An appraisal of Africa in United Nations, 1945-2015

By

Oko-Jaja, Tuonimi Eze PhD
Department of History and International Diplomacy, Faculty of Humanities,
Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo Port Harcourt
Tel:08033614187
&
Benibo, Tonye Diepiriye PhD
Department of History and International Diplomacy, Faculty of Humanities,
Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo Port Harcourt
Tel:08105630699

Abstract

The main thrust of this study is a critical appraisal of Africa membership of the United Nations. The paper uses secondary sources of data to generate the needed facts, used in examining dialectically the degree of Africa's involvement in the United Nations since 1945, and its attendant implication on the continent. The study observes that African nations had deeply committed their involvement in United Nations and used all available opportunities the organization provided to project course for African development as witnessed in the decolonization struggle, clamuor and fight against inhuman practices of European governments in Africa as epitomized in the apartheid regime in South Africa, call to save the lake Chad basin, fight against infectious diseases and terrorism, among others. The paper established that in the Security Council, an important organ of the United Nations Organisation, Africa is not well involved, concomitantly; maintenance of peace and security in the continent became elusive. Consequently, arising from the criticism that engulfed United Nations Security Council peace missions in Africa, African Union established an organ known as Peace and Security Council, to bridge the gap uncovered in UN peace and security missions in Africa. The work opines that the aim of establishing the Peace and Security Council by African Union is yet to be realized as United Nations Security Council still enforces her global role in seemingly maintenance of peace and security in Africa, as seen in the case of Libya in 2011, a situation that had placed Libya on a trajectory of a failed State. The study concludes that a comprehensive synergy and corporation among African States is sine qua non for the continent's global appearance, for enhancement of her image and projection of a new Africa in international discourse, a development that will in turn increase better ways of international relationship with Africa, with an attendant economic development and relative peace and security in the continent.

Introduction

United Nations is an international governmental organization established by a charter signed at San Francisco, United states on June 26th, 1945 and which became effective on October 24th, 1945. The body came under the charge of the major nations in the allied forces that defeated the axis forces in the World War II. It replaced the failed League of Nations that was established in 1919 after the World War I, and was established to provide an institutional framework for global cooperation and maintenance of global peace and security, with headquarters in New York, United States, and Mr. Kurt Waldheim an Austrian as its first Secretary General (Banks, and Green, 1977: 536).

This inter-governmental organization started operation with 51 member nations, which include African states such as, Liberia, Ethiopia, Egypt and South Africa (Banks, and Green, 1977:582). However, South Africa as of then was theoretically an African state, but practically not because it was under the government of the settlers (Afrikaans) which governed with an apartheid policy, that segregated the indigenous black majority. Interestingly, she was not co-operating with the other three African UN member states in their demands and policy statement in the UN General Assembly. Currently, United Nations is having 193 countries as members, with 54 countries from Africa (Unwikipidia.com).

Furthermore, those early African UN member nations, saw the organization as a welcome development because they believed that their membership will secure their independence and also help them to coordinate themselves and agitate for independence of other African states, as well canvas support against racial discrimination that was going on in some Africa states, especially in apartheid South Africa and Northern and Southern Rhodesia, (presently Zimbabwe and Zambia). However, the organization provided those independent African leaders the platform for involvement in global politics and the understanding of the dynamics of the international system, hence, the need for a regional intergovernmental organization. The understanding of the dynamics of global politics by African leaders such as Emperor Haile Selassie, Col. Gamel Abdul Nasser and President William Tubman through their active participation in UN, helped them in their manoeuvre and lobby among other leaders of the organization against colonialism and all forms of racial discrimination in Africa, consequently, before the end 1960, many African states have gotten their independence and joined as members of UN, a development that enhanced their agitation against the colonization and racial discrimination in the African continent. However, in December 1960, they supported a motion in UN General Assembly for the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, which was adopted by the Assembly, and led to the setting up of a special committee of 24 members by the

Assembly with the mandate of implementating the declaration through continuous pressure for the independence of non-self-governing territories (Banks, and Green, 1977:538).

Interestingly, the gradual influence and contributions of African countries in global Politics through the United Nations enhanced their global understanding, thus, the need for a regional inter-governmental organization, aimed at discussing issues concerning Africa, essentially her unity with a powerful independent voice in world affairs (Meredith, 2005:143). Consequently, in 1963, thirty one African governments met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and established a regional inter-governmental organization known as Organization of African Unity (OAU) now known as African Union (AU). Since 1965, AU had been an observer group to UN General Assembly and a rallying point for African Leaders and Governments, a situation that had helped the leaders to dissect global affairs, mainly as it concern Africa, and taking a common position to the United Nations.

United Nations, in achieving its multifarious objectives of global peace and security, friendly relations among states and global cooperation in solving problems on economy, social, cultural and humanitarian crisis, structured itself into six principal organs with subsidiary organs, specialized and related agencies and adhoc global conferences. The six principal organs are the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice and the Secretariat. This study will briefly discuss these organs and highlights Africa's Participation in the day to day administration as well as in the achievements of the objective of the organs.

The General Assembly

This organ is theoretically the highest organ of the organization with powers to deliberate and make policies. All countries that have ratified the UN charter are representatives in this organ. Their representation is on an equal basis as all the member states have one vote each in the Assembly. This organ approves the budget of the organization, work with the Security Council to select the Secretary-General of the organization and judges of the International Court of Justice and passes resolutions. The dominance of the General Assembly by the less- developed countries has affected the resolutions of the assembly, which have changed overtime and now focuses on issues related to development and human rights (Banks, and Green,1977;538). Regrettably, this organ has no recognized authority to enforce its resolutions, declarations and conventions.

This organ has subsidiary organs and special agencies such as, United Nations Capital Development Funds (UNCDF), United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF), United

Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNTAR), Disarmament Commission, International Civil Services Commission, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), to mention a few.

From the 1960s, African countries have put up an encouraging participation in UN through this organ. Through the General Assembly, majority of African members in the early 1960s, spoke against the move by Arab countries to isolate Israel and also voted against the move during the debate in the General Assembly (The African Report NO. 44, October, 2012). In the case of Congo DR crisis, they used the organ to press on UN to ask Belgium Government to withdraw troops from the newly independent state and insisted on UN to take over the peace operation, arguing that Belgium is an interested party in the crisis. They also pushed and canvassed support against the racial discrimination in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa which resulted in the General Assembly's establishment of a UN Committee on sanctions for Southern Rhodesia [Zimbabwe] in 1968 and UN Council for Northern Rhodesia [Namibia] in 1967. In 1972, African countries condemned United States of America violation of the Security Council's Sanction against South Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in the General Assembly Meeting. In the case of South Africa apartheid policies, African leaders stood against the racial policy and their support for UN resolution on the use of Economic Sanctions against the South African government, speaks volume in the General Assembly. Their persistence condemnation of the apartheid policies and call for action by the organization, won them the support of other countries mostly from Asia. The popularity they gained against the apartheid regime in South Africa in the General Assembly, led to the expulsion of South African from the organization in 1974 (Banks, and Green, 1977:538).

In the same vein, African governments, through the AU have opted to mediate in the crisis between Israel and Egypt in 1967 after Israel bombardment of Egyptian airfields and seizure of Gaza strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt. A rebuff by Israel, attracted condemnation from many African leaders, consequently, in the UN General Assembly, they spoke against Israel's action and voted in support of the resolution demanding Israel to vacate the seized territories from Egypt and Palestine (The African Report, NP 44, October, 2012). Similarly, the action of the South African government in Namibia renewed condemnation on their activities by African governments in the UN General Assembly. The decisive condemnation and clamour for a UN action, led to the unprecedented passing of a resolution endorsing "armed struggle" for Namibian independence by the General

Assembly in December 1976, with African countries voting overwhelming for the resolution (Banks, and Green, 1977: 538-547).

Furthermore, the deliberation that publicized the demand for a New International Economic Order, at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly in 1974, had the fully participation of African member States, and their unanimous voice, contributed to the adoption of the resolution in 1975 in Nairobi, Kenya. The adoption, opened a new chapter in the economic relations between less-developed countries, especially African countries and the developed countries (Bank, and Green, 1977:138 and Ake, 1981:62). It contributed to the formation of the G77 countries popularly known as African Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP). The resolutions or proposals of this group in their meeting in February 1976, known as the 'Manila Carter', enhanced their trade discussions or negotiations with the European Economic Community (EEC). However, the most outstanding of their trade negotiations was the Lome conventions, which its implementation benefited African countries so much (Ake, 1981: 164).

In the recent time, African leaders have continuously used the General Assembly to canvas for the Palestinian state to be recognized by the United Nations as well as global Cooperation in the fight against terrorism, disease, poverty and climate change, especially to save the Lake Chad basin.

Also, in the subsidiary organs and special agencies of the Genera! Assembly, African countries have played a major role for instance, Nairobi, Kenya host the headquarters of UNEP and UNCS (United Nations Common Service). In the area of man power, Africans have been serving as members of executive boards or governing councils of these subsidiary bodies at different times. Her sons and daughters have also been serving and making meaningful impact in principal positions in these bodies, and some of such persons are Anna Tibaijuka (Executive Director, UNHHSF 2006) and Dr. Richard Munang (African Coordinator UNEP 2014] and Jessica Andrews [UNEP Ecosystem Adaption Officer). There are also projects and programmes of these subsidiary organs in African such as, UNEP projects in different African nations going on in partnership with government Officials, business communities, community leaders and regional organizations on how to translate economic growth into long lasting inclusive human development, and UNICEF programmes, which have been promoting child education and health care, in African countries.

Security Council

This organ is the powerful body of the organization, saddled with the responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, which is the paramount aim of the organization. It has 15 members: five permanent members with veto power and 10 non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly for a two year term. In the election of the non-permanent members, the Assembly considers the contributions of member states in the maintenance of international peace and security and also equitable geographical distribution. However, there is ongoing move for restructuring of the membership of the Council, which will allow some countries like Japan, Germany, India, Brazil and possibly one from Africa to become a permanent member of the Council without a veto-power (Volker Lehmann, 2008). The five permanent members with veto-power are China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States of America. The presidency of the Council rotates monthly among members in the English alphabetical order (Banks, and Green, 1977: 547).

The Council decisions on procedural matters are made by an affirmative vote of any nine members, but must be concurred by the five permanent members. It is during the concurring of a decision that a member exercises his veto-power (Banks, and Green, 1977: 547). The Security Council determines the existence of a threat to the peace or acts of aggression and adopts various means to address it, such as, Negotiation, Sanction and Force.

Interestingly, despite the fact that Africa is not among the five permanent members with veto-power in the Council, she had been allotted 3 seats in the non-permanent members and had played a role in the activities of the Council. The continent has hosted the Council meetings, and one of such meetings was the Council meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 1972. The UN Security Council equally has some of her subsidiary organs in Africa such as Adhoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa and Adhoc Working Group on Africa. Equally, many African countries had been elected and served meritoriously as non-permanent members in the Council such as, Benin, Gabon, Libya, Tanzania, Egypt, South Africa, Ethiopia, Nigeria, to mention a few. Also some African sons have chaired the Council in different periods, among whom was Gabonese diplomat, Jean Ping (2004- 2005).

In the aspect of UN Security Council peace keeping activities, African member states have participated in different capacities. Infact, African sons and daughters started peace keeping operations under the colonial masters. In 1948 a Ghanaian born Major General, Emmanuel Alexandra Erskine was UN force commander in charge of United Nations

Truce Supervision Organization, responsible for a cease fire arrangement between the Arabs and Israel (Banks, and Green,1977:548). Other Africans that have served as UN force commanders in peace keeping operations are Maj. General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi (Nigeria), Maj. General Chris Garuba (Nigeria), Lt. Gen. Isaac Obiakor (Nigeria), Maj. Gen. Joseph Owonibi (Nigeria), Gen.Martin Luther Agwai (Nigeria), Maj. Gen. Moses Obi (Nigeria). Gen. Obiakor and Agwai have at different times also served as UN Chief military advisers (www.un.org).

Furthermore, many African countries have been actively involved in deploying troops and other equipments for UN peace keeping operations since 1960. Some of them are, Ethiopia which is currently providing the highest number of troops numbering about 326, Rwanda, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Egypt, Tanzania, Nigeria, Niger, Togo, Morocco, Chad, South Africa, Kenya, Benin, Cameroon etc (www.un.org).

Interestingly Africa is one continent that has experienced a high presence of UN peace keeping missions. African countries that have witnessed UN Security Council mission presence are, Chad, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Sudan, Comoros, Cote d' Ivore, Djibouti, Ethiopia/Eritrea, South-Africa, Uganda, Tunisia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Zambia, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia among others. And some of the Security Council missions are, UN mission in Central Africa, UN Observer Group in Sierra Leone, UN mission in Sierra Leone, UN Organization mission in the DR Congo, UN mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, UN mission in Liberia, UN operation in Cote d' ivoire, UN operation in Burundi, UN mission in Sudan, AU-UN hybrid Operation in Darfur, UN mission in Central Africa and Chad, UN stabilization mission in DR Congo, UN mission in the Republic of Southern Sudan, UN multidimensional integrated stabilization mission in Mali, UN multidimensional integrated stabilization mission in Central African Republic and UN mission in Angola etc. Currently, UN operation is on-going in some African countries such as, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Mali, South Sudan, Cote d' ivoire etc (www.un.org).

In essence, most of the UN Security Council operations in Africa in time past have been criticized for not achieving its purpose due to lack of adequate funds, military troops, intelligent experts, weapons and primordial interest by some nations and key personalities in the organization, for example, the peacekeeping mission in DR Congo in 1960, Rwanda in 1994 and Libya in 2011. In Congo, UN peacekeeping mission started late despite efforts made by African member states in drawing the attention of the organization to the crisis. But due to vested interest from capitalist countries in the crisis, the UN troops came late and were on ground when Moise Tshombe, backed by Belgium government declared

Katanga province independent from Congo without any move stopping the declaration. In the same vein, the troops were also there when Col. Mobutu overthrew the government led by Patrice Lumumba, as well, denied him protection thereby paving way for his kidnap and murder (Meredith, 2005: 109). Equally, the interest in the Congo crisis contributed to the controversial assassination of Dag Hammarskjold, UN 2nd secretary general in a mysterious plane crash in Zambian town of Ndola, on his mission to resolve the crisis in Congo, in September 18th 1961 (New Africa, 2001). In the case of Rwanda in 1994, the UN mission troops on ground equally failed to stop the genocide that occurred in the killing of the Tutsis by the Hutus. In this ugly development, the UN operational commander, Gen. Dallaire blamed their failure to lack of sincerity by UN headquarters which failed to see reasons to his complains, on lack of adequate fund, troops, weapons and intelligent experts (Meredith, 2005: 504). Consequently, in 1994 UN Security Council established the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) to prosecute persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territories of Rwanda and neighbouring states.

The criticism against the activities of UN peacekeeping operatives in the genocide in Rwanda had been a source of concern to African leaders since 1994. By 2002, South African president, Thabo Mbeki, called other African leaders to think outside the box on how Africa could do more to prevent genocide, than watch and call on UN Security Council members, whose most of her interventions, in peacekeeping operations in Africa had been characterized by contradictions and suggested for the establishment of AU Peace and Security Council, to be in charge of maintenance of peace and security in Africa (The Economics Magazine March, 13th, 2004). Equally in the case of Libya in 2011 the criticism is on the ambiguity and contradiction of UN Security Council mission, after the Council voted in favour of Resolution 1973 in March 2011. It is an ongoing debate among scholars, on whether UN Security Council mission in Libya was actually the fight for human rights and democracy or it was more a question of geo-politics and geo-economics based on oil revenues and similar considerations (Kay, 2013). On the other hand, the UN mission in Libya in 2011 provides a big question mark on AU establishment and operationalisation of her Peace and Security Council in 2004, and the relevance of their principle of African solution to African problems.

The Secretariat

This organ of the organization is manned by the Secretary General with headquarters in New York, United State of America. The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. He in turn appoints other staff of the secretariat under the regulations established by the General Assembly. The Secretary

General is appointed for a five year term that is subject to renewal for another five years. The secretariat has maintained a significant presence in all parts of the world. In Africa, it maintained bigger presence in Nairobi, Kenya and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The secretariat, since its operation in 1945, had a good number of Africans that have served and are still serving as staffs in different areas and capacities. Two African sons have served as Secretary General. They are, Boutros Boutros Ghali (Egypt) and Kofi Annan (Ghana). Others that have served the secretariat in other capacities are Issoufou Djermakoye (Niger) Economic and social Affairs, Abdulrahim Farah (Somalia) special political questions, Muhammed Gherab (Tunisia) personal services, Amina Mohammed (Nigeria) Executive Assistant to the Secretary General, Olusegun Obasanjo (Nigeria) member advisory committee to the Secretary General, Mohammed Sahnoun (Algeria) UN Secretary General special representative to Somalia and Great Lakes Region, Ahmedou Abdullah (Mauritania) UN Secretary General special representative to Rwanda and Somalia, Ellen Margret Loj, UN Secretary General representative to Liberia in 2011 election, Maged Abdelaziz, UN Secretary General special adviser on Africa 2014, Babacar Gaye,UN Secretary General special representative to Central Africa Republic and head of the UN Secretary General multidimensional integrated stabilization mission to Central Africa Republic in 2014, Jacques Booh-Booh (Cameroon) UN Secretary General special representative to Rwanda in 1994, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria) head of UN Sec. General special mission in Darfur, Olu Adeniji (Nigeria) UN special representative to Central African Republic and Sierra Leone, Margaret Vogt (Nigeria) UN Sec. Gen. Special representative to Central African Republic, to mention a few. The contributions of Africans in this organ is quite impressing especially the role of Boutros Ghali and Kofi Annan. Annan's maturity in handling the issues involving the controversial bombardment of Iraq by America and British forces, proved him to be a skilled diplomatic tactician and which contributed to earn him a 2nd tenure, which he used actively in pursuing peace in the world particularly Africa. His involvement in resolving Nigeria-Cameroun border problem after the ICJ ruling was a clear testimony to this fact.

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

This is one of the six main organs of the United Nations. It was established by a charter of the organization to serve principally as a judicial body. It started operations in April 1946. It is situated at the Hague (Netherlands).

The major role of this organ is to settle disputes among states in accordance with international law, when issues are being brought before it. It also gives advisory legal opinions on matters referred to it by UN organs and specialized agencies which have been

authorized by the General Assembly to make such a request. ICJ is made up of 15 judges and assisted by a registry of the court, headed by a registrar. The judges are elected for a renewable nine year term by simple separate majority votes of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council. The judges upon assumption of office elect within them a president and vice president of the court, who serves for a three year term. The court also appoints judges outside to serve in ad hoc capacities on special cases before them.

Among the 15 judges of the court, Africa has three slots. African judges that had served in the court are Taslim Oluwale Elias-1976-1982,1985-1991 (Nigeria), Isaac Forster-19641-1982 (Senegal), Louise Ignacio Pinto-1970-1979 (Benin), Abdel Hamid Badawi Pasha-1946-1965 (Egypt), Charles D. Onyeama-1967-1976 (Nigeria), Abdullah El-Erian-1979-1981 (Egypt), Mbaye Kebakeba Mbaye-1982-1991 (Senegal), Mohammed Bedjaoui-1982-1994,1997-2001 (Algeria), Raymond Ranjeva-1991-2009 (Madagascar), Ajibola A. Bola 2015-2018 (Nigeria), Koroma G. Abdul 1994-2012 (Sierra Leone), Ahmed Abdulqawi Yusuf 2009-2021, served as court president 2018-2021 (Somalia), Sebutinde Julia 2021- (Uganda), Mohammed Bennouna-2006- (Morocco), Nabil Elaraby-2001-2006, and those that served as Ad hoc judges of the court are; George Abisaab (Egypt), Adetokunboh A. Ademola (Nigeria), Philemon Beb a'Don (Cameroon), Mohammed Bennouna (Morocco), Alphonse Boni [Cote d'Ivoire], Christopher J.R Dugard (South Africa), Ahmed Sedekei-Kosheri (Egypt). Prince Bola Adesumbo Ajibola (Nigeria) Mohammed Bedjaoui (Algeria), Sayeman Bula-Bula (DR Congo), Joseph Chesson (Liberia), Nabil Elaraby (Egypt), James L. Kateka (Tanzania), Ahmed Mahiou (Algeria), Auguste Mampuya Tshiabo (DR Congo), Jean-Pierre Ngoma (DR Congo), Sir Louis Mbanefo (Nigeria), Keba Mbaye (Senegal), Thomas A. Mensah (Ghana), Navanethem Pillay (South Africa), J.T Van Wyk (South Africa), Abdulqawi A. Yusuf (Somalia), etc.

Furthermore, in matters involving African countries the court has giving an advisory opinion and adjudicated on matters brought before it by African countries. For instance, in 1950, the court gave an advisory opinion on a matter brought before it concerning South Africa's administration of the former League of Nations mandate of South West Africa (Namibia). In 1966, it ruled on a matter brought before it by Ethiopia and Liberia against South Africa's apartheid regime. It also ruled on frontier disputes between Burkina Faso and Mali, these matters were significant in Africa, as it marked the beginning of Africa's diminishing confidence in the true sense of justice of the court (Banks, & Green, 1977:554). Again in 1970, in a request by the General Assembly, the court gave an advisory opinion; stating that South Africa should withdrew from administering Namibia. Also in 1975, the court ruled on the case of self-determination of Western Sahara from Morocco and Mauritania (Bank, and Green, 1977:554). Equally, in 2002 the court ruled on a case

instituted before it by the government of Cameroon against the Nigerian government over their international boundary.

Trusteeship Council

This Council is one of the organs of the UN. It was established to supervise territories placed under the international trusteeship system. The Council is made up of UN member states administering trust territories, permanent members of Security Council that was not administering territory and other members elected by the General Assembly for three year terms.

Most of the territories that have been under trusteeship were in Africa. Although they have all gained their independence, they are Togo, Cameroon, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia and Tanganyika. On the membership of the Council, some African countries have been elected as members, one of them is Liberia elected in 1965.

The main objective of the Council was to monitor the level of political, economic, social and educational advancement of those territories and their progressive development towards self-governance. The Council monitored the progressive developments in all the African territories under trusteeship and ensured their independence when the progressive reports on their level of self-government were considered impressive.

The Council was very careful in the independent processes of these territories. For instance, in the case of French Cameroun and British-Cameroun, a plebiscite was organized in 1961 to determine the faith of British-Cameroun after the independence of French Cameroun in 1960. It was the result of the plebiscite that empowered the Council to organize and monitored smooth transfer of British-Cameroun from independent state of Nigeria to independent state of Cameroun.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

This Council is charged with the responsibility to make or initiate studies, reports and recommendations on international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters; promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms; negotiating agreements with the UN specialized agencies to clarify their relations with the UN, and coordinating the activities of the specialized Agencies through consultations and recommendations.

In 1973, the Council increased its membership to 54, to accommodate more members especially from Africa and Asia whose numbers in the organization had increased. This

Council, executes most of its functions through her standing Committee, Functional and Regional Commissions and related bodies. Some of them are Statistical Commission, Commission on Population and Development, Commission for Special Development, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal justices, Commission on Science and Technology and Development, UN's Forum on Forests, Commission on Human Rights, Committee for Programme and Coordination, Committee on Non-Governmental Organization, Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, Committee for Development Planning, Committee on Natural Resources, Committee on Science and Technology, Committee on Review and Appraisal, Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, Economic Commission for Africa, to mention but few.

This Council held most of her sectional meetings in New York and Geneva. Their meeting is presided over by a President, elected among members. Many Africans have been elected as president and chaired the meetings of this Council; among them are Simeon Ake (Cote d'ivoire) 1976, session (Banks, and Green, 1977 548), Frederick Musiiwamakamure (Zimbawe) 2016, Lazarous Kapambwe (Zambian) 2011, Ali Hachani (Tunisha), Collen Vixen Kalapile (Botswaria) 2021, etc.

The first meeting of the Council that was held in Africa was in Abidjan, Cote d'ivoire. It was at the meeting that the Council focused on economic and social policy recommendations on New International Economic Order and Corrupt Practices by Transnational Corporations (Banks, and Green, 1977: 548). Also, many African countries have been elected to serve as members in this Council in different times since inception in 1946.

Interestingly, the Commissions and Committees of this organ have intimated programmes and projects that have impacted positively on Africa. In the same vein, Africans have formed part of the workforce of these subsidiary groups since their inception. Some Africans who have held key positions in these Committees and Commissions are Adebayo Adedeji (Nigeria) Executive Secretary of ECA, Carlos Lopes (Guinea-Bissau) Executive Secretary of ECA, Collen Vixen Kelapile, (Botswana) Chief of Staff to the Executive Secretary of ECA, Vera Sonawe (Cameroon) 2017 Executive Secretary ECA. ECA is a Commission that is directly working to encourage economic cooperation among African UN member states. This Commission in 1975, adopted a framework of principles for implantation of a New International Economics Order in Africa, and also involved in drafting a comprehensive medium term development plan for Africa. It has its

headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. However, the recent involvement of this Commission on governance issues in Africa, have been a source of concern to Africa economic and development experts, as they call on the Commission to refocus on substantive development issues.

Conclusion

The foregoing has clearly shown that African countries have shown great interest in international organizations, especially the United Nations. They have been actively involved in the activities of this organization, in its main organs and subsidiary organs. Africans active role can be epitomized by the appointments of her sons and daughters in key positions of the organization. Also, their impressive performance is an indication of the continent's maturity in global affairs. However, Africa's non-permanent membership, in the Security Council, has in no doubt limited her active participations in the organization, especially in the area of maintenance of global peace and security. With Africa having one-third of the membership of UN and a hot spot for majority of UN mandated peacekeeping operations, her permanent membership of the Security Council with a veto-power is necessary, as it will enable her influence the peacekeeping operations in Africa for better performance and results, that is necessary for relatively permanent peace and economic development of the continent. As it is obvious, from the above explanations, UN peacekeeping operations in Africa have always been greeted with criticism because the operations have failed to achieve any lasting peace among parties in the crisis in different African countries. The more disturbing and worrisome trend of the UN peacekeeping exercise, especially in politically related crisis is the introduction of power sharing principle, which has failed to enhance peace but exacerbated crisis in the affected countries in the long run. The case of Kenya, Zimbabwe, Angola and Sierra Leone are good example.

Furthermore, it is also pertinent to state from the foregoing that Africa had benefitted so much from her membership of UN since 1945 till date in different dimensions. The organization gave Africa the platform to galvanize international support against colonialism and other inhuman practices against

African states, and at the same time, became a springboard upon which Africa synergized and coordinated themselves for a focused agenda in international arena for the development of Africa, which snowballed in their formation of regional and sub-regional organizations like the OAU now AU which had been doing a lot and cooperating with the UN for peace, security and development of the continent. In addition, it is gainsaying that Africa's membership and active participation in the UN, despite the power politics in the

organization, had benefitted very well from the activities of the organization and what is left, is that African leaders should do everything at their reach to maintain lasting peace and security in the continent which will reduce direct involvement of developed countries in Africa's political affairs, which have been detrimental to Africa's interest. In so doing, developed countries activities in Africa will be redirected mostly to the economics aspect, which will contribute to the actualization of economic development of the continent.

With the formation of African Union Peace and Security Council, it is imperative that the Council maintains a strong communication link with the African non-permanent members in Security Council of the UN with the view of achieving a synergy on matters concerning the continent on international stage, so as to remain on one page, to avoid confusion and uncoordinated response from the continent on issues affecting any African state, as to prevent western powers interference on internal crisis in Africa and also to enhance the continent's integrity in the international stage, as well as to prove that the principle of "African solutions to African problems" is real and has come to stay for the good and development of the continent and the world in general.

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