

WIKI n°2: Governance according to the African Union

The African Union primarily seeks to consolidate institutional governance frameworks across the continent to attain "an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, steered by its own citizens and offering a dynamic force on the global stage."²

Principles of governance according to the African Union's Agenda 2063

Agenda 2063, the African Union's strategic vision and roadmap, aims to ensure inclusive and sustainable development and build a better future for Africa. This agenda highlights the following governance principles:

- Strengthening democracy and consolidating the rule of law, including promoting democratic political systems and respecting constitutions and human rights.
- Promoting citizen participation, especially among women and youth, in governance processes.
- Fostering transparency and accountability, with a particular emphasis on combating corruption to ensure good governance.
- Supporting sustainable and inclusive development that respects the environment and considers the needs of future generations.
- Ensuring human security, encompassing not only military security but also food and health security and citizen well-being.
- Facilitating regional integration by promoting cooperation among African states to accelerate the continent's economic development.
- Strengthening the capacities of regional and community organizations in conflict prevention and peaceful dispute resolution.

² African Union Commission (2015). Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want

On Africa's role in global governance, Agenda 2063 focuses on:

- Strengthening the African Union as a united and influential global actor.
- Actively participating in international affairs.
- Securing adequate African representation in international decision-making bodies.
- Enhancing institutional capacity to improve Africa's engagement in global governance processes.
- Building strategic alliances with other regions to promote international solidarity and cooperation on shared interests.
- Supporting international peacekeeping and conflict resolution.
- Advocating for global policies that address Africa's specific socio-economic and environmental challenges.
- Ensuring Africa's voice is heard in global discussions on human rights and democratic values.

King Mohammed VI's vision for improving African Union governance.

His Majesty King Mohammed VI has consistently advocated for a "human-centered" development of Africa, focused on the collective mobilization of African countries to achieve unity, and establish the continent's leadership on the international stage. He has stressed the need to strengthen and modernize governance, as essential for maintaining peace and ensuring inclusive development of the continent.

In his speech at the 29th Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa on July 3, 2017, he emphasized the need to:

- Reform the African Union by modernizing its institutional mechanisms to better meet the aspirations of African populations.
- Adopt collegial governance with realistic, pragmatic objectives to address global challenges, prioritizing peace and security as prerequisites for development.

King Mohammed VI also advocates for knowledge sharing³, placing the African citizen at the heart of development⁴, adopting a humanist vision of migration⁵, and strengthening regional integration through integrated development projects. Accordingly, the Sovereign announced, in his speech for the 48th anniversary of the Green March, the Royal Initiative for the Atlantic on November 6, 2023. This initiative

³ Speech by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, addressed to the Nation on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the Revolution of the King and the People, August 20, 2017.

⁴ Royal Speech on the occasion of the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on the Continental Free Trade Area, 21/03/2018.

⁵ Royal Message on the occasion of the 30th African Union Summit, 29/01/2018.

aims to consolidate security, stability, and shared prosperity among 23 Atlantic African states while improving Sahel states' access to the Atlantic Ocean.

Governance of the African Union: Reforms proposed by President Paul Kagame

President of the Republic of Rwanda, Paul Kagame presented a report on "The Imperative of Strengthening Our Union: Proposed Recommendations for the Institutional Reform of the African Union", offering a stark diagnosis and assessment: "We have a dysfunctional organization, whose value for our member states is limited, which has little credibility with our international partners, and in which our citizens have no confidence."

In this context, the January 2017 reforms aim to transform the African Union into a more proactive, efficient and capable organization better equipped to address contemporary challenges facing Africa. These are as follows:

- Enhancing institutional capacity by modernizing structures and investing in the continuous training of human capital.
- Achieving financial autonomy, reducing dependence on external funding, and ensuring full member states financing of African Union operations.
- Improving performance accountability, establishing systems to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of African Union policies.
- Streamlining decision-making to enable swift responses to crises and continental challenges.
- Focusing on key priorities, such as peace, security, and economic development, rather than dispersing resources across numerous projects.
- Promoting democratic governance and respect for human rights by strengthening electoral monitoring and institutional capacity in member states.