

# **Strengthening popular participation in the African Union**

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Note sur le contenu : INTRODUCTION THE PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE 1 PART 1 AU ORGANS & INSTITUTIONS Assembly of Heads of State and Government Chairperson of the African Union Executive Council of Ministers Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) Commission of the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) Pan-African Parliament (PAP) African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (to become the African Court of Justice and Human Rights) Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Specialised Technical Committees (STCs) Financial Institutions Funding of the African Union Regional Economic Communities (RECs) PART 2 INFLUENCING AU DECISIONS & POLICIES The AU decision-making process Civil society engagement with the AU Organs NGO observer status with the AU Accessing information national-level decisions on AU proposals Civil law (francophone and lusophone) countries Common law (anglophone / Commonwealth) countries AU Summits Official pre-summit meetings for civil society organisations Accreditation to summits Communicating with delegations Media facilities at summits Part 3 The Union Government Debate Appendices Appendix 1: AU Regions Appendix 2: Regional Economic Communities recognised by the African Union Appendix 3: Useful websites and contacts

Résumé ou extrait : "The African Union (AU) has committed to a vision of Africa that is "integrated,

prosperous and peaceful ... driven by its own citizens, a dynamic force in the global arena" (Vision and Mission of the African Union, May 2004). Strengthening Popular Participation in the African Union aims to take up the challenge of achieving this vision. It is a tool to assist activists to engage with AU policies and programmes. It describes the AU decision-making process and outlines the roles and responsibilities of the AU institutions. This guide aims to help those organizations that wish to engage the AU but do not currently know where to start by providing an outline of the key institutions and processes and suggesting ways to influence them. The guide is divided into three sections: \*Part 1: A description of AU organs and institutions. \*Part 2: Suggestions on how to influence AU decisions and policy processes. \*Part 3: A summary of the debate to restructure the AU into a "Union Government." (p. 2)

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