The CEMAC region has experienced an unsatisfactory economic growth, making up only about 4.1 per cent of Africa's total GDP²⁴. The countries of this bloc have been hit hard by a series of severe shocks: a sharp decline in oil prices, civil conflicts in some parts, refugees flow and droughts. The economic growth is at its lowest level in twenty years. The regional international reserves have declined rapidly to cover only two months of imports and have led to macroeconomic challenges which the IMF²⁵ is working closely to address. Recognizing the urgency of this situation, the heads of states met in December 2016 in Yaoundé²⁶, and so they decided to restore the conditions for macroeconomics stability and growth through concerted effort by appealing to IMF for help and support with an agreement that each member state not already under a fund-supported program would urgently seek assistance of the fund to support their adjustments efforts. As a result, the IMF executive board recently approved financial assistance for Gabon, Cameroon and Chad and with discussions underway for the Republic of Congo and Equatorial Guinea. This support will help to restore macroeconomic and debt sustainability, reform the management of public resources to strengthen transparency and diversify the economies while protecting social spending. The programme approval from the IMF executive board approves 642 million dollars for Gabon which was for the extended arrangement under the extended fund facility (EFF), 666.2 million dollars for Cameroon which was for arrangement under the extended credit facility (ECF) and 312.1 million dollars for Chad which was an arrangement under the ECF.

The member states have all experienced a different degree of development. Cameroon distinguishes itself as the most populated country with almost twenty-four million inhabitants and the largest economy in the region accounting for about 32 per cent of the region's total GDP. Furthermore, with the smallest population of over seven hundred thousand inhabitants,

²⁴ **GDP** refers to the Gross Domestic Product which is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a period either quarterly or yearly of time, this is certainly referred to in terms of production of a country within a certain period.

²⁵ **IMF** is the International Monetary Fund which is an international organization with headquarter in Washington DC, United States of America and consist of 189 countries working to foster global monetary cooperation's, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth. This institution was form in 1945 at the Bretton Woods Conference.

²⁶ **Yaoundé** is the political capital of the Republic of Cameroon and it has a population of approximately 2.5 million and the second largest city after the port city or economic capital Douala. This city is the home of the Central Bank of CAMAC that is BEAC.

Equatorial Guinea is known to be the highest oil exporting country in the region and third in the sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria and Angola, making up the second largest economy in the region with a GDP of over 15 billion and accounting for almost 20 per cent of the GDP in the region. The lowest in terms of GDP is the CAR with a GDP per capita of 470 billion US dollar and the country's annual GDP accounts for only 2.8 per cent of the total GDP in the region and amount of almost 2.1 billion US dollar, scoring a rank as one of the least developed countries in the world based on the human development index (HDI²⁷). Despite these figures and overlooking the differences from one-member state to another, the economic outlook across the region is very promising. In addition, the percentages of foreign direct investment in the region has significantly improved compared to the 80's and 90's era with countries such as Chad obtaining a total of about 900 million US dollars in 2002.

Furthermore, the financial system of the CEMAC region remains highly underdeveloped and predominantly overshadowed. The banking sphere has a total of 38 active banks in the region that is twelve banks in Cameroon, three banks in Central African Republic, seven banks in Chad, five banks in Republic of Congo, four banks in Equatorial Guinea and seven banks in Gabon. The distribution in terms of number and financial capacity is uneven thus this is greatly influenced by foreign banks which hold a significant percentage (up to 65 per cent) of the region's banking assets.

In addition, this region has increased trade relations with other African regions, the US and Asia. However, the EU remains the largest trading partner of CEMAC member states, hence trade with EU makes up approximately 40 per cent of all exports and 60 per cent of all imports. In spite of these statistics, there are trade restrictions in the region, characterised by costly border procedures. Hence the inadequate structural reforms and the lack of uniformity in the CEMAC regulations restrict external and internal trade with the region, coupled with the fact that the exported products of the region are limited and are usually natural or unprocessed agricultural produces. Intra-community trade within the region remains significantly low compared to other regional organisations in the continent and with the introduction of a single currency. However, increase in trade and commercial exchanges between member states is

²⁷ *HDI is the Human Development Index was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country not economic growth alone. Its composite statistics or index of life expectancy, education and per capita income are indicators used to rank countries into four tiers of human development*

based on Mundell's OCA theory²⁸ suggestions, thus intra-regional trade in the CEMAC zone accounts for only 0.8 per cent of total trade. Meanwhile its trade with the ECOWAS²⁹ and with the rest of Africa is significantly higher that is 1.4 and 3.2 per cent respectively. CEMAC's trade within itself is low in comparison to other regional bodies on the continent.

The year of 2017 marked a great turn for Africa through the fifth AU-EU Summit which took place on November 29 to 30, 2017 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. This summit brought together EU³⁰ and African leaders to define the future direction for cooperation between the two continents. This summit focused on youth development, peace and security, good governance including democracy, human rights, migration and mobility, investment and trade, skills development and job creation. Emphasis on youths which is essential in building African socioeconomic development, since Africa arises with an overwhelming population of youths and the consequences of migrant movements. The AU which encompasses all regional organisations in Africa brought the leaders of CEMAC together with other leaders in African countries and that of Europe to deliberate on a two-day summit on issues plaguing in the African continent. The summit stressed the youth question and problems of unemployment which have pushed movement creating the migrant's crisis across the African continent and the rise of insurgency. This AU-EU summit came in a right time when the CEMAC region is facing threats from the terrorist group Boko Haram³¹. This has significant setbacks on the regional organisation and straining CEMAC security which is not sufficient for its population. As a result of this summit, the leaders will revert to their respective countries with a fresher ideology on how to restart the

²⁸ **Mundell's OCA theory** also known as the optimum currency area is a geographical region in which it would maximize economic efficiency to have the entire region share a single currency that is the optimal characteristics for the merger of currencies or creation of a new currency. This theory was pioneered by economist Robert Mundell whom was the originator of the idea.

²⁹ **ECOWAS** is Economic Community of West African States located in western African regions and head quarter in Abuja, Nigeria and a regional economic union of fifteen countries and was established by the Treaty of Lagos in 1975 which goes to promote economic integration in all field of economic activities

³⁰ **EU** is the European Union which is a political and economic union of 28-member states that are located primarily in Europe, with capital in Brussels, Belgium and its formation date back from 1958 with the Treaty of Rome which expands the formation of a common union amongst member states

³¹ **Boko Haram** is an Islamic extremist group based in northeaster Nigeria, also active in Chad, Niger and Northern Cameroon, was found in 2002. Increased radically in July 2009 and involve in suicide bombings of police building and the United Nations office in Abuja, Nigeria in 2011 and has carried out mass abduction like the 276 Chibok school girls

development process which has been slow and by so doing, they will have to engage the youths to achieve some of their developmental plan like the 2035 development plan of Cameroon which envisage and predicts the country emergence in 2035.

3.5.1 CEMAC and International Relations

The world evolves into a single highly interconnected global market. At such prosperity no longer depends just on a country's productivity but on its strategic choices of trading partners, export products and policies. This growth in recent years has been helped by advances in trade, policies, the regulatory environment and regional integration. China and India are ranked African 8th and 9th largest trading partners in 2000 which today are the continents first and second places. With CEMAC free trade area and the continent at large, it's becoming a single free trade area.

Based on OECD³² reports, trade between African and the world has expanded four-fold with Africa enjoying a steady increase in service trade and the EU remains Africa's biggest trading partner. Nevertheless, the member countries of the OAU in 1991 signed a treaty in Abuja establishing African economic community (AEC) to primarily provide the guiding principles and goals and a framework for regional integration.

With the current trends, the president of the CEMAC commission, on March 12, 2018 on a working session was in Brussels to re-launch discussions on the African Caribbean and Pacific group (ACP³³) with the EU. Professor Daniel Ona Ondo had meetings with the Ambassador of the Republic of Chad, United Kingdom and permanent representative to the EU and the ACP group. The regional indicative programme and the problems of representation of CEMAC in the EU in Brussels was made known. The EU, and France in particular, which is the main trading partner with most of the African countries especially within the CEMAC region and the United States, and with favourable natural resources endowments, economic growth has been low and volatile though slight improvements have been made since the devaluation of the

³² *OECD is the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development which is an intergovernmental economic organization with 36-member countries founded in 1962 with headquarter in Paris, France, stimulates economic progress and world trade which provides a platform to compare policies experience, seeking answers to common problems, identify good practices and coordinate domestic and international policies of its members*

³³ *ACP is the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States is an organization created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975 with headquarter in Brussels, Belgium which is composed of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific States which binds them to the European Union*

Franc CFA and related reforms initiated. Based on an overview by the ECDPM (2006)³⁴ with the emphasis of regional EPA negotiations, the analysis of the trade flows growth between 2004 -2005 on EU-bound export is about 23.7% summing to 5.393 million euro, while imports from the EU grows to 9.8% summing to 3,421 million euro which brought about a trade balance of -1,972 million euro shows a trade deficit. The share for agriculture in trade both on EU-bound exports and imports from the EU was 10% and 15% respectively. The participation in EU trades both EU-bound export and import from the EU was 0.32% and 0.46%. These results clearly state that the main trading partners in 2003, in exports are United States which occupies 34%, EU 33%, China 14% and other 19%. On the other hand, imports for the EU, United States and others recorded 54%, 9% and 32% respectively. The results show that more imports are coming from EU. Nevertheless, the African growth and opportunity act (AGOA³⁵) illustrated that the Central African states benefits from preferential and non-reciprocal access to the US market for a significant share of their export. Thus, these various liberalization initiatives are meant to be convergent and complementary and contributing towards the integration of the central African states into the world economy.

Besides the EU and the United States, other partners include China and India. China is changing the configuration of power relations in Africa through the support to sustained economic growth. According to Taylor (2006), China's oil diplomacy has the primary intent of securing China's oil supply and such affects the West which though China's growing interest and how the western states can adapt some of their conditional forms of lending and foreign policy to appear more attractive to African partners.

Global health threats also play a role on new security threats, development challenges and model of governance. The fast spread of human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS³⁶) demonstrated Africa's centrality in international relations including global health policies. Over the 33 million people in the world living with

³⁴ *ECDPM (2010) Overview -Regional - EPA negotiation, the Central Africa-EU Economic Partnership Agreement*

³⁵ *AGOA is the African Growth and Opportunity Act is a piece of legislation that was approved by the U. S Congress in May 2000 with a purpose to assist the economies of sub-Saharan Africa and to improve economic relations between the United States and the Regions.*

³⁶ *HIV/AIDS is the Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a spectrum of conditions caused by infection with the human immune system where the virus spread through the human system causing the immune system to be weaker and prone to infection.*

HIV/AIDS, the majority (22 million) lives in sub-Saharan African. Hence considerable amounts of global aid spending on responding to the disease are directed to Africa. Nevertheless, a galvanizing factor in the attention paid to HIV/AIDS in international relations has been its prominence in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs³⁷). The unprecedented financial backing that the continent has received from the international community has put Africa at the centre of the international development agenda. Global health issues led to the establishment of new institutions such as the global fund to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, UNITAID³⁸ and global alliance for vaccines (GAVI³⁹Alliance) and has generated attention from new philanthropists such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Therefore, HIV/AIDS have made significant contributions to international relations in the field of security studies and global governance.

On these different issues, CEMAC offers a deep insight. Regional organisations such as CEMAC are challenging the notion of the state and of governance, liberal assumptions about the nature of international system, African realities and international relation analytical constructs.

³⁷ *MDGs stands for the Millennium Development Goals which are eight measurable targets for international development goals for the year 2015 that hand been established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000 to improve the lives of the world's poorest people.*

³⁸ *UNITAID is the global health initiative that is working in partners to end the world's tuberculosis, HIV/AIDSs, Malaria, and Hepatitis C epidemics. Founded in 2006; Its drives innovation to end pandemics and promotes access to the best health care.*

³⁹ *GAVI is the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization is an international coalition of partners including national governments, international organizations such as UNICEF, WHO and World Bank which all build upon the work of the earlier children's vaccine initiative and increase immunization in poor countries.*

Chapter Four

4.1 Socio-economic development of CEMAC with the rising aspect

To better understand the socioeconomic development of CEMAC the researcher used the final report of CEMAC 2025 regional economic programme better known by its French acronym PER⁴⁰ (meaning Programme Economique Régional 2010-2025) which will lead CEMAC towards an integrated and emerging regional economy. The report analysis CEMAC vision 2025 which embodies a strong ambition to transform the region. The heads of state have committed themselves by adopting the CEMAC institutional reform programme for 2006-2008 and this includes the elaboration of a regional economic program (PER) from 2010-2025 which is the major tool for transforming the economy of the region to create the conditions for the competitiveness of countries and enterprises in the framework for regional integration open to Africa and the world.

The growth engine of CEMAC's development would be identified as long-term performance of the CEMAC economies, major trends of performance of CEMAC, vision 2025, and macroeconomic framework community. However, emphasis will be place on the vision 2025 to better analysis the socio-economic development of CEMAC.

4.2 The 2025 vision of CEMAC

The vision of CEMAC on the 2025 horizon is to look for a point of balance between the desirable and the achievable. This horizon is based on socio-economic diagnosis of the sub-region. Both its achievements as well as its weakness are taken in consideration, as well as the aspirations of the African continent countries as expressed by the AU with regards to pan-African integration. There is a prediction of the envisaged scenarios by 2025 and, on this basis, trajectories to the possible futures are set up.

The 2025 vision of the CEMAC corresponds to the objectives of the governments and public decision-makers. These were recorded in accordance with the population and civil society during the circular missions of the PER operational team in the countries of the sub-region.

⁴⁰ *PER is the Regional Economic Program which as adopted by the CEMAC commission to lead and transform the economy of the CEMAC regions toward an integrated and emerging regional economy between a time period from 2010 to 2025*

Looking in that context, the economic diversification and emergence are the major expectations of the countries that are included in their national development plans. Furthermore, all states have the will to contribute to sustainable growth with a significant impact on poverty, the level of social development and achievement of the MDGs. The main principles affirmed in the preamble of the revised treaty of the community in regard to the ambition of the AU provides the political foundation for the vision of the future of CEMAC. On the basis of the community which has set itself a new vision to establish CEMAC in 2025 as an emerging integrated economic area where security, solidarity and good governance reign at the service of human development.

The choice of emergence is a deliberate choice to promote regional integration, development, better macroeconomic variables and a break with past trends of slow progress in African countries or REC in Africa in the protection, inward-oriented policies of their economies. In the aspect of the PER which is to lead, aimed not only to provide an adapted and coordinated response of the CEMAC region in the face of the current financial crisis but to give prospects for accelerated and sustainable growth over long term to each member state. In this respect, it must allow the establishment of secure, well-governed regional environment capable of fostering the emergence of a dynamic private sector and creator of wealth and employment at the service of the population. Furthermore, the emergence must result in a real break in the growth dynamic that CEMAC has experienced so far with the transition to more sustained growth, more regular and based on stronger foundations. Over the last two decades, CEMAC's growth rate has averaged 4.8 per cent per year due to a cyclical growth linked to the discovery of new deposits and fluctuations in oil prices. With a better valuation of its potential, CEMAC aim to move to an average double-digit growth over the period 2010-2025 that is 10 per cent per year. But this sustainable double-digit growth requires the establishment of prerequisites in a particular environment sufficiently attractive to boost private investment. An average growth of about 8 per cent is expected during a first preparatory stage (2010-2015) before moving to the real phase of emergence during the decade 2016-2025 with an average annual growth of around 11 per cent.

4.3 A triple power: Energy sector, Green economy (agriculture and forest economy) and metallurgical economy.

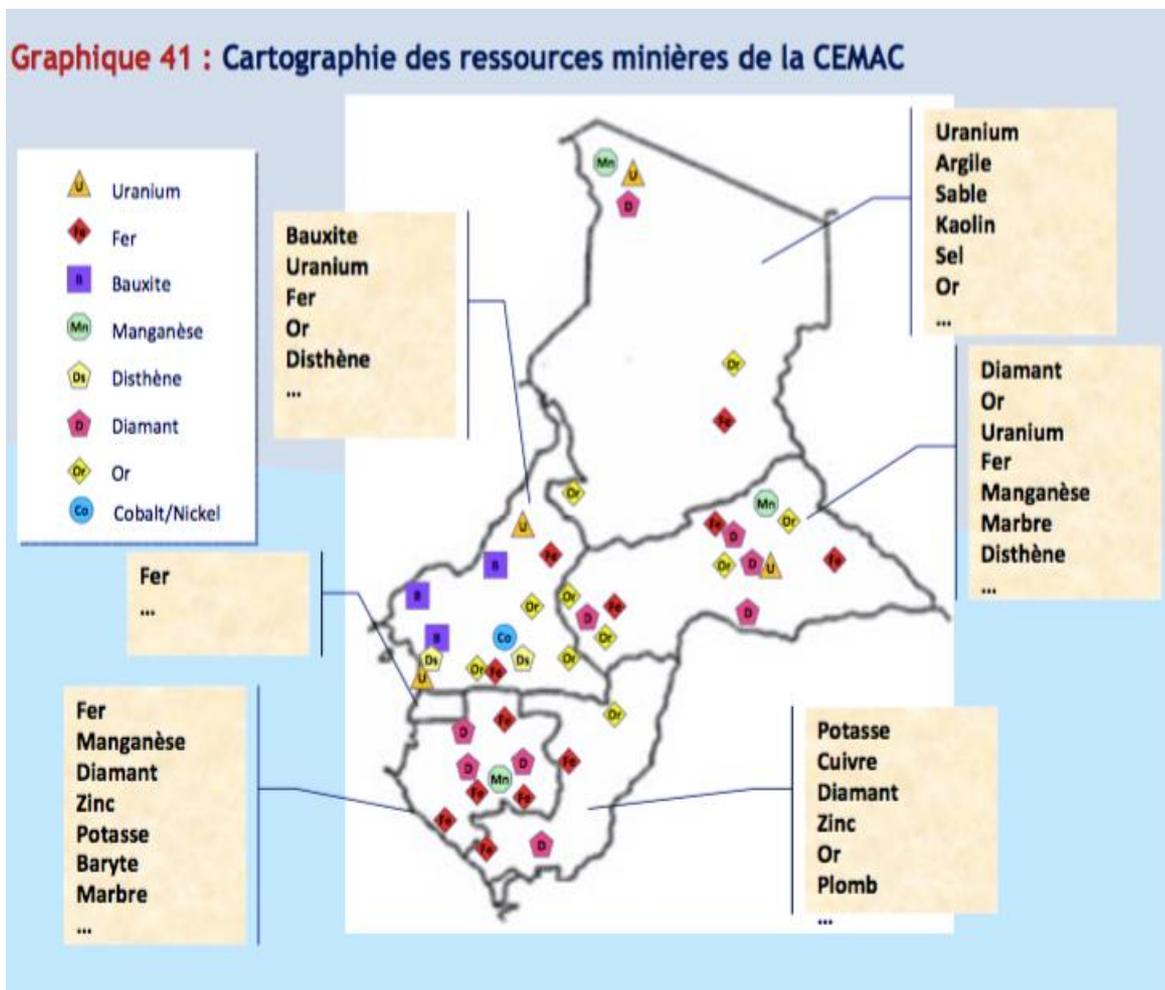


Figure VIII: Cartography of Mineral resource in the CEMAC

Source: PER. CEMAC

The economy of CEMAC is today based on one foot: its raw material. This foot is fragile because raw materials are generally exported to volatile international markets, based on international market prices which sometimes are unstable. This economy is dependent on raw material exportation and its revenue. Based on the analysis of its sources of growth show that CEMAC has the capacity to transform its economy in a fundamental way and consolidate the bases of its growth. Through the PER, the energy pillar will be strengthened considerably rather than a simple export of its hydrocarbons.

CEMAC commits to a strong valuation of all its energy and raw material to become self-sufficient. An exporter of electricity, refined petroleum products and gas which will help to position itself as a significant player in the dynamic market. In short, CEMAC will progressively evolve towards a regional energy power. The energy division will constitute less than half the size of its economy in 2025.

Indeed, two other pillars will emerge gradually, which will finally allow CEMAC diversify the basis of its growth;

- ⇒ First of all, agriculture and the forest economy were the diversified potential of resources (forest, arable land and sea) will be fully exploited while preserving the environment making CEMAC one of the pioneering regions in the green economy.
- ⇒ The other economic pillar of CEMAC 2025 will be the metallurgical pole that is for both bauxite and iron products. CEMAC has the potential to not only take a share of the global market for intermediate products with the support of major groups such as Rio Tinto / Alucam in aluminum, Eramet / Comilog in iron-manganese but to become a major player in regional market for processed products taking advantage of the region's vast development potential such as the ECCAS, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Angola and Nigeria, thereby promoting the emergence of a dynamic fabric of local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in this sector.

This diversification will reflect a profound change in the economies of CEMAC which will gradually move from savings based on one or two basic activities with low added value especially the exploitation of raw materials to a diversified activity with high added value which now embodies the processing of the raw materials as shown on Figure IX.

Graphique 18 : CEMAC 2025, la mutation d'une économie à faible ajoutée (exploitation des matières premières) vers une économie à forte valeur ajoutée (transformation des matières premières)



Figure IX: CEMAC 2025: Shift from a low to a high value-added economy.

Source: PER, CEMAC

CEMAC aims to position itself in 2025 as a gateway to the regional market and a competitive export platform to Europe and the Middle East in the energy section, the green economy and the metallurgical sector. CEMAC will have companies able to produce competitively and export both in regional markets and in the global markets.

At the regional level, the priority target market is not limited to the CEMAC market which is made up of 51 million inhabitants. This market remains relatively small and can hardly favour only the emergence within the CEMAC. A rich and dynamic fabric competitive company at

such a large market is needed. In this respect, CEMAC is fortunate to benefit from a strategic position with immediate neighbours of large potential markets particularly in the West, Nigerian, North Libya, Sudan and the DRC and Angola. The community of central African states (CEEAC)⁴¹ which includes all CEMAC countries on one side and DRC, Angola, Burundi and São Tome and Principe on the other side, is a market of around 129 million inhabitants. Nigeria which is close to CEMAC shares 1690 kilometres of common border represents a strategic market. In 2025, CEMAC economy will have to take a full advantage of an immediate regional market of about 260 million inhabitants including ECCAS and Nigeria. And from there it intends to radiate beyond to west, north African, east Africa and the middle East. Toward these markets, CEMAC companies will be present in all three pillars in 2025 with electricity which will be exported to Nigeria, petrochemical fertilizers, refined petroleum products and LPG, various metal products especially for construction and finally in the green economy, processed tropical products such a fruit juice, fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, aquaculture products, meat, wood furniture. Beyond this, CEMAC companies will also be able to position themselves competitively in certain niches of the world market. Particularly in Europe due to proximity of the European market and the historical and economic links with trade flows and partnership agreements which will make CEMAC an excellent export platform to Europe. The Chinese, Indian and Malaysian markets will be also captured. The chart the next page figure X illustrates the priority target market for CEMAC companies by 2025.

⁴¹ CEEAC is the Economic Community of Central African States is established in 1983 with the members of UDEAC, Soa Tome and Principe, which was established in Libreville, Gabon.

Graphique 19 : Marchés cibles de la CEMAC à l'horizon 2025

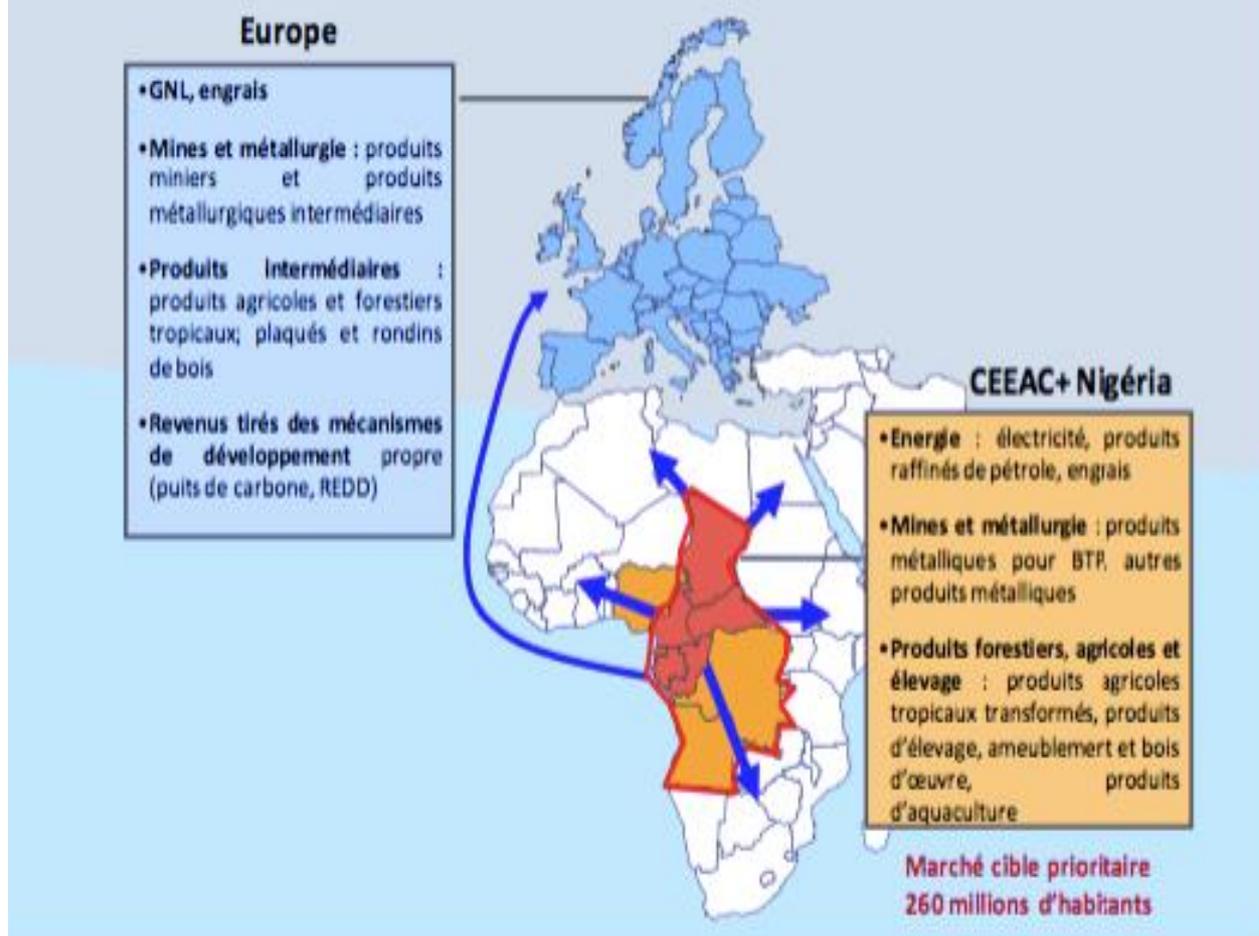


Figure X: Targeted Markets of CEMAC by 2025.

Source: PER, CEMAC

The chart above figure X elaborates how CEMAC will expand its potential to the various markets such as in the energy, mines and metallurgical, agricultural products be it within Africa and more especial the about 260 million inhabitants of the CEEAC and Nigeria in the African continent. Furthermore, the energy, mines and metallurgical, revenue for developments, intermediate products and fertilizers would capture the European market based on the 2025 vision of CEMAC.

4.4 A dynamic private sector

Socio-economic development will not take place without the private sector left aside. At such the challenges of the economic emergence is also the same in all member states to have a

dynamic private sector. The emergence will not be left in the hands of the multi-national companies. Multi-national companies or large companies will deliver the economy of CEMAC in the hands of foreign interest. A strategy implemented with this world class group is aimed at matching the local players to a competitive value chain in business clusters, thanks to the partnership of actors who master it. The emergence of a dynamic local private sector managing a rich and diversified fabric SMEs in support and service industries will lead to the creation of thousands of jobs. The current business fabric of CEMAC appears very limited and outside Cameroon and to certain extends Gabon. The private sector is very small and limited to the few multinational companies operating in the exploitation of major raw material such as hydrocarbons, mines and timber. The state derives a rent and tax revenue that allows it to function and ensure its sovereign missions as a result, the number of private jobs is extremely low and with the state being the main employer in most member states. The challenges of the economic emergence are the development of a diversified economy with the search of gradual mastery of value creation processes by soliciting the partnerships of reference operators will build diversification activities and support for installation of a network of companies offering variety of jobs. As time goes by, these companies will become more competitive with international competitors and will demand ever high levels of qualification. Hence the need to support the development of these sector through a dynamic and flexible system of training and learning that will lead to investment in human capital. CEMAC has neither the sufficiently qualified workforce nor the training institutions that can support the development of its sectoral pillars. Strengthening this human capital by 2015 is an imperative to initiate a real dynamic of emergence.

Average proportion of goods exports in CEMAC countries' nominal GDP			
	<i>as a percentage</i>		
	1987-1993	1994-2000	2001-2006
Cameroon	16.2	20.5	18.7
Central African Republic	10.1	16.3	11.6
Republic of the Congo	42.4	66.4	76.5
Gabon	39.4	55.6	56.4
Equatorial Guinea	29.8	82.1	99.2
Chad	11.0	14.6	36.0
CEMAC	23.6	36.1	44.8

Source: Monetary Planning Department, BEAC

Figure XI: Average proportion of goods exports in CEMAC countries

Source: Monetary planning Department, BEAC

The figure XI on previous page depicts the limited access to finance well known in CEMAC due to many structural factors. Moreover, an analysis of the cumulating exports of goods and services has given similar results and trends that the proportion of flow in relation to CEMAC's nominal GDP increased from 23.6 per cent in 1987 to 1993 to 36.1 per cent in 1994 to 2000 and to 44.8 on 2001 to 2006 per cent during the period under review. Such service export remained stable at around 4 per cent GDP over the entire period.

Moreover, the average structure of goods exported from CEMAC countries show the diversification of the economy is not dependent on oil and gas sector only with Cameroon that managed to maintain an identical export base of eight products as shown below on figure XII.

Average structure of goods exports from CEMAC countries		<i>As a percentage</i>		
		1987-1993	1994-2000	2001-2006
Cameroon	Crude oil	53	42	53
	Cocoa	10	10	11
	Coffee	10	8	3
	Cotton	5	6	6
	Wood	11	22	17
	Aluminium	6	7	6
	Bananas	3	4	3
	Natural rubber	2	3	2
Central African Republic	Cotton	10	14	4
	Diamonds	57	48	45
	Coffee	12	10	1
	Tobacco	2	0	0
	Wood	13	28	50
Republic of Congo	Crude oil	83	92	92
	Petroleum products	2	1	1
	Tropical wood	12	5	6
	Eucalyptus logs	2	2	0
	Sugar	1	1	1
Gabon	Crude oil	76	80	85
	Manganese	9	5	5
	Uranium	4	1	0
	Wood	11	14	10
Equatorial Guinea	Crude oil	15	75	92
	Methanol and other gases	0	0	6
	Wood	57	22	2
	Cocoa	27	2	0
	Coffee	1	0	0
Chad	Cotton fibre	61	57	19
	Livestock	39	43	30
	Oil	0	0	51

Source: Monetary Planning Department, BEAC

Figure XII: Average Structure of goods and exports from CEMAC countries

Source: Monetary planning Department, BEAC

The figure XII on the previous page indicates that the various economies are dynamic since they are not fully dependent in just the oil and gas sector but there is a dynamic private sector which goes to the agricultural sector to diversify the economies of the CEMAC countries. Even though the CEMAC economies are characterized by a low level of diversification, the different experiences in the CEMAC region have varied from country to country. Most countries have managed to direct their conventional exports towards new more dynamic and expanding sectors which reach its peak in 1988 when the CEMAC economies concentrated in export diversification.

4.5 Provision with high level of food security.

CEMAC must therefore develop strategies to ensure high level of food sovereignty in the coming decade for many reasons since there is a rapid population growth, strong and continuous urbanization, low agricultural labour force, increasing instability of agricultural commodity prices, risk of increasing the cost of food imports due to increasing scarcity of agricultural land in the face of a growing and increasing urbanized world population. At such, priority is being given to security sustainable food and the promotion of trades and transformation know-how traditional and artisanal intermediate. The challenge for CEMAC is therefore to improve food security by ensuring that every household has access to food of sufficient quantity and quality and to improve the purchasing power. It is not only that CEMAC must ensure a diversified and sufficient food production, but it must equip itself with the means for the population to reach there, that is access routes to cereal production zones and system of distribution of the agricultural production, regional markets for agricultural products, people's purchasing power, trading systems in the event of national shortages. With this problem of food security, CEMAC is willing to solve through the ambition to ensure its self-sufficiency in food products such as cereals like rice, maize and millet, tuber such as cassava, yams and potatoes, fresh vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, cabbage. It is also intended to supply the local regional market especially large markets such as the DRC and Nigeria. In long term, CEMAC has the means to position itself as a dry cereal production zone like the Asian or American countries in the sectors such as rice, millet, maize, peas and soybeans. CEMAC has an objective for cereals and protein crop sector to export between 150, 000 to 200 000 tones of cereal and protein crops per year based on the forecast of the PER program and 2025 vision.

4.6 Youths, Music and CEMAC

Socio-economic development cannot be looked up without the influence of the present generation which is made up of the youths. With the enormous youthful population of the African continent and ever-growing youthful population, it is no doubt to clearly state that the CEMAC has its own proportion of this youth as these youths have been located at the centre of opportunities and challenges in the Africa continent. The number of youths keeps growing faster which shows clearly that over seventy per cent of African population is made up of youths which are between the ages of 15 to 35 years. These youths are likely to be three times more unemployed than adults. Nyamnjoy & Fokwang (2005) examined the relationship between musicians and political powers in Cameroon which happens to be the core state of CEMAC region. This focuses on the dynamics of agency and identity politics amongst musicians. There are some instances of youth agency in the production and use of popular music to criticize certain ills about the government or sectors left out for many years which are all societal problem. A concise example is a music icon Lapiro de Mbanga (1957-2014) which was a Cameroonian singer who is noted for his 1985 recording of “Pas argent no love” meaning no money no love. A heavy critic of the president with his song ‘contituti ou constitution constipée’ translated constipated constitution which ironically refers to the decaying state of the constitution of Cameroon based on the amendment from the government to suit particular individuals or government officials. He was highly appreciated by the common people for the use of pidgin English or broken English mixed with French to speak out the growing social disillusionment which he quickly reflected in his songs and later became an opposition reference chiefly among the youths. Therefore, his social, economic and political criticisms made him at the forefront of the civil society politics in Cameroon despite the banning of his music on the Cameroon Radio Television which is the official national radio and television channel.

Chapter Five

5.1 Conclusion

Development cannot take place without the involvement of the government and the citizens. The CEMAC region which is made up of six government and over 51 million inhabitants with a population growth rate of 2.9 per cent and economic growth rate of 2.8 per cent, adopted a program for strengthening regional and international cooperation and partnerships. This program aims to adapt CEMAC's economic and trade diplomacy to the requirements of the new vision of an emerging CEMAC.

CEMAC's ambition now is to position itself forcefully in a regional market of 260 million inhabitants (including ECCAS and Nigeria) and to become a competitive export platform to Europe and the Middle East. Also, the existing trade agreements and strategic partnerships of CEMAC must be rethought according to this new perspective. In particular, close and multifaceted trade partnerships will have to be gradually established between CEMAC, on the one hand, and DRC, Angola and Nigeria on the other. Similarly, the Economic Partnership Agreements currently being negotiated with Europe must contribute to the accelerated implementation of the PER and an emerging CEMAC in 2025.

Lastly, active cooperation and targeted strategic partnerships will also have to be put in place to accelerate the development of certain industries that is China to accelerate the development and emergence of a metallurgical power, India to accelerate agricultural development and fertilizer production and Brazil and Europe to accelerate development of forest economy and a green power. CEMAC must thus become a partner of the member states in the implementation of a real development strategy.

The emergence of socioeconomic development in CEMAC which resulted in a real break in the growth dynamic that CEMAC has experienced so far, with the transition to a more sustained growth, at a more regular pace and based on stronger foundations. Over the last two decades, CEMAC's growth has averaged 4.8% per year, a cyclical growth linked in particular to the discovery of new deposits and fluctuations in oil prices and with a better valuation of its

potential. CEMAC aims to move to an average double-digit growth over the period 2010-2025 (10% per year), but such a leap cannot be done at once. PER is helping to build the preconditions for the emergence of the CEMAC region, in particular by strengthening and upgrading infrastructures, improving the sectoral competitiveness of the economic pillars that should lead to diversification and sustainable growth of the region. The CEMAC' member states will become the direct beneficiaries of the implementation of the PER with the provision of modern multimodal infrastructures, an improvement in their competitiveness, better access to the community market and larger regional markets. The PER is constructed in a model that allows the potential of each country to be explored while offering them and their companies an open framework and competitive development of shared and modern infrastructures.

CEMAC estimates that the GDP per capita of the region will increase from 362,605 Francs CFA in 2008 to 575,206 Francs CFA in 2015, to reach 1,170,431 Francs CFA in 2025. This represents a multiplication of GDP per capita by 1.6 in 2015 and 3.2 in 2025. The emergence will mark a significant change in the standard of living of the CEMAC citizens, ensuring the emergence of a middle class that will gradually become the dominant social category. The PER must also have a real impact on poverty. Taking into account the willingness of member states to strengthen the social aspects of their national policies, a voluntary and ambitious goal is proposed to halve the level of poverty from a threshold of 53% of the population in 2008 to 25% this reduction in the poverty rate will be accompanied by a significant improvement in all the social indicators that is enrolment rate, nutritional status of the population, rate of access to basic health services.

CEMAC, as a major regional organization in Central Africa, is working with the six governments of the region including other ECCAS members, United States, Europe, India, China among others, with multinational companies, not forgetting the role of the citizens of the region. The organisation works within the PER and its vision 2025 framework, that will establish CEMAC as a lever for socioeconomic development in Africa.

Chapter Six

This chapter is based on the activities of CEMAC. The description is based on information from social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, and also from the official webpage of CEMAC. In order to fully grasp the operations of the organisation, daily activities have been explicitly elaborated, thereby explaining the smooth functioning or running of activities in the CEMAC region, the offices of CEMAC, conferences and seminars as well as the celebration of CEMAC day, without leaving out working sessions in other African countries, the United States, Europe and Asia and the relations with north Atlantic treaty organisation (NATO⁴²), United Nations⁴³, the World bank⁴⁴ and IMF.

The starting date was essential for the researcher because this day commemorate the international day of the woman. Therefore, this marked the beginning of the new semester for the researcher which enables the researcher to follow up with the activities of the commission bearing in mind the progress of the research.

6.1 CEMAC's AGENDA

Date	Location	Agenda
08 th March 2018	N'Djamena, Chad	Celebration of the International women's day.
10 March 2018	New York, United	Hearing/Ambassador Permanent Representative of Gabon to the UN. A customary exchange of courtesies between the Chairman of the CEMAC

⁴² **NATO** it is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization also called North Atlantic Alliance which is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries and constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent members states agree to mutual defend in response to an attack by any external part. It's headquarter is in Haren, Brussels, Belgium and the organisation implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on the April 4, 1949.

⁴³ **United Nations** commonly known as the UN is an intergovernmental organisation tasked to promote international cooperation and also to create and maintain international order. It has 193 members with headquarter in Manhattan, New York City, United States of America. The UN was established on October 24, 1945.

⁴⁴ **WORLD BANK** is an international financial institution that provides loans to countries of the work for capital project. Its goal is to reduce poverty through the promotion of foreign investment and international trade. The institution was established in July 1945 with headquarters in Washington D.C, United States of America

	States of America	commission and permanent representative of Gabon, thus this is to support many areas of cooperation that the CEMAC and UN have in common.
12 March 2018	Brussels, Belgium	Meeting with group of diplomatic corps from the Central Africa. Emphasis on possible solutions to re-launch talks with Brussels on Economic Partnership and regional indicative programme.
13 March 2018	Brussels, Belgium	Cooperation: group Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and African Union. New avenues for cooperation in the background such as the negotiation of Economic Partnership between EU and ACP in August 2018. Agenda 2030, agenda 2063 plan the continental free trade area project and all political, economic, social and migratory issue, the AU intends to place particular emphasis on the contribution of the regional economic communities. Also, CEMAC could benefit from NEPAD funding which is now an agency for the implementation of development projects on a continental scale.
14 March 2018	Bangui, Central African Republic	Re-launch discussions on good bases; Peace and stability, CEMAC-ECCAS, adjustment of states with IMF relocation of the commission to Bangui or Economic Partnership Agreement and political dialogue between the EU and Central African region
16 March 2018	N'Djamena, Chad	Celebration of the CEMAC day in Chad which is the 10 th Edition and was under the theme: Strengthening youth entrepreneurship as a guarantee of inclusive and sustainable development in the CEMAC zone
18 March 2018	Brussels, Belgium	Cooperation: CEMAC-EU which the EU commits itself to continue its intervention in CEMAC. The visit by the Chairman of the CEMAC commission. The chair extensively reviews the areas of intervention on which the EU wants to accompany the sub region with a global envelope of more than 33 million euros should be injected into the accompanying measures to substantially improve business climate, to continue the institutional reform programme and to support the development of SME
20 March 2018	N'Djamena, Chad	Conference on the inter-State Committee as a prelude to the 32th ordinary session of the council of ministers of the central African Economic Union (UEAC). Ceremony was chaired by the Vic-Chairperson of the commission Ms. Fatima Hara Acyl. Conference was geared towards the consideration of the draft budget which was put forward by the minister's representative. The vice president of the commission informed the experts that the draft budget naturally takes account of this requirement of realism as well as the macroeconomic and socio-political condition of the area.
22 March 2018	N'Djamena, Chad	Receiving of the Minister of Economy and Planning for development for Chad which their meeting was centred around the presentation of the community budget which was also an opportunity for the two personalities to review the commission's important dossiers
26 March 2018	Yaoundé, Cameroon	The President of the Commission exchanges with the country director of world bank Mrs. Elisabeth Huybens which took place in the work of the council of minister for the UMAC. The director general of the World Bank did not fail to recall the importance that the Bretton woods financial institution attaches to technical assistance from CEMAC through the project carried out through the capacity building of commissioned staff in the field of economic intelligence or multilateral surveillance.
27 March 2018	Yaoundé, Cameroon	Ministerial Committee of the UMAC, chaired by the minister of economic affairs of Gabon, President of the council of ministers, and with the presence of the economic and finance ministers of the CEMAC countries and the president of the commission elaborated on the economic and financial situation of the

		CEMAC member states, the situation of foreign exchange reserves and the ratification of the accounts for the financial year 2017
10 th May 2018	Douala, Cameroon	Conciliation meeting in Douala: Cooperation with the EU in the background. The main point under discussion focused on the immediate action to be taken in response to the resolution and recommendations of the mission in Brussels on 26 and 27 April.
15 th May 2018	Libreville, Gabon	Working session on the representation of CEMAC in Gabon. Two ambassadors discussed the programme document for the third funding that is take place between November 2017-April 2022 and at the end, a 2017 report was submitted by the regional coordinator to the representative of CEMAC
20 th July 2018	Malabo, Equatorial Guinea	Anniversary of the President of the CEMAC commission, Professor Daniel Ona Ondo celebrated in Malabo by all staff in the presence of the Minister of State of the Republic of Guinea Equatorial; His Excellency Baltasar Engonga and the Ambassador of Gabon in Equatorial Guinea
25 th to 26 July 2018	Lomé, Togo	Fifth meeting of the African Council of regulators which was aimed to review the implementation of the single African Network, initiated by smart Africa which is an alliance between African governments; this already has twenty-four members including three CEMAC countries that is Cameroon, Gabon and Chad however, the Republic of Congo participated in the meeting with an observer status.
27 th July 2018	Douala, Cameroon	Douala management Committee meeting on Concrete projects for the integration of CEMAC. This was a meeting of the management committee of the Community Development Fund (FODEC). The main focus was to review the state of implementation of the activities under the FODEC budget for the financial year 2018 and to review the budgetary guidelines prescribed by the president of the CEMAC Commission for the preparation of the 2019 budget.
30 th July 2018	Lomé, Togo	ECOWAS Joint Summit- ECCAS; meeting between the chair of the CEMAC commission and the Chair of the African Union Commission. Referral to topics of common interest in relation to the peace and security of ECOWAS and ECCAS.
31 st July 2018	Douala, Cameroon	Meeting of the ad hoc committee of ministers of transport and civil aviation of the states of CEMAC. Opening of work on July 31, 2018 by the Commissioner Shey Jones Yembe.
1 st August 2018	Malabo, Equatorial Guinea	Received delegation from the staff of the hotel and tourism school of CEMAC led by the director-General; Alphonse Mbanga Ibata. He presented the draft budget of its institution for 2019 at the budgetary conferences chaired by the Vice-President of the CEMAC commission.
03 rd August 2018	N'Djamena, Chad	Message of congrats on the 39 th anniversary of the accession to power of His Excellency Mr Obiang Nguema Mbasongo.
6 th August 2018	Libreville, Gabon	Working visit to the Institute of Economy and Finance (EFI), Regional Centre for the training of Central African financial institutions. This was an invitation

		from the director -General of the establishment Thiery Mamadou Asngar accompanied by his staff.
9 th August 2018	Malabo, Equatorial Guinea	Review of files and preparation of the college of commissioners. The president of CEMAC commission, Professor Daniel Ona Ondo, chaired a cabinet meeting, on Thursday, 9 August 2018, took part in this meeting, the commissioners, Clément Belibanga and José Antonio Edjang Ntutumu, Director of Cabinet of the president, Chief executives of commissioners and all commission directors present in Malabo.
9 th August 2018	Malabo, Equatorial Guinea	The economic situation of CEMAC in discussion between the president of the commission and the executive director of the World Bank for Africa
6 th to 10 th August 2018	Douala., Cameroon	Regional Consultation meeting for the development of the common mining policy in CEMAC. Under the high patronage of His Excellency Professor Daniel Ona Ondo, chairman of the CEMAC commission, the commissioner for infrastructure and sustainable development, His Excellency Shey Hones Yembe of Cameroon, chaired the work of the meeting on the regional dialogue on the development of the common mining policy in CEMAC from 6 th to 10 th August 2018
16 th August 2018	Libreville, Gabon	Working session/ coordination office of the Gabon emerging strategic plan. The aim was to look at the extent to which Gabon can contribute to the implementation of community projects and to benefit from them.
18 th August 2018		Condolences from the President of CEMAC commission to the family of the Kofi Annan an illustrious fallen African hero that served as United Nations Secretary-General from January 1997 to December 2006.
22 rd August 2018	Malabo, Guinea Equatorial	Visit of the President of the Republic of Gabon which was in a working and friendship visit; on common interest and to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries.
23 rd August 2018	Malabo, Guinea Equatorial	The Chairman of the CEMAC commission delivered his letter of condolences to the ambassador of Ghana following the death of Mr Kofi Annan on the August 08, 2018 in Bern, Switzerland. The Chairman visited the embassy of Ghana in the Republic of Guinea Equatorial.
07 th September 2018	Paris, France	France Zone Convergence Committee. A round table representative of the ministry of finance and the bank of France, the WAEMU commissioner and the experts from the BEAC and BCEAO. During this session, work on the macroeconomic situation of the various regions of the franc zone was examined.
14 th September 2018	Libreville, Gabon	Audience to the Minister of Water and Energy (Patrick Eyongo Edzang) for having successfully resumed the project of the FE-2 electric dam in the province of Woleu-Ntem which will augment and supply energy production in Equatorial Guinea and also northern Gabon particularly on the Oyem line where posts are already established.

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