



**AAU**  
[www.aau.org](http://www.aau.org)



**UNILORIN**  
[www.unilorin.edu.ng](http://www.unilorin.edu.ng)

**Association of African Universities**  
The Voice of Higher Education in Africa

# WHERE IS ILORIN?

- Ilorin is in Nigeria
- Nigeria is in West Africa
- Nigeria has a total of 117 Universities established as follows:
  - Federal (Central Government) – 36
  - State (Regional Governments) – 76
  - Private (but not for profit) – 45

## WHERE IS ILORIN CONTD

- Of these 117 Universities, University of Ilorin is located in the Central part of Nigeria about 500 kilometres from Abuja the Federal Capital Territory
- The land mass of the University is 15, 500 hectares
- Founded in 1975
- Undergraduate student population is 28,000
- Has 12 Faculties and 81 Departments
- The University is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Nigeria and 20<sup>th</sup> in Africa by Webometrics



# **AAU EFFORTS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIVERSITIES CONNECTIVITY IN AFRICA**

**BY**

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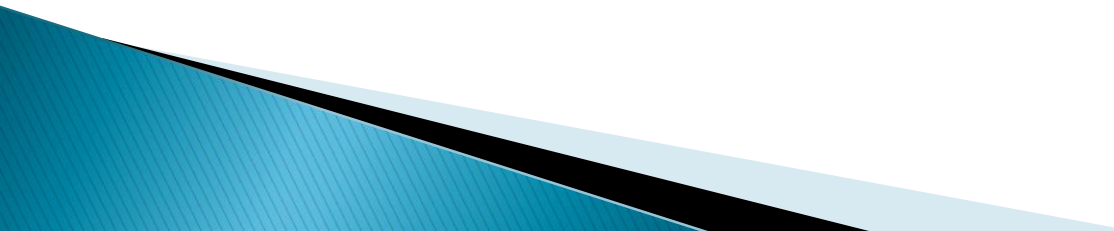
**[vc@unilorin.edu.ng](mailto:vc@unilorin.edu.ng), [ioloyede@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ioloyede@yahoo.co.uk)**

# FOUNDATION OF AAU

The Organisation of African Union (OAU) now African Union (AU), championed the establishment of AAU as the intellectual arm of the organisation on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 1967 in Rabat Morocco where the first Conference was held



# FOUNDATION CONTD.

- The formation was sequel to earlier consultations amongst heads of African Universities at a UNESCO Conference on higher education in Antanarivo, Madagascar in 1962 and another Conference in Khartoum, Sudan in 1963
  - This led to the drafting of the Constitution of the Association with an initial membership of 34 institutions
- 



# **AAU BACKGROUND**

Established in November 1967 as

- An apex international organisation serving African higher education
- Major forum for consultation on higher education policy and management in Africa
- Current membership: 264 H.E. institutions from 46 African countries (all 5 regions of Africa represented)
- HQ (Secretariat) in Accra, Ghana, since 1970



# **STATUTORY EVENTS OF THE AAU**

These include:

- The General Conference which holds every 4 years
- The Conference of Rectors, Vice-Chancellors and Presidents (COREVIP) which holds every 2 years
- Executive Board Meeting. This holds at least once a year and
- African University Day celebrated on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November every year



# **DATES OF PAST GENERAL CONFERENCES/CORE VIP & VENUES**

- **1967 - Morocco**
  - 1969 - Zaire
  - 1973 - Nigeria
  - **1976 - Sudan**
  - 1980 - Cote d'Ivoire
  - 1982 - Ethiopia
  - **1984 - Algeria**
  - 1987 - Zimbabwe
  - **1989 - Egypt**
  - 1993 - Ghana
- 

# **DATES OF PAST GENERAL CONFERENCES/CORE VIP & VENUES CONTD.**

- 1995 - Lesotho
  - 1997 - Zambia
  - 1999 - Tanzania
  - 2001 - Kenya
  - 2003 - Mauritius
  - 2005 - South Africa
  - 2009 - Nigeria
  - 2011 - South Africa
- 

# **DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCES VENUES BY REGION SINCE INCEPTION OF AAU IN 1967**

<b>Region</b>	<b>No of times Conferences were hosted</b>
Northern Africa	4
Central Africa	1
Eastern Africa	6
West Africa	4
Southern Africa	3



# OPERATING FRAMEWORK

## Mission:

To enhance the quality and relevance of higher education in Africa and strengthen its contribution to African development

Association guided by its Constitution, Bye-Laws, Strategic Plan and 4-yearly Core Programme of Activities



# AAU PROGRAMMES

Multi-dimensional with Principal Focus on:

- Advocacy
- Training
- Networking

Each AAU programme/activity has implicit opportunities for collaboration, networking & skills development for the promotion of growth and development in Africa.



# **AAU ADVOCACY PROGRAMMES**

- COREVIP – Scientific biannual meeting of Rector, Vice-Chancellors and Presidents of AAU member institutions to examine themes of major concern to African HE & development
- African University Day celebrations (12th Nov) also revolves around different themes selected each year
- LEDEV & MADEV draw attention & hands-on approach to thematic issues affecting HE in Africa. Over 200 key university leaders sensitized in 7 LEDEV/MADEV workshops since 2006



# **AAU TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

Multi-dimensional, depending on purpose & audience:

- Networking/Capacity Building – MRCI, RENU, QA, Academic Mobility
- University leaders/management – LEDEV, MADEV
- Researchers – Governance of Univ. Research
- Students – International Fellowships Programme

Duration of training varies, depending on audience





# **AAU MOBILIZING REGIONAL CAPACITY INITIATIVE (MRCI) – 2006 TO DATE**

- Aims to build regional capacity to support African HEIs in promoting sustainable development, meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and poverty eradication on the continent.
- Helps in the establishment/strengthening of networks of universities to run projects on selected themes. Successful projects have durations generally ranging between 18 and 24 months. 15 African HEI networks currently awarded grants



# **AAU RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORK UNIT (RENU) – 2007 TO DATE**

## **Promotes the linkage of ICT to development**

- Addresses issues related to connectivity and access to adequate and affordable bandwidth for African HEIs.
- Advocates for the establishment of National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) to facilitate African scholarly work
- Collaborates with major ICT players such as African Network Information Center (AfriNIC) & African Network Operators Group (AfNOG) for internet protocols for African HEIs



# **AAU ACADEMIC MOBILITY PROGRAMME**

## **Scholarships:**

- Int. Fellowships Programme scholarships (2000 to date). Limited to 3 countries in West Africa & assists brilliant but needy students for post-grad programmes promoting social justice

## **Staff Exchange (1982 to date):**

- Support exchange of staff for: research collaboration, teaching; as external examiners, etc., for short durations lasting from one week to three months.

## **Small Grants Programme (2000 to date)**

- Assists graduate students to complete their research programmes, theses and dissertations on time



# **AAU STRATEGIC PLAN (2011 – 2015)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> SP of the AAU approved at COREVIP 2011**

## **Vision**

To be the advocate for higher education in Africa, with the capacity to assist its member organizations in meeting national and continental needs.

## **Core Functions include**

- Promote interchange and co-operation;
- Collect and disseminate information;
- Promote co-operation in curriculum development and in degree equivalences; and
- Encourage increased contacts with the international academic world



# **AAU STRATEGIC PLAN (2011 – 2015)...3**

## **Plan revolves around 7 Key Results Areas:**

- Strengthening capacity for service delivery at AAU Secretariat
- AAU membership size, quality & commitment
- Strengthening HEIs delivery capacity in Africa
- Knowledge generation, management and dissemination
- Community and students engagement in HEIs
- Engagement with African and international partners in development for improved collaboration
- Supporting HEIs' response to local and regional challenges



# **AAU STRATEGIC PLAN (2011 – 2015)...2**

## **Key Feature of Strategic Plan**

Growing number and diversity of HEIs in Africa an opportunity for AAU to expand membership & set the pace for accountability, quality assurance and enhanced membership services.

## **Plan Implementation**

- Build on success in implementing projects in diverse areas & capacity to meet broader societal needs
- Continue to involve member institutions & strategic partners in implementing projects to engender commitment and ownership, and to build capacity for project delivery in member institutions

# PROBLEMS

Many but surmountable.

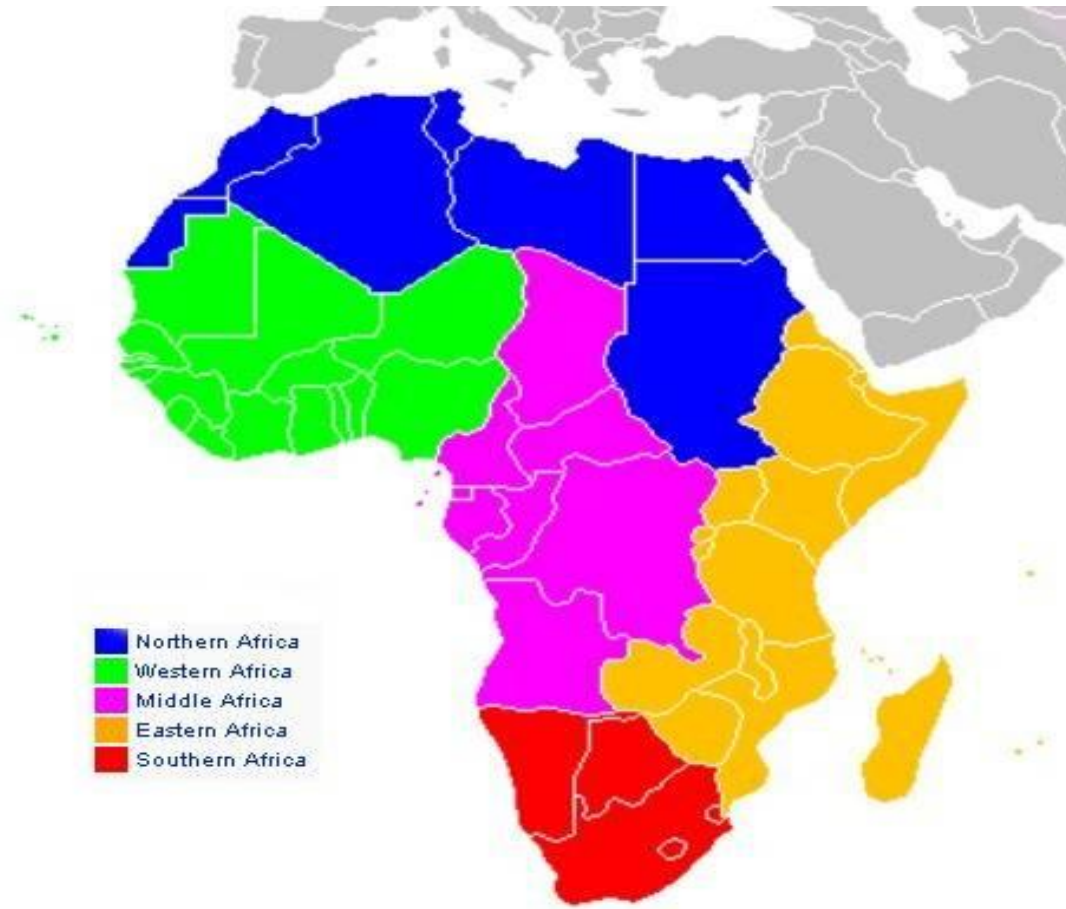
- One that is major is insufficient participation of Northern African Universities (Arabs)
- Since formation of AAU in Morocco, 3 official languages are - Arabic, English and French. There is a need for a resident Arab/English or Arab/French Translator/Interpreter in Accra



## **PROBLEMS CONTD.**

- Many HE institutions are not keying fully into the opportunities that are available by being members of the AAU. This negates available opportunities for connectivity which promote interchange of cooperation, research, quality assurance etc.
- Others who are members are not in good standing as they owe more than 2 years of annual subscription.
- The pie graphs depict the full list of members by country, number of member HEIs per region as well as those in good standing as at July, 2011

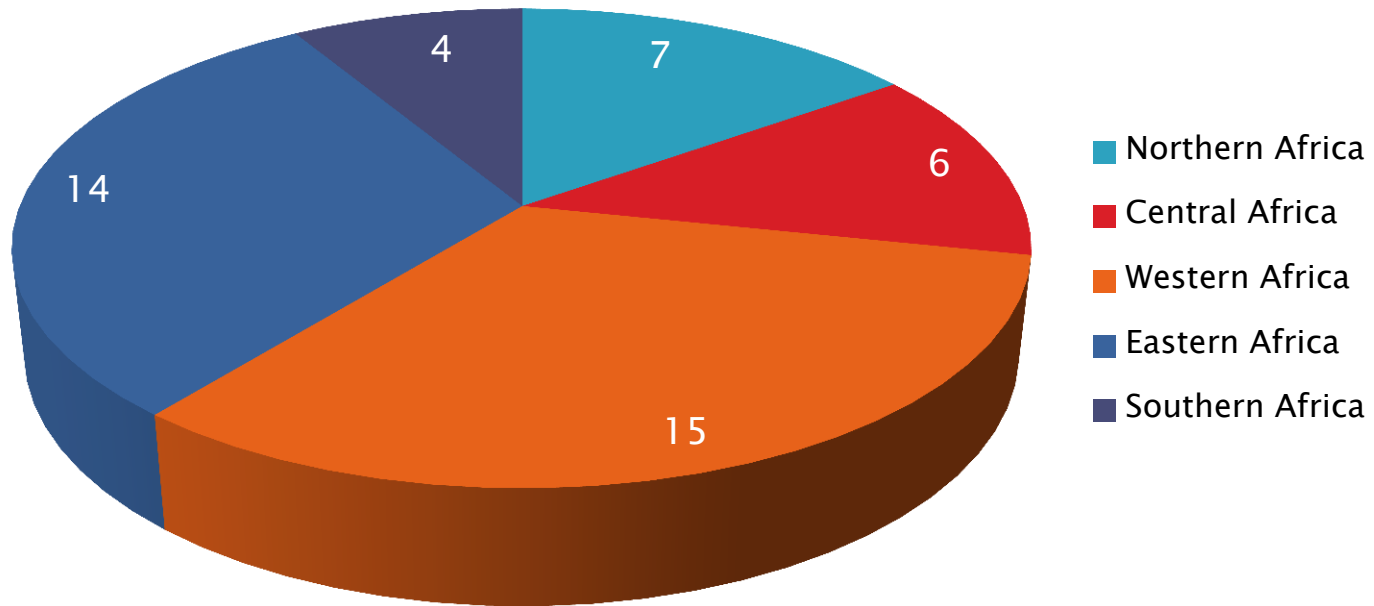
# **REGIONAL MAP OF AFRICA SHOWING THE MAIN REGIONS DESIGNATED BY THE UN**



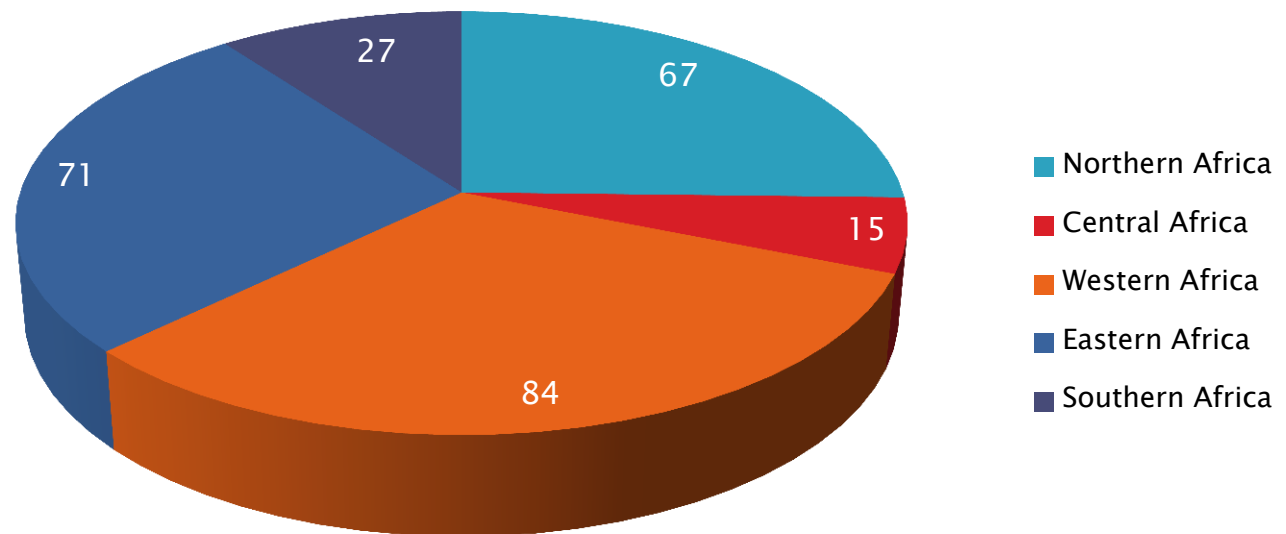
Source: Wikipedia Creative Commons

# **MEMBERSHIP OF AAU BY REGION/NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AS AT JULY, 2011**

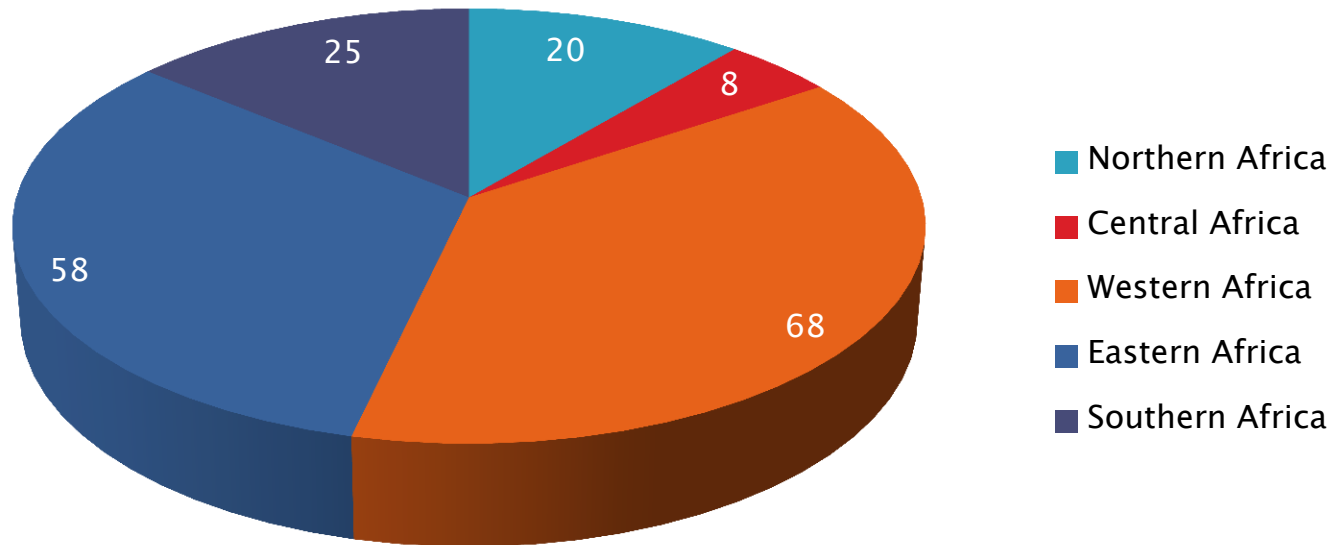
(264 members from 46 countries)



## Number of Member Institutions per Region



## Number of Member Institutions per Region in Good Standing



## Analysis of Institutional Membership by Region

Region	Membership	Members in Good Standing	Difference	% in Good Standing
Northern Africa	67	20	47	29.85
Central Africa	15	8	7	53.34
Western Africa	84	68	16	80.96
Eastern Africa	71	58	13	81.69
Southern Africa	27	25	2	92.60

The analysis in the preceding slide, brings to the fore the need for HEIs in Northern Africa to make concerted efforts for membership drive in order to maximise the benefits and opportunities that accrue from collaborating and networking with other Regions of Africa. This will go a long way in promoting excellence on our continent



# CONCLUSION

- I want to seize this opportunity to appeal to our HEIs to come on board by being members of the AAU and benefit from tremendous opportunities that abound
- The Member institutions who are not in good standing are urged to renew their membership and connect with other HEIs in order to develop our continent
- While those in good standing should not relent in their efforts to sustain their membership and continue to collaborate with one another and promote excellence in our HEIs
- The AAU also welcomes suggestions, concepts and ideas that will improve higher education in Africa



Details of all projects are on AAU's website:  
**<http://www.aau.org>**

**THANK YOU  
VERY MUCH**

