



Research Article

THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE LEGAL, POLITICO-DIPLOMATIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANS OF CAMEROON TO THE AFRICAN UNION (2000-2017)

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ABSTRACT

Relations between Cameroon and the African Union (AU) have always been characterized by a certain form of singularity deriving from the nature of the organization, the status of Cameroon within it, and the conception that Cameroon has had and continues to have its role on the African scene. Cameroon has this peculiarity of applying with a certain ease, a resolutely realistic approach to the African system. The realistic approach translates into a permanent quest for Cameroon's position on the African scene, a strict and traditional defense of the national interests of the country. Cameroon's foreign policy constantly refers to the promotion of values and principles dear to the African Union. Indeed, the problem that arises in this case is that states such as Cameroon can not fulfill some of their regalian functions and are consequently powerless vis-à-vis newcomers Challenges. Given that they do not necessarily present themselves as temporary phenomena, but often, such as the growth of poverty or environmental degradation, which are far more durable, the strengthening of regional structures should therefore make it possible to compensate for these shortcomings in the longer term. A different approach to explain the relevance of the cooperation between Cameroon and the African Union is presented by the authors grouped in the institutionalist current. Starting from an anarchic conception of the world, comparable to that of the realists, institutionalists see the role of co-operation essentially in that it leads to reducing uncertainties, and hence mistrust between states. According to Robert Keohane, international institutions would be defined as "persistent and connected sets of rules (formal and informal) that prescribe behavioral roles, constrain activity, and shape expectations"(Keohane, R-O: 1989). In this perspective, regionalism can be seen as a more or less direct result of the security dilemma assumed by realistic authors. In this context, the African Union, by its nature and its place given to Cameroon, offers it an important framework for expression. In its normative and operational dimension of promoting the values of peace, it defends an agenda that has a particular resonance with Cameroon. The African Union is simultaneously the forum for the dissemination of the "universal message" of Cameroon and this key vector that allows it to hold its rank. Such an analysis is of particular relevance during the first seventeen (17) years of existence of the AU. Cameroon, even after ratifying the Constitutive Act of the AU, has kept its line of foreign policy adopted for years. This foreign policy of Cameroon is based on the following points: the principles of national independence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, cooperation and African unity, non-alignment, the importance of the development imperative And pacifism. It is clear that the analysis of the relationship between a State and an international organization is first of all viewed from a legal and politico-diplomatic standpoint. However, this analysis will also focus on the economic and social aspects of these relationships. The subject involves the analysis of the relations between a State and an intergovernmental organization of a regional character. More specifically, it is a question of studying the mutual relations between Cameroon and the African Union.

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INTRODUCTION

On the legal level

Obviously, the creation of the African Union¹ was an opportunity to put "all" the normative system adopted over the years in the wake of the OAU and to integrate into the new organization structures which were gradually transformed into quasi-autonomous entities.

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The level of accession of the State of Cameroon to the instruments of the AU can be measured through the signature, ratification, dissemination and implementation of the treaty instruments of this regional organization. In general, it should be noted that, in the case of the following African Union instruments, Cameroon has very often deposited its instruments of ratification after the entry into force of the international undertaking in question. This undoubtedly demonstrates a constant delay in the process of approving or ratifying treaties or international agreements to which Cameroon is a party; This also seems to testify to a consistency in the alleged policy of prudent diplomacy of the State of Cameroon.

¹Introductory note by the Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, African Union Conference, Second Ordinary Session, Maputo, July 2003.

These are mainly: the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981); The AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003); The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990); The Abuja Appeal for Accelerating Interventions for Universal Access to HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Africa and Other Services Related to Infectious Diseases (2006); The Maputo Plan of Action for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights 2007-2010 (2006); The African Health Strategy 2007-2015; The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (2003); The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007); The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (Treaty of Abuja); The African Charter on Youth (2006); The African Convention on the Conservation of African Nature and Resources (1968 and 2003); The Africa-NEPAD Comprehensive Agricultural Development Plan (CAADP).

In addition, several AU treaty instruments are relevant, namely: - the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), signed in Nairobi in June 1981, entered into force on 21 October 1986; Ratified by Cameroon on 20 June 1989; - the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (ECA), adopted in Abuja on 3 June 1991, entered into force on 5 December 1994 and ratified by Cameroon on 20 December 1995; - the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, signed in Maputo on 11 July 2003, entered into force on 5 August 2006, signed by Cameroon on 30 June 2008 and not yet ratified; - the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, signed in Addis Ababa on 30 January 2007, not yet signed or ratified by the Cameroonian State; - the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), signed in Abuja in March 2003.

Cameroon's foreign policy seems to be closely linked to the logic of its political system. Indeed, Cameroonian institutions have consistently been strongly marked by a presidentialist logic. This is shown, in particular, and, lastly, by the Constitution of 2 June 1972, as amended by the Constitution Act of 18 January 1996, now in force². Indeed, it is the President of the Republic who is the central figure of the Cameroonian institutions, as is shown in particular in Article 5 (2), paragraph 2 of the Constitution, which provides that "it defines the policy of the Nation". To this extent, it is clear why Article 11 (1) of the Constitution provides: "*The Government shall be responsible for the implementation of the policy of the nation as defined by the President of the Republic*". From this perspective, it has been possible to deduce that the Cameroonian political system is characterized by a "democratic presidentialism". This is, in other words, "... a presidentialism that is progressively democratic with the country's openness to pluralism and the rule of law"; Diagnosis drawn from three sets of considerations: a presidentialist tradition, a presidentialism laid out in the Constitution and the presidentialist practice of the regime (Olinga, A-D : 2006).

In the field of international politics, this presidential preponderance is not denied. Indeed, it has been amply demonstrated that the head of state is "authorizing and

coordinating foreign policy". As such, he "has a firm grasp of international affairs, about which he almost never delegates powers. He remains the supreme leader of the laboratories where the foreign policy of the country is elaborated" (Mouelle Kombi :1996). In his capacity as Head of the Cameroonian Diplomacy, "The President of the Republic negotiates and ratifies treaties and international agreements" (Article 43). For those of the international commitments concerning legislative matters, the presidential ratification is subject to the prior approval of the Parliament.

Cameroon also participates in the functioning of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) by submitting periodic reports on the promotion and protection of human rights every two years. The 3rd Periodic Report of Cameroon under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights was tabled in May 2013 and defended at the October session of the same year. The fourth and fifth consolidated reports are being prepared with a view to their submission and defense in 2016³;

Moreover, our country respects the contractual obligation to respond to the communications and other inquiries of this Court against our State. It hosted in Yaoundé in September 2006, the Seminar of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. He accepted that Mr Reine ALAPINI GANSOU, Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, was on a mission to Cameroon in June 2006. This experience was renewed in February 2011 with the visit of the President of the ACHPR and her Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders. Similarly, a seminar on capacity building for journalists in the field of human rights protection was held in Yaoundé in December 2008 and a seminar on the Roben Islands Guidelines on the Fight against Corruption was organized in Yaoundé in January 2012. Our country also hosted in September 2012 Mrs MAÏGA SOYATA, Commissioner for Women's Rights and Mrs Lucy ASUAGBOR, Chair of the working group on the protection of the rights of people living with HIV (PHAs), people at risk, vulnerable and affected by HIV⁴.

On the politico-diplomatic level

Discussing the politico-diplomatic relations between Cameroon and the African Union implies a brief overview of Cameroon's participation in the solemn meetings of the AU, the activities of the AU; And the institutions of the AU (reception of the headquarters of the FMA for example). The African Union has replaced the OAU⁵ since 2002. Cameroon is one of the States most heavily involved in the creation of the OAU, a continental organization created on May 27, 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The African Union (AU) is therefore an African intergovernmental organization established in 2002 in Durban, South Africa, in accordance with the Sirte Declaration of 9 September 1999. The Constitutive Act of the African Union was adopted on 11 July 2000 at the summit of the Organization of African Unity in Lomé, Togo, and was submitted to the signing and ratification of the 53 Member States of the Organization of African Unity at the time. After having actively participated in the drafting of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, Cameroon deposited the instruments

²It should be emphasized that the constitutional text was recently amended by Constitutional Law No. 2008/001 of 14 April 2008, which calls into question the limitation of presidential terms, legally secures the vacancy of the presidency, Irresponsibility of the Head of State.

³See: Direction of Africa-Ministry of External Relations-Cameroon.

⁴Idem

⁵Article 33 of the Constitutive Act of the AU explicitly states that: "This Act replaces the Charter of the Organization of African Unity ..."

of ratification of the charter of the Pan-African organization only belatedly. Indeed, Cameroon was the 41st State to ratify the Constitutive Act of the African Union. This late ratification explains the upheavals which have enamelled the accession of the Cameroonian State to the new continental organization. Skepticism or reluctance towards the Pan-African project, various reasons, both political and strategic, have been put forward to justify this late ratification of the constitutive act of the AU.

In fact, the issue of the African Union had been at the heart of Cameroon's political debate for several months. The Cameroonian president, who had left the 36th summit of the OAU in July 2000 without having signed the constitution of the Union, had been arrested on his arrival in Cameroon. Of his opposition largely acquired, by conviction or political strategy, to the cause of the new continental organization. If the birth of the AU aroused much hope in the Cameroonian political class, public authorities thought it wise to wait, with a logic of prudence and observation. Questioned by a journalist, the quaestor of the National Assembly said: « *The African Union project is still very emotional and we should see how its concrete implementation will evolve to say something worthwhile* »⁶. This position, however, was denounced by the opposition, who considered that: "*This case (speaking of the rapid ratification of the Act) would have rather contributed to enhance the image of the President, it is not known why, the Biya regime hesitates he continued, to keep pace with his other African counterparts.*"⁷. This question did not indifferent civil society which did not hide its affliction, in the face of the "marginal interest" that the Cameroonian regime granted to the Pan-African project. The fundamental reasons were, however, on the side of the authority empowered to engage the Cameroon State directly on the international plane, in this case the President of the Republic who, under Article 5 (1) of the Constitution Of Cameroon is the guarantor of "respect for international treaties and agreements". Indeed, within the framework of its participation in the African Union, Cameroon had resolutely opted for discretion and efficiency and a fundamental political reason underpinned this vision⁸. Also, on January 19, 2001, President Paul Biya proposed to "put things in their place" by witnessing his French counterpart Jacques Chirac at a joint press conference held at the end of the 21st Heads of State and Government of Africa and France in Yaoundé. He said: "Let no one misunderstand our adherence to the unitary ideal of the continent, which has been the source of all the generations of Cameroonians since independence," he said in substance. (...) We are going to sign this act, but since we have to play cards on the table, I will not hide from you that there were small reservations that prevented us from doing it immediately in Lomé. ". He cites as an example "the principle of the law of unanimity" which he sought in vain to have initially adopted "for the decision-making process" instead of the rule of two-thirds. "Nevertheless, we will sign," he reiterated. Thus, Paul Biya assured that beyond Cameroon, the African Union is in fact "a project dear to all the peoples of

the continent. This is an old idea that has become, I do not say like a sea serpent, but we will support it. The Head of State announced on this occasion the participation of Cameroon in the fifth extraordinary summit of Sirte in Libya "to continue to move forward in the constitution of the Union."⁹. "As for ratification, I must say that it is the National Assembly of Cameroon that must authorize me to do so." Indeed, the expression of the will of the State to integrate the organization results either from the ratification of the constitution for the original members and this, independently of the participation in the preparatory conference of negotiations of accession for non-originating States (Rajenva, R et Cadoux, C : 1992). This discretionary participation is essentially a matter of the political choices of a State and the law does not infer it, even if legal considerations are taken into account at the time of the formal expression of the will to be bound or to participate in the "organization. Cameroon finally ratified the Constitutive Act of the AU at the first regular session of the National Assembly for the year 2001-2002¹⁰. As Michel Virally said, "*behind each creation are recognized the very precise interests of a group of states more or less extended. Despite their indifference, their reluctance, or sometimes their hostility, other states are virtually forced to join them in order to make their influence felt and defend their own interests ...*" (Virally, M : 1983).

Cameroon has had the privilege of being involved in the activities and of placing its nationals in various positions within the AU. As regards the posts of responsibility within the AU¹¹, Cameroon was a member of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union from January 2004 to January 2008. In this capacity, he assumed several times the rotating Presidency of this body, and sent defense (military, police) as part of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). Cameroon was elected a member of the PSC at the January 2012 Summit and sat there for two (02) years. He chaired the PSC in May 2012, and a retreat of the Ambassadors of the PSC member countries was held in Cameroon from 15 to 16 November 2012. It assessed the functioning of this body and the review of its working methods. Cameroon is a member of the African Union Steering Committee on NEPAD. Victor Mengot Arrey Nkongo, as the Personal Representative of the Head of State, is in charge of the Presidency of the Republic and monitors the activities of this Committee. He was also appointed focal point of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). A National APRM Commission is being established before launching the evaluation process of our country. Cameroonian Dorothy Njeuma was a member of the Panel of Experts of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and chaired the Forum from July 2006 to July 2007. She was replaced in January 2010 by Cameroonian Akere Muna, Who chaired from September 2008 onwards for two terms of office for the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the Union, one of the Organs of the Organization. The Cameroonian Tankeu Elisabeth was Elected in July 2003 and re-elected in January 2008 as Commissioner for Trade and Industry, a position she held until her death on 16 October 2011. Cameroonian Asuagbor Lucy was elected Member of The African Commission on

⁶Declaration of Dr. Kamssouloum Aba Kabir, cited by Cameroon Net news in its June 14, 2001 edition, "Cameroon-African Union: better late than never"

⁷Ibid. Statement by Mr. Saïdou Maïdadi Yaya, Vice-President of the Social Democratic Front.

⁸In an interview with the Chinese agency Xinhua in October 1993, President Paul Biya declared: "Cameroon's foreign policy is based on the consolidation of our sovereignty and independence, respect for territorial integrity, interference in the affairs of other States, peaceful coexistence, the resolution of conflicts through peaceful means, cooperation without frontiers and the search for a new international economic order. "

⁹Yet at the meeting held in Sirte, Libya in early March 2001, Cameroon was represented by a large delegation led by then Prime Minister Peter Mafany Musonge who eventually inscribed Yaounde among the 53 African countries that signed the consensus document of 34 articles.

¹⁰ See the Act on the ratification of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU).

¹¹See also: Direction of Africa-Ministry of External Relations-Cameroon.

Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), for a three-year term, during the AU Executive Council meeting held in Kampala in July 2010. She took up her duties during the 47th Session of the ACHPR held in Banjul, The Gambia in November 2010. The next elections were held in May 2013, two months before the expiry of its elections in July 2013. She was re-elected and sworn in. October 2013. The Honorable Roger Nkodo Dang was elected First Vice President of the Pan-African Parliament during the session of this Institution held in Midrand (South Africa) in May 2012 for a three-year term. He was re-elected in 2014 and became President of this major AU Forum on May 28, 2015. In 2017, Professor Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo is appointed Head of the Department of Institutional Reform Unit of the African Union, while Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang Agbor is elected to the position of Commissioner in charge of Human Resources, Science and Technology of the Commission of that institution. On the subject of activities¹², the 2nd Conference of African Ministers of Finance (CAMEF II) was held in Yaoundé from 20 to 23 November 2006. The NEPAD Workshop on Science and Technology, Was held in Yaoundé from 26 to 27 September 2007. In September 2007, Yaoundé hosted the 5th session of the Interim Committee of the Economic and Social Council of the AU Which had the task of completing the process of preparing for the implementation of this AU Institution in 2008. In the same vein, in May 2008, the Conference of African Ministers Local Development (CADDEL). Thus, from 16 to 17 December 2008, Cameroon hosted a seminar organized for journalists from the Central Africa sub-region by the Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The objective of the seminar was to sensitize them on the coverage of human rights. From 9 to 13 March 2009, two Subregional Governance Seminars on "Governance Actors in Africa" and "Local Governance" were held in Cameroon. The month of May 2009 saw the foundations of the 4th Conference of African Ministers in charge of Integration (COMAI IV) in Yaoundé. From 12 to 24 April 2010, the city of Douala hosted a seminar jointly organized by the AU, the UN and the Canadian Pearson Foundation, on the training of peacekeepers. The year 2010 was the subject of a triple event in Yaoundé notably, the organization in July, by the AU, in oint Superior Course of Simbock in Yaoundé, a seminar for staff officers in the context of a peacekeeping operation; The meeting in Yaoundé in October of the African Ministers of the AU Conference of Labor and Social Affairs and the holding of an extraordinary session of the Conference of African Ministers in charge in Yaoundé in September Of Integration. While in 2011 a meeting of Senior Officials of the AU and Regional Economic Community leaders was held in Douala in April to assess the level of implementation of the 3rd Roadmap on The establishment of the African Standby Force and in July, the International Donor Conference for the establishment of the AU Logistics Base in Douala. As for 2012, it was held in Yaounde, of the restricted meeting of the Experts of African Ministers of Finance on the examination of the draft statutes of the FMA, as well as the 2nd Retreat of the Ambassadors of the member countries of the Council of Peace and Security of the AU. From 24 to 26 April 2013, Cameroon also hosted a Continental Seminar to raise awareness and promote the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (CAFDHP). As regards high-level visits and exchanges¹³, we can note that from 12 to 16 May 2004, Rosebud Kurwijila, former Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, visited Cameroon for a working visit to Office of the IPC in Yaoundé, and attended the preparatory meeting of the Afro-Arab Forum for the Promotion of Investment in Agriculture to be held in Yaoundé. In addition, Maxwell Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, made several visits to Cameroon, the last of which was in September 2009 to take possession of the premises made available by the Government of Cameroon to house the Steering Committee for the establishment of the Fund African Monetary Fund (FMA). At the beginning of June 2008, Cameroon was visited by Graça Machel, an eminent member of the Panel of the African Peer

Review Mechanism, which came to launch the process of evaluation of our country under this mechanism By NEPAD. In May 2009, Cameroon received the visit of the Vice-President of the AU Commission, Erastus Mwencha, who chaired the 4th Conference of African Ministers in charge of Integration (COMAI IV). In July 2011, we note the stay in Cameroon of General Sekouba Konate, High Representative of the President of the Commission for the operationalization of the African Standby Force. In May 2010 and November 2011, the President of the AU Commission, Jean Ping spent time in Cameroon as part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of African Independence. From 02 to 15 September 2012, a Mission of promotion of the ACHPR stayed in Cameroon. On 15 and 16 November 2012, Cameroon hosted the Retreat of the Ambassadors of the AU Peace and Security Council, focusing on its working methods and the general functioning of this AU Body. In the Senate elections which took place on April 14, 2013 in Cameroon and the results of which were proclaimed on April 29, 2013, the Commission of the African Union decided to dispatch a Mission to ensure the observance of the said elections On behalf of the Pan-African organization. The Mission, known as the African Union Electoral Observation Mission for Cameroon, was led by Mr. Edem Kodjo, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Togo and former Secretary General of the OAU. The latter held talks with the Cameroonian authorities, including the Head of State, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. From 24 to 26 April 2013, the Honorable Judge Sophie AB Akuffo, President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, visited Cameroon as part of the Continental Consultation and Advocacy Seminar on the African Court of Human Rights Human Rights and Peoples for women's non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights. In July 2013, Martial De-Paul Ikounga, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology of the Commission of the African Union (AU), was received by the Minister Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Relations in charge of Commonwealth Relations. On the menu of exchanges, the state of progress of the project of solemn re-entry of the Pan-African University (UPA) in Yaounde and the conditions of stay of the foreign students of the university in Cameroon. On 28 May 2015, AU Peace and Security Commissioner Smail Chergui visited Cameroon as part of a working visit. He again visited Cameroon in October 2015 as part of the signing of the BLC / AU Headquarters Agreement. From 8 to 10 September 2016, the 2nd African Forum on Rural Development was held in Yaoundé. The meeting, which was chaired by the Prime Minister and Head of Government, was attended by Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Executive Secretary of the NEPAD Planning and Development Agency. At the invitation of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), which organized the final round of CAN 2016 women's football in Cameroon, the chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma visited Yaounde on 24 November 2016. On this occasion, it was received in audience by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, Philemon Yang, to solicit Cameroon's support for the ongoing reforms at the AU.

At the economic and social level

The AU budget is supported by contributions from Member States and donors. The AU Agenda 2063 is the new vision and collective roadmap for the growth and development of Africa. This framework document is based on the AU Constitutive Act, the vision of the Union and the 2013 Solemn Declaration of the AU Conference on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization as well as on national priorities, Regional and continental. This Agenda 2063 was adopted by the AU Conference on 31 January 2015 at its 24th Ordinary Session¹⁴. The AU therefore has the institutions in charge of supporting the development of member states. It is the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) established under Articles 5 and 22 of the Constitutive Act of the AU. The ECOSOCC Statutes, adopted by the AU Conference in July 2004, define it as an advisory

¹²See also: Direction of Africa-Ministry of External Relations-Cameroon.

¹³See also: Direction of Africa-Ministry of External Relations-Cameroon.

¹⁴ See: <http://agenda2063.au.int/en/>

body composed of different social and professional groups from the AU Member States. It offers African civil society organizations (CSOs) the opportunity to play an active role in the development and implementation of AU principles, policies and programs. In addition, Article 19 of the Constitutive Act of the AU provides for the establishment of three specific financial institutions: the African Investment Bank (BAI), the African Central Bank (BCA) and the African Monetary Fund (FMA). The role of these institutions is to implement economic integration as provided for in the 1991 Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty). The Sirte Declaration of 1999, under which the OAU decided to establish the African Union, called for the early establishment of all institutions proposed by the Abuja Treaty. The AU Conference adopted the protocols for the establishment of BAI and FMA (more details are given in the following paragraphs). The draft protocol for the establishment of the BCA has not yet been submitted to the Conference. The Executive Board will examine the proposed structures for approval once the protocols for each of these three institutions have entered into force. Cameroon was the AU's 9th contributor for the 2009 budget year, with an envelope of US \$ 1, 247,247.57, and also a member of the African Union Steering Committee on NEPAD (Chouala, Y-A : 2014).

Cameroon was chosen in 2007 to house the African Monetary Fund (AMF), one of the financial institutions of the AU. Cameroonian Jean Marie Gankou chaired the Steering Committee set up to elaborate the statutes of this Institution. In addition, NEPAD, which is the merger of the Millennium Partnership for the Africa Recovery Program and the Omega Plan, was finalized on 3 July 2001, giving rise to the New Initiative for Africa (NAI), which was approved By the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government on 11 July 2001. The finalization of the NAI's strategic framework on 23 October 2001 constituted the birth of NEPAD, the New Partnership for Africa's The development of Africa. This is the commitment African leaders are making to accelerate the integration of the African continent into the global economy. . In May 2007, Cameroon signed Memoranda of Understanding with three, namely the NEPAD e-Africa Commission, Microsoft and AMD, the Advanced Micro Devices. These agreements aimed at the integration already begun and especially the effective generalization of ICT in the lycées and colleges of Cameroon¹⁵. On 19 October 2016 in Rome, FAO and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) joined forces to improve rural youth employment and employment opportunities in Benin, Cameroon, Malawi and Niger through a \$ 4 million grant from the African Solidarity Trust Fund¹⁶.

Regarding participation in the Union budget, Cameroon was the 10th largest contributor to the 2010 budget, with an amount of US \$ 1,247,247.57 (one million two hundred and forty-seven thousand two hundred Forty-seven United States dollars and fifty-seven cents). For the implementation of the Sirte Declaration of 1999 which resulted in the creation of the African Union, Cameroon has granted the Organization a grant of US \$ 25,000. Cameroon also contributed US \$ 30,000 to the African Union in 2011 for the implementation of the Declaration of the Yaounde International Conference "Africa 21" held in Yaoundé in May 2010 as part of the celebration Of the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of our country. The new nomenclature of statutory contributions drawn up by the Commission of the Union in June 2015 on the basis of the criterion of national resources now places it at 12 / 13th continental level¹⁷.

In short, the logic of integration lags behind in Africa because of the reluctance of States to lose a significant part of their sovereignty and to accept a new division of powers and powers. This lack of will is again based on the traditional conception of sovereignty. Indeed, in its classical conception, sovereignty is maintained and protected at the strictly national level. However, the creation of a regional organization responds to the idea of setting up new structures, with a view not only to influencing and recomposing relations between the actors but also to progressively integrate, or even to merge them in a new order, even if this is inevitably in contradiction with the primary objective of States to defend their sovereign rights. Hence the relationship Cameroon-AU sometimes marked by a certain form of mistrust, even a frank hostility. The position of the AU (Communication No. 415 on the case of Jean Marie Atangana Mebara, a prisoner for misappropriation of public funds, against the State of Cameroon)¹⁸ in 2016, was a source of confrontation between a Cameroon jealous of its prerogatives of State and An AU accused of undermining it.

AU initiatives for Cameroon as well as all member states, although good in intention, remain intrinsically limited because the institution does not seem to have the political and financial means of its policy. The political means are lacking because it fails to weigh sufficiently on the States to obtain full co-operation from them in the face of multiple problems. Thus, the reasonable doubts about the ability of the African Union to achieve, within a relatively short period of time, the ambitious project of political and economic integration at the continental level can not, a double observation, already valid for the OAU (Bourgi, A:1998/1999).

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¹⁵See also: Direction of Africa-Ministry of External Relations-Cameroon.

¹⁶Idem.

¹⁷Idem.

¹⁸Idem.