

The State of African Regional and Continental Integration According to the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII) and Algeria's Contribution to Achieving It

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Abstract

The study aims to identify the extent of progress achieved in the process of African regional and continental integration, based on the findings of the African Integration Study conducted by the African Union in cooperation with several international organizations, using the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII) for 2025. The index is based on four pillars: political integration, economic integration, infrastructure integration, and human and social integration, which are operationalized through eleven (11) sub-dimensions. The study also seeks to examine Algeria's contribution to African continental integration according to these pillars.

The study adopts a descriptive-analytical approach by describing Algeria's role in African integration through its achievements and by examining the evolution of regional and continental integration. It also analyzes the degree of progress in African regional and continental integration according to the ASRII through an analysis of its pillars and dimensions. The study finds that African regional integration has followed a relatively positive trajectory up to 2025; however, it remains uneven and fragile. Some regional economic communities have made notable progress in intra-community integration, while others have achieved moderate or near-moderate levels of integration. Furthermore, disparities can be observed within the same regional economic community in the results of the different pillars and dimensions. Algeria has contributed to African integration through several achievements. At the political level, its contribution has been reflected in its diplomatic role in resolving regional conflicts and crises and in raising Africa's voice in international forums to defend the interests of the continent. At the economic level, Algeria has undertaken several projects with a continental dimension that are expected to contribute to the sustainable development of the beneficiary countries.

Keywords: African regional and continental integration; African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII); pillars and dimensions of the African Regional Integration Index; Algeria's contribution to African continental integration.

1. Introduction

The global economy has experienced sluggish growth amid the uncertainty prevailing in the international economic environment. Global output growth was estimated at 3.3% and 3.2% in 2024 and 2025, respectively, with growth expected to decline to 2.9% in 2026 (OECD, 2025), compared with an average of 3.7% over the period 2000–2019. The global economy is facing trade tensions resulting from the escalation of protectionism, changes in the configuration of supply chains, and increasing restrictions on maritime transit routes. It is also confronted with geopolitical tensions, including the Russia-Ukraine war and U.S.-Russia tensions, as well as various conflicts and political instability affecting several regions around the world,

particularly Africa. These challenges are compounded by restrictive monetary policies, exchange-rate risks, rising prices in global energy and commodity markets, and rapid technological developments.

Despite the difficult and tense global environment, Africa recorded an estimated growth rate of 3.2% in 2024, which is close to the global growth rate but remains below its pre-COVID-19 pandemic growth rate of 5%. This growth rate, however, varies considerably across countries on the continent.

The unfavorable and unstable external environment provides Africa with a unique opportunity to refocus its policies on economic diversification and strengthen its structural transformation, supported by the assets and conditions that enable the continent to withstand shocks and chart a new development path. These include a large young population, abundant natural resources, expanding consumer markets, and promising investment opportunities. In addition, Africa's strategic geographical position enables it to benefit from the global transformation of value chains. The time is therefore opportune for the African continent to renew its commitment to regional integration and translate its project of continental economic integration into concrete action.

As for Algeria, its commitment to African integration is reflected, first and foremost, in its diplomatic efforts, positions, and initiatives based on peace and integrity in addressing current regional issues. Algeria has attached importance to this integration for several decades. It played an active role in the transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union and played an important role in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative in 2001. At present, Algeria is contributing to the implementation of major development projects with a continental dimension, particularly in the field of infrastructure, such as the Trans-Saharan Highway and the optical fiber project, which benefit the countries through which these projects pass.

1.1 Research Problem

Based on the foregoing, the following research problem can be formulated:

What is the state of African regional and continental integration according to the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII), and to what extent has Algeria contributed to achieving it?

This question leads us to formulate the following sub-questions:

- To what extent has the process of African regional and continental integration progressed according to the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII)?
- What are Algeria's efforts toward achieving African continental integration according to the pillars of the ASRII?

1.2 Research Hypotheses

To address the research problem and the sub-questions, the following hypotheses were formulated:

- African regional and continental integration is progressing at a slow but positive pace;
- Algeria's contribution to achieving African continental integration is multidimensional.

1.3 Research Objectives

- To assess the progress achieved in African regional and continental integration by analyzing the findings on regional integration presented in the latest report (2025) issued by the African Union in cooperation with several international organizations, which adopted both quantitative and qualitative analyses using the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII).
- To examine Algeria's contribution to African continental integration through the pillars of the ASRII, namely political, economic, infrastructure, and human and social integration.

1.4 Research Methodology

This study adopts a descriptive approach to describe the theoretical aspects of the African integration process at both the continental and regional levels, as well as the nature of Algeria's contribution to

integration. It also adopts an analytical approach to discuss and analyze the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the findings of the study conducted by the African Union on regional integration using the ASRII.

2. The Evolution of African Regional Integration

The process of African integration has gone through several stages and taken various forms in terms of objectives and areas of cooperation. These integration experiences have primarily taken the form of regional groupings, whose establishment and expansion across the continent have evolved in response to regional and international circumstances. The multiplicity of economic and political factors responsible for weak economic performance and the marginalization of African countries in the global economy led to a rapid expansion of efforts toward regional and continental integration during the 1970s and 1980s. On this basis, numerous regional groupings were established during this period, with no fewer than 160 organizations seeking to promote regional integration. The continent subsequently witnessed reviews of existing integration experiences and the establishment of new organizations and groupings, all of which constituted preliminary steps toward unity among African countries. Several initiatives with a continental scope also emerged:

Following the establishment of the **Organization of African Unity (OAU)** in 1963, whose efforts were primarily directed toward the political liberation of African countries, the **Lagos Plan of Action** for the Development of Africa emerged from the Economic Summit of the Organization of African Unity held in Nigeria in 1980. Its main objective was to achieve effective regional integration based on national self-reliance and capabilities, at both the national and collective levels, and to promote growth and economic transformation in Africa.

The **Abuja Treaty**, signed in Abuja, Nigeria, on 3 July 1991, constituted a treaty establishing the African Economic Community with the aim of accelerating the achievement of continental economic integration and monetary union by 2028. The Abuja Treaty, which entered into force on 12 May 1994, established six stages for achieving the objectives of the African Economic Community over a period of 34 years. To achieve the objectives of the Treaty, eight regional economic communities distributed across the African continent were adopted, namely: (Ben Sheikh & Mediani, 2018, p. 46)

- **Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)**
- **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**
- **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)**
- **Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)**
- **East African Community (EAC)**
- **Southern African Development Community (SADC)**
- **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**
- **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**

These are economic communities recognized by the African Union and considered building blocks for the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The **African Union (AU)** succeeded the Organization of African Unity in response to regional and international transformations, and the Constitutive Act of the African Union was signed on 11 July 2000. Its establishment was intended to achieve a number of objectives, including greater unity and solidarity among African countries and peoples, accelerating the political, social, and economic integration of the continent, promoting sustainable development at the economic, social, and cultural levels, and coordinating and harmonizing policies among existing and future regional economic communities in order to progressively achieve the objectives of the Union (Wassaf, 2022).

The **New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)** emerged as an initiative undertaken by the Presidents of Algeria, South Africa, and Nigeria at the end of 2000 and the beginning of 2001. The Presidents of Egypt and Senegal subsequently joined the initiative, forming a group of Heads of State promoting an initiative aimed primarily at enabling the continent to create the conditions necessary for sustainable peace and development. It was endorsed on 10 July 2002.

The NEPAD initiative was integrated into the structures and processes of the African Union during the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on 2 February 2010. The objectives of NEPAD fall within two main areas, economic and political, the most important of which include: restoring and maintaining macroeconomic stability through the establishment of appropriate monetary and fiscal policy standards and targets and the creation of suitable institutional frameworks to ensure their achievement; reducing extreme poverty; promoting new information and communication technologies; developing the energy sector; improving access to developed-country markets and capital flows; and strengthening democracy and stability across the continent (Gazibo, 2010).

Promoting Intra-African Trade: The African Union Summit held in January 2012 addressed the issue of “Promoting Intra-African Trade” by accelerating the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which was adopted in 2018 and entered into force on 30 May 2019.

Agenda 2063: In January 2015, the African Union adopted Agenda 2063, which was regarded as a foundation for the continent’s long-term economic, social, and integration transformation. The African Union Commission was tasked with preparing a five-year action plan to which African countries and regional groupings would be committed and through which they would implement its objectives (Wassaf, 2022).

3. The State of African Regional and Continental Integration

3.1 Definition of the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII)

To assess the extent of progress in African continental and regional integration, the African Union, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), adopted the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index, a multidimensional index consistent with the guiding frameworks of the Abuja Treaty Report, Agenda 2063, and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). It is considered a quantitative and qualitative measurement tool for assessing the state of integration, and its assessment is based on a scale ranging from 0 to 1, where 0 indicates no integration, 0.5 indicates moderate integration, and 1 indicates full integration. In cooperation with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Association of African Central Banks, and national statistical agencies, these institutions issued a report on the findings of the 2025 African Integration Study, based on this index, through which the following were achieved: (African Union, JUNE 2025)

- Assessing performance at the continental and regional levels through the African Regional Economic Communities;
- Providing a comprehensive picture of the state of integration through its constituent pillars and the sub-dimensions falling under them. It is based on four main pillars of integration: political, economic, infrastructure, and human and social integration, which are operationalized through eleven (11) sub-dimensions.

The report constitutes a highly important reference for the following reasons:

- It is dynamic, allowing for the assessment of the evolution of the integration process over time at the continental level, while also highlighting current deficiencies that hinder the process;
- It has a high degree of credibility due to the multiplicity of institutions contributing to its preparation and the diversity of information sources on which it is based.

The following presents these pillars and the dimensions falling under them: (African Union, JUNE 2025, pp. 7–8)

Political Integration, which includes three dimensions:

- **Institutional Integration Dimension**, which assesses legal and institutional frameworks, the effectiveness of financing mechanisms, and alignment with continental positions.
- **Governance and Democracy Dimension**, which examines the rule of law, the quality of governance, and commitment to democratic standards. Good governance is essential for protecting human rights

and ensuring the participation of all citizens in decision-making. Responsible, transparent, and inclusive governments are better able to cooperate on regional issues.

- **Peace and Security Dimension**, which assesses the existence and effectiveness of mechanisms for conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and collective security. Peace and security are fundamental to sustainable economic development. Africa faces challenges in achieving them, the most prominent of which include corruption, conflicts, and terrorism.

Economic Integration, which includes four dimensions:

- **Business and Enterprise Development Dimension**, which assesses the extent to which the investment climate is conducive to and promotes regional investment.
- **Market Integration Dimension**, which assesses the regulatory environment for cross-border trade, the volume and quality of regional exchanges, and progress in digital trade. Regional and continental trade agreements are essential for enhancing the comparative advantages of African countries in regional and global markets. These agreements strengthen the bargaining power of countries, improve industrial efficiency, and enhance competitiveness. Consequently, they facilitate increased intra-African trade, raise income levels, stimulate economic growth, and contribute to poverty reduction. (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, juin 2025, p. 51)
- **Productive and Sustainable Integration Dimension**, which focuses on value-chain development, productivity, integration, the promotion of the digital economy, and environmental sustainability. Productive integration in a country corresponds to the extent to which its productive capacities are integrated with those of other countries in the region. (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, juin 2025, p. 42)
- **Macroeconomic Integration Dimension**, which assesses the degree of harmonization of statistics, fiscal, economic, and monetary policies, as well as efforts to achieve the financial independence of member states of regional economic communities.

Macroeconomic integration is essential for enhancing macroeconomic stability and achieving a single currency, thereby facilitating the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people. (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, juin 2025, p. 49)

Infrastructure Integration, which includes one dimension:

- **Infrastructure Integration**, which measures the extent of availability and coverage of transport, energy, water and sanitation, and digital infrastructure at the regional level, in line with the priorities of the Regional Infrastructure Integration Index.

Building comprehensive, affordable, and accessible infrastructure is essential for promoting regional integration. Without adequate roads, railways, airports, and ports, as well as digital and energy connectivity, goods and services cannot be traded on a large scale. (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, juin 2025, p. 57)

Human and Social Integration, which includes three dimensions:

- **Free Movement of Persons Dimension**, which assesses openness to movement and the implementation of residence and establishment rights as stipulated in the Kigali Protocol.
- **Cultural and Social Integration Dimension**, which examines regional cooperation in the fields of health, education, youth empowerment, and cultural promotion, including the recognition of qualifications and disease-control systems.
- **Science, Technology and Innovation Dimension**, which was added in 2025 and reflects the growing importance of scientific cooperation and innovation systems in accelerating integration. (African Union, JUNE 2025, pp. 8-9)

The first goal of Agenda 2063 emphasizes Africa's commitment to developing human and social capital through a revolution in education and skills, while giving priority to innovation, science, and technology. Accordingly, the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) was adopted in January 2016. (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, juin 2025, p. 71)

3.2 Analysis of the Results of African Regional and Continental Integration According to the ASRII:

The findings of the African regional and continental integration study conducted by the African Union using the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII) to assess the performance of the regional economic communities and, consequently, continental performance, indicate that integration followed a relatively positive trajectory up to 2025; however, it remains uneven and fragile in some pillars. This will be presented through an analysis of the four main pillars of integration, namely political, economic, infrastructure, and human and social integration, as presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Degree of African Continental and Regional Integration According to the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII).

Regional Communities	Political Integration				Economic Integration					Infrastructure	Human and Social Integration			
	Indicators			Average Index	Indicators				Average Index		Indicators			Average Index
	1	2	3		1	2	3	4			1	2	3	
AMU	0.76	0.19	0.13	0.36	0.34	0.35	0.76	0.35	0.451	0.613	0.36	0.55	0.42	0.44
CENSAD	0.474	0.48	0.238	0.397	0.45	0.532	0.308	0.207	0.376	0.506	0.42	0.14	0.26	0.272
COMESA	0.55	0.8	0.58	0.64	0.7	0.56	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.743	0.38	0.5	0.48	0.543
EAC	0.77	0.86	0.62	0.748	0.7	0.62	0.65	0.65	0.655	0.79	0.62	0.54	0.64	0.6
ECCAS	0.7	0.6	0.61	0.613	0.64	0.37	0.61	0.52	0.535	0.53	0.47	0.24	0.17	0.292
ECOWAS	0.79	0.68	0.7	0.719	0.725	0.62	0.64	0.656	0.66	0.76	0.83	0.68	0.73	0.744
IGAD	0.53	0.65	0.71	0.631	0.56	0.51	0.41	0.35	0.46	0.571	0.55	0.63	0.68	0.62
SADC	0.49	0.82	0.84	0.717	0.79	0.55	0.79	0.56	0.673	0.801	0.51	0.55	0.72	0.593
The African Continent	0.681	0.722	0.696	0.699	0.513	0.59	0.628	0.513	0.561	0.69	0.577	0.51	0.538	0.535

Source: Compiled by the authors based on the data provided in the *African Integration Report 2025* (African Union, June 2025).

Based on Table 1 above, the following can be concluded:

African continental integration was estimated at an average of 0.621 across the four pillars, representing an above-moderate degree of integration. This is attributable to the variation observed among the regional economic communities, which recorded the following scores: 0.387, 0.466, 0.492, 0.571, 0.642, 0.696, 0.698, and 0.721, respectively, for CENSAD, AMU, ECCAS, IGAD, COMESA, SADC, EAC and ECOWAS. The least integrated communities are CENSAD, AMU, and ECCAS, while the most integrated are SADC, EAC, and ECOWAS. The integration scores for the different pillars are as follows:

1- Political Integration: This pillar recorded good performance at the continental level and ranks first, with its dimensions achieving high scores: governance and democracy (0.722), peace and security (0.696), and

institutional integration (0.681). At the regional level, the weakest performance was recorded by the two economic communities AMU and CENSAD, with scores of **0.360** and **0.397**, respectively. The highest performance was recorded by SADC, ECOWAS, and EAC, with scores of 0.717, 0.719, and 0.748, respectively.

The good results achieved by this pillar are attributable to the tangible progress made in aligning member states' policies with the political frameworks of the African Union. The widespread ratification, by more than 40 countries, of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance contributed to improving governance indicators. The positive results in peace and security are attributable to the deployment of African intervention forces, mediation initiatives in the Sahel region, and the implementation of the African Union's "Silencing the Guns" initiative. Nevertheless, peace and security remain fragile in conflict-affected areas, such as the Sahel, Sudan, and the Great Lakes region, while some electoral processes continue to face credibility-related problems. (African Union, JUNE 2025)

2- Economic Integration: This pillar recorded a moderate degree of integration at the continental level and ranks third, with an average score of 0.561. Its dimensions recorded the following scores: business development 0.513; market integration 0.590; productive and sustainable integration (rural economy development) 0.628; and macroeconomic integration 0.513. The productive and sustainable integration and market integration dimensions recorded the strongest performance. At the regional level, the two economic communities CENSAD and AMU recorded the weakest performance, with average scores of 0.376 and 0.451, respectively. The highest performance was recorded by the economic communities ECOWAS and SADC, with average scores of 0.660 and 0.673, respectively.

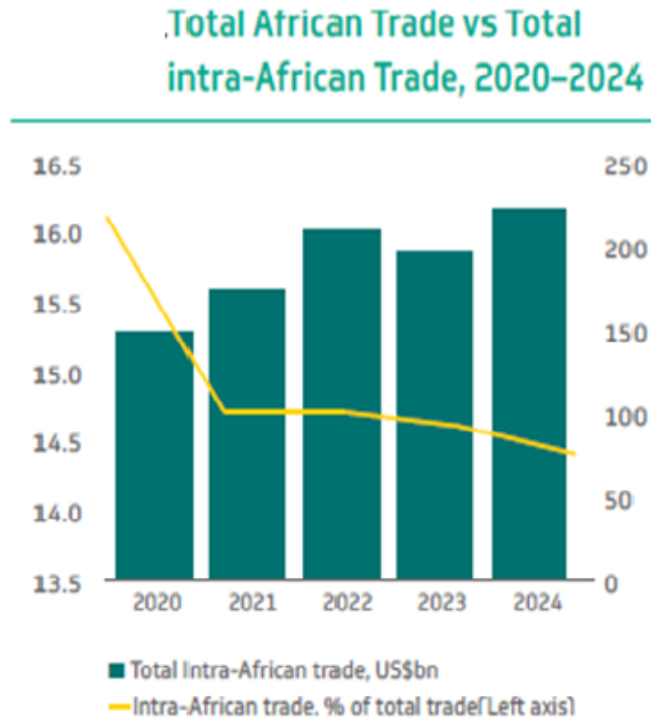
These results are attributable to **market integration**, which has been supported by several factors, including: the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), launched in 2019, which is expected to accelerate the process of continental economic integration; the reduction of customs duties in several regional economic communities; and the establishment of free trade areas or customs unions. However, progress varies across countries and regions. For example, SADC and COMESA have made significant progress in eliminating tariffs, harmonizing rules of origin, and establishing trade observatories, while other countries remain at the early stages of liberalization or face political or technical obstacles. (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, juin 2025, p. 52)

With regard to trade exchanges, regional economic communities continue to conduct more trade with other regions of the world than with the African continent, as illustrated by Figures 1 and 2 on intra-African trade and regional contributions.

In 2022, intra-African trade accounted for 16% of total formal trade, the lowest share in the world, compared with 60% in Europe and 59% in Asia. Its share was estimated at 14.4% in 2024, the lowest level recorded during the 2020–2024 period, while the highest rate was recorded in 2020, exceeding 16% (Figure 1).

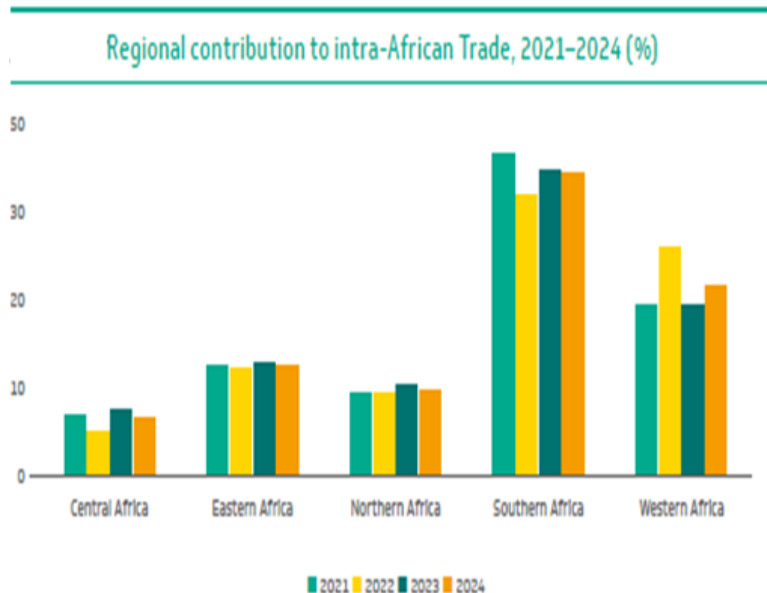
Figure 2 shows that Southern Africa is the main driver of intra-African trade. South Africa alone accounted for approximately 19.1% of total intra-African trade in 2024, owing to its links within the Southern African Customs Union and the Southern African Development Community. It was followed by West Africa, represented by Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, which experienced growth in exports of refined petroleum products and manufactured goods. East Africa is the third-largest contributor to intra-African trade, while North and Central Africa play important, albeit relatively smaller, roles. (AFREXIMBANK, 2025, pp. 63–64). Africa's participation in global trade also remains at low levels, with its share estimated at 2.8% in 2022 and 3.2% and 3.3% in 2023 and 2024, respectively. (AFREXIMBANK, 2025, p. 15)

Figure 1: Intra-African Trade during the Period 2020–2024



Source: (AFREXIMBANK, 2025, p. 63)

Figure 2: Regional Contribution to Intra-African Trade during the Period 2021–2024



Source: (AFREXIMBANK, 2025, p. 63)

The **Business and Enterprise Development** dimension is characterized by limited implementation of regional competition laws and weak promotion of cross-border investment, as only a few regional economic communities, such as COMESA, have dedicated regional investment frameworks. However, several initiatives support business, industrial, and mining development, including the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA), the African Mining Vision (AMV), and various strategies supporting small and medium-sized enterprises. Industrial strategies have been adopted, mining

laws have been coordinated, and reforms to the business environment have been implemented in some regional communities.

Productive and Sustainable Integration (rural economy development) achieved better performance, owing to regional communities, most of which are working to expand agro-industrial initiatives and value-chain strategies aligned with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), launched in 2003 within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). By 2022, more than 40 African countries had adopted National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) consistent with the principles of the CAADP, while the programme also enabled several regional economic communities to develop Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (RAIPs). (African Union, JUNE 2025, pp. 10-11)

Many regional economic communities are also involved in regional projects for climate change adaptation, while fewer than 50% of regional economic communities have a regional action plan for biodiversity or combating desertification. Meanwhile, the coordination of forest policies and access to drinking water remain marginal in most regional strategic frameworks.

With regard to **Macroeconomic Integration**,

In terms of financial integration across regions, the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), in cooperation with the African Union Commission and the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area, launched the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) as a key instrument for implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement. It is a centralized financial-market infrastructure that enables the efficient and secure flow of funds across African borders. The system developed and launched three payment solutions: the Instant Payment System, the African Currency Marketplace, and the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System Card. Eighteen countries across four African regions, more than 150 commercial banks, and 14 intermediary banks had joined the system, which officially commenced operations on 13 January 2022. (Afreximbank, 2025). The integration score indicates the continued fragmentation of fiscal and monetary policies at the regional and continental levels. Although some regional economic communities have established macroeconomic convergence criteria in their agreements concerning inflation, budget-deficit ceilings, public debt, and foreign-exchange reserves in relation to imports, these criteria have not been respected by member states. This is mainly attributable to the general economic and structural problems facing each country. (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, juin 2025, p. 47)

In 2017, the Association of African Central Banks established macroeconomic convergence criteria, divided into two types: primary criteria and secondary criteria, as shown in the following Table 2.

Table 2: Macroeconomic Convergence Criteria Adopted by the Association of African Central Banks

No.	Primary Criteria	Threshold
1	Inflation Rate	$\leq 7\%$
2	Overall Budget Deficit / Gross Domestic Product	$\leq 5\%$
3	Financing of the Budget Deficit by the Central Bank	$\leq 5\%$ of the government's tax revenue in the previous year
4	Foreign Exchange Reserve Coverage / Imports	≥ 3 months
5	Public Debt (Domestic and External) / Gross Domestic Product	$< 65\%$
Secondary Criteria		

6	Total Tax Revenue / Gross Domestic Product	$\geq 20\%$
7	Nominal Exchange Rate Volatility	$\leq \pm 10\%$
8	Government Capital Investment / Tax Revenue	$\geq 30\%$

Source: (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, June 2025, pp. 46–49)

Ten countries met all the primary criteria in 2023, compared with only three countries in 2022, while no country met all three secondary criteria in 2022, but two countries did so in 2023 (African Union, JUNE 2025). The average inflation rate has exceeded 10% since 2020, reaching a peak of 16.6% in 2023, before declining slightly to 16.1% in 2024. With regard to public debt in Africa, it reached USD 1,800 billion in 2022, representing an increase of 183% since 2010. External debt relative to exports increased from 74.5% in 2010 to 140% in 2022. The imbalance between debt and exports constrains countries' ability to service their external debt through access to foreign currencies. Strengthening financial integration is essential to breaking the cycle of excessive indebtedness and liquidity shortages in Africa. (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, June 2025, p. 50)

3- Infrastructure, this pillar recorded a high degree of integration at the continental level, ranking second with an average score of 0.69 in 2023, reflecting encouraging progress across several sectors. All regional economic communities recorded acceptable performance, indicating the efforts made under this pillar. The lowest performance was recorded by CENSAD and ECCAS, with moderate scores of 0.506 and 0.530, respectively, while the highest performance was recorded by EAC and SADC, with good scores of 0.79 and 0.80, respectively.

Transport Sector: This sector recorded the highest level of integration. In **road transport**, more than 80% of regional economic communities have adopted regional road network plans, and most have implemented road corridors to facilitate intra-African trade. The establishment of the North–South Corridor, coordinated by COMESA, EAC, and SADC, has significantly improved transport in Eastern and Southern Africa and enabled landlocked countries to access the East African coast and the Indian Ocean through the Port of Dar es Salaam.

In **rail transport**, between 2012 and 2023, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) constructed 4,077 kilometers of railway lines, representing 14% of the target of 30,200 kilometers set for 2040. Intra-African trade by rail is expected to increase from 0.8 million tons annually in 2023 to approximately 40 million tons by 2030.

In **air transport**, the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) project was established, and 38 African countries had joined it by February 2025. It is expected to contribute to the liberalization of civil aviation in Africa, noting that Africa accounts for only 2% of global air transport traffic.

With regard to **maritime transport**, the African maritime network comprises 142 routes connecting 65 ports along a coastline extending 30,724 kilometers, in addition to numerous rivers and lakes that offer significant potential for conversion into navigable waterways. The development of maritime transport has improved vessel turnaround times at African ports by eight (8) hours between 2021 and 2022, compared with 27.8 hours prior to this period (estimated at 7.6 hours in North America and 10.9 hours globally on average).

Energy Sector: Africa faces the world's largest electricity access deficit, with 600 million Africans lacking access to the electricity grid, representing 43% of the population (Table 3), while 57% of the African population has access to electricity, compared with a global average of 90%. Nevertheless, Africa's total electricity generation doubled during the period 2013–2021, increasing from 16,144 MW to 31,690 MW.

Under the PIDA programme, 3,506 kilometers of transmission lines were constructed between 2012 and 2023 to transmit 232 GW of electricity (one gigawatt is equivalent to 1,000 megawatts), thereby improving the interconnection of African electricity grids.

Table 3: Use of Selected Infrastructure Services

Regions	Access to Electricity	Internet Use (Average)	Mobile Money Usage (USD) in 2022
Africa	57%	40%	USD 836.5 billion
World (Average)	90%	71% *	USD 1,260 billion

Source: (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, June 2025); (ITU, 2025)

There are more than 54 shared river basins in Africa for hydropower generation, which is the most widespread form of renewable energy. Thanks to the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), its generating capacity reached 7 GW and is expected to reach 54 GW by 2040. (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, June 2025, pp. 57-64)

The progress in energy generation is attributable to the regional economic communities, all of which have developed regional strategies for energy integration. However, significant disparities remain in terms of access to energy, generation capacity, and grid infrastructure across African regions. (African Union, JUNE 2025)

With regard to water and sanitation, regional integration remains limited, as cooperation frameworks for the management of transboundary water resources are weak or poorly implemented.

Digital Infrastructure: Africa exhibits disparities in the use of digital services, with the average internet usage rate in the 33 least developed countries standing at 28%, compared with a continental average of 40% (Table 3). The highest internet penetration rate is recorded in Seychelles at 82%, while the lowest is recorded in Burundi at 5.8%. Internet quality also varies according to the type of network used. The most widely used is the third-generation network, G3, accounting for 55% of total connections, followed by the fourth-generation network, G4, and the second-generation network, G2, at 22% each, while the fifth-generation network, G5, accounts for less than 1% of total connections. The use of mobile payments is the highest in the world and has experienced rapid expansion, with Africa accounting for two-thirds of global mobile payment services (Table 3). (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, June 2025, p. 62)

Africa has witnessed digital initiatives, most of which are implemented at the national level, while cross-border cooperation in the information and communications technology sector remains limited. In general, infrastructure exhibits significant disparities across regions and within regional economic communities, in addition to inadequate maintenance of existing infrastructure. This is attributable to the marked decline in infrastructure financing, according to the latest report of the African Development Bank, during the period 2019-2022. Private investment remains limited and is largely directed toward the transport and energy sectors. Foreign direct investment flows into Africa have remained relatively stable but volatile, ranging between USD 40 and 50 billion annually for a long period. The average for the period 2019-2023 was estimated at USD 55.5 million, 90% of which was directed to only ten African countries, creating a financing gap estimated at approximately USD 90 billion annually and an annual decline in GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT of 2%. (Economic Commission for Africa, DEC 2024)

4- Human and Social Integration: This pillar recorded a moderate degree of integration at the continental level, with an average score of 0.535, ranking fourth. The Free Movement of Persons dimension recorded the strongest performance, while the weakest performance was recorded by the Cultural and Social Integration dimension. At the regional level, the two regional economic communities CENSAD and ECCAS recorded the lowest performance, with average scores of 0.272 and 0.292, respectively. The highest performance was recorded by IGAD and ECOWAS, with average scores of 0.620 and 0.744, respectively. This pillar continues to record slow and uneven progress across regions.

Free Movement of Persons: This is the most advanced dimension within the pillar, although progress remains partial. The two regional economic communities ECOWAS and EAC are the most advanced in terms of regional mobility frameworks, as they provide visa exemptions and rights of residence and establishment. The other regional economic communities have not yet fully implemented the provisions of the Kigali Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, adopted in 2018. By 2025, only four member states had ratified the Protocol, which is significantly below the minimum number required for its entry into force.

Cultural and Social Integration: This dimension records the lowest levels of integration due to the absence of strong continental or regional frameworks, for example in the areas of cultural cooperation, youth empowerment, and social inclusion, while social policy remains a marginal component of regional strategies.

Education and Human Development: In 2022, the African continent accounted for 59% of the world's illiterate population, representing approximately 52.9 million illiterate Africans. The Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16–25) was adopted in January 2016 as a roadmap for transforming education and training systems across the continent. During the 37th Ordinary Session of the African Union in 2024, that same year was declared the “Year of Education,” and participating governments were urged to accelerate efforts to achieve inclusive, high-quality education for all. In 2019, within the framework of the objectives of CESA 16–25, a Continental Qualifications Framework was established, through which member states committed to concluding agreements for the mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications obtained in other partner countries. (UNION AFRICAINE, C.E.A, June 2025, p. 71).

In the **health sector**, preparedness for epidemics and cooperation in disease control have improved since the COVID-19 pandemic; however, regional coordination of health systems remains at an early stage and is uneven.

4. Algeria's Contribution to the Pursuit of African Economic Integration:

Africa is considered a priority in Algeria's foreign policy. Algeria has actively contributed to achieving the objectives of independence and liberation across Africa. It has also maintained an unconditional commitment to supporting efforts to advance just African causes and achieve comprehensive development across the continent. Algeria has worked to strengthen the role of the African Union in areas of the highest priority, namely peace and security, governance, integration, and the representation of the continent at the international level. It also actively participated in shaping Agenda 2063, which constitutes the roadmap of the African Union. Algeria has further engaged in efforts to reform the African Union by making it responsive to the aspirations of African peoples in the fields of economic and social development and by promoting intra-African trade. Algeria is also making efforts to achieve continental and regional integration through the initiation of several integrated projects. At the diplomatic level, Algeria has consistently participated in formulating and defending common African positions. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2026)

According to the World Bank's 2024 report, **Algeria is the third-largest African economy**, and it aspires to become the leading African economy in the near future. According to several economic experts, Algeria will be able to contribute effectively to accelerating the pace of trade and economic integration across the African continent, owing to its economic capabilities and competitive potential, as well as its strategic geographical position. Its membership in the Mediterranean basin provides a gateway to Europe, while its African depth gives it distinctive access to the continent's markets. This qualifies Algeria to play a pivotal economic role that reinforces its position as an emerging economic power and a key driver of development in Africa. (El Djeich Magazine, 2025)

On this basis, Algeria's contribution to the pursuit of African integration falls within four main dimensions, consistent with the pillars of the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII), namely the political, economic, infrastructure, and human and social pillars.

4.1 Political Integration:

Peace and Security: Through its regional positioning, political and economic strength, and diplomatic acumen, Algeria has succeeded in resolving numerous crises and conflict-related issues. It has received international recognition for its positions and initiatives based on peace and integrity toward current regional issues. (EL WATANIA, 2023)

Algeria also plays a leading role in combating terrorism, violent extremism, and organized crime on the African continent, which has enabled it to host two important institutions affiliated with the African Union, namely the headquarters of the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC) and the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL). The objective of these bodies is to promote cooperation and coordination among the efforts of member states in seeking African solutions to the crises prevailing on the continent.

Governance: Algeria is one of the founding countries of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which was established in 2003 within the framework of NEPAD to conduct voluntary self-assessment of performance in the field of good governance.

Given the confidence that Algeria enjoys among its fellow African countries, owing to its achievements and commitments to supporting peace, governance, and institutional effectiveness, it was elected to several positions within the African Union in 2025, including membership in the African Union Peace and Security Council (for the 2025–2028 term), the position of Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and membership in the Permanent Bureau of the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2026)

4.2 Economic Integration:

Market Dimension: Five free-trade zones will be established with Mauritania, the Sahel-Saharan region (Mali and Niger), Tunisia, and Libya. These free-trade zones will be established in El Oued, Illizi, Ain Guezzam, Bordj Badji Mokhtar, and Tindouf. The establishment of the first free-trade zone with Mauritania was initiated in 2024 in Tindouf, southwestern Algeria. Algeria also seeks to establish maritime free-trade zones at the port of Djen Djen (in Jijel) and Bouchbeka (in Tebessa and El Tarf). (Algeria INVEST, 2024)

With regard to Algerian–African intra-African trade, statistics indicate that it remains weak, as more than 90% of Algeria’s trade exchanges are conducted with countries outside the continent. The following table presents Algeria’s intra-African trade in goods during the period 2022–2024.

Table 4: Algerian–African Intra-African Trade in Goods during the Period 2022–2024 USD billion and percentage

Trade Indicator	2022	2023	2024
Total Goods Exports	60.32	54.77	51.44
Algerian–African Intra-African Exports	2.33	2.70	2.71
Share of Intra-African Exports in Total Exports (%)	3.86	4.93	5.27
Algeria’s Share of Total Intra-African Exports (%)	1.85	2.50	2.14
Total Goods Imports	40.18	42.65	47.54
Algerian–African Intra-African Imports	1.63	1.96	2.14
Share of Intra-African Imports in Total Imports (%)	4.05	4.60	4.50
Algeria’s Share of Total Intra-African Imports (%)	1.99	2.22	2.28
Total Goods Trade	100.50	97.42	98.98
Total Algerian–African Intra-African Trade	3.96	4.66	4.84
Share of Intra-African Trade in Total Algerian Goods Trade (%)	3.94	4.78	4.89
Algeria’s Share of Total Intra-African Goods Trade (%)	1.90	2.37	2.20

Source: (AFREXIMBANK, 2025, pp. 50–64)

Based on the data presented in Table 4 above, the following can be concluded:

- **Algeria’s share of intra-African trade** accounted for only 2.2% in 2024, compared with 1.9% and 2.37% in 2022 and 2023, respectively. This is a low share compared with the volume of Algeria’s trade exchanges, as its main economic partners are concentrated in the European Union (Italy, Spain, France, etc.), China, and the United States of America.
- **Algeria’s share of total intra-African exports** averaged 2.16% during the period 2022–2024. Its five main export partners in Africa in 2023 were Tunisia (70.7%), South Africa (6.7%), Côte d’Ivoire (3.6%), Nigeria (3.1%), and Senegal (2.7%).

- **Algeria's share of total intra-African imports** was equivalent to its share of exports. Its five main import partners in Africa were Mauritania (38.8%), Tunisia (32.7%), Côte d'Ivoire (9%), Morocco (6%), and Uganda (2.2%). (Afreximbank, 2025)

Algeria also engages in barter trade with some neighboring African countries; however, this remains limited with border countries, as these exchanges are not dynamic on a broader scale.

The commodity composition of Algerian exports to Africa consists of 91% oils and fuels, while the other exported products include agri-food products (citrus fruits, dates, tomatoes, and onions), pharmaceutical and parapharmaceutical products, electrical equipment, transformers, and turbines. (Maghreb Emergent, 2025)

Regarding the **Business and Enterprise Development Dimension**, Algeria has undertaken several initiatives:

- The opening of international branches of Algerian banks, such as the **Algerian Union Bank** in Nouakchott, Mauritania, And the Algerian Bank of Senegal in Dakar, Senegal, with the aim of serving Algerian economic operators present in some African countries, supporting investors in their export activities, and facilitating money transfers (Brich, 2023).

Algeria has also established trade representations in several countries, such as the permanent economic exhibition of Algerian products in Nouakchott, Mauritania and Dakar, Senegal.

- Algeria has contributed to the growth of African economies by cancelling the debts of 14 African countries, amounting to USD 1.5 billion (Tebboune, 2025). The President of the Algerian Republic also called, during the G20 Summit held in South Africa, for the cancellation of the debts of developing countries, particularly African countries, or for their conversion into direct and productive investments.
- Algeria has supported the establishment of start-ups by hosting four editions of the African Start-up Conference, the first of which was held in 2022. The conference provides an opportunity to strengthen dialogue with African policymakers, investors, and entrepreneurs, and to coordinate efforts to facilitate the expansion of start-ups and their access to regional sources of financing. African start-ups and youth are expected to contribute to increasing Gross Domestic Product as a promising sector, given Africa's limited contribution to the global industrial sector, which accounts for only 2%. (Hadith Algeria, 2025)
- Algeria hosted the **fourth edition of the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF2025)** in September 2025. The objective was to provide a platform for facilitating the exchange of trade and investment information, in support of the development of intra-African trade and investment, particularly in the context of implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement. The event achieved unprecedented results in terms of the number of participating countries, the number of exhibitors, and the value of the trade and investment deals concluded, as attested by Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria and current Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Fair. (Afreximbank, 2025)

Productive and Sustainable Integration Dimension

- To strengthen Africa's pharmaceutical industry capabilities, Algeria hosted in 2025 the African Ministerial Conference on Local Production of Medicines and Health Technologies. (Algerian Public Television Corporation, 2025)
- To intensify economic cooperation and expand partnerships with countries across the continent, Algeria has signed cooperation agreements and supported multiple investment and trade projects, in addition to strengthening strategic partnerships between Algeria and several African countries, including South Africa, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Chad, in strategic sectors with a direct impact on economic and social development, particularly hydrocarbons, electricity, renewable energy, mining, industry, and infrastructure.

Macroeconomic Integration Dimension: Within the framework of African financial integration, the Bank of Algeria joined the **Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS)** in 2025 to improve payment efficiency and facilitate intra-African trade. Algeria also increased its contribution to the African

Development Bank in 2024, becoming one of the major regional shareholders, and subscribed to additional shares in the African Export-Import Bank in February 2025. (Afreximbank, 2025)

4.3 Infrastructure Integration: Major structural projects with a continental dimension have been initiated, including:

- **The Trans-Saharan Highway**, which connects Algeria with the Sahel countries. The Trans-Saharan Highway extends from Algiers in the north to the Nigerien capital in the south, passing through the capitals of Niger, Mali, and Chad, in addition to Tunisia, with a total length of approximately 10,000 kilometers, including approximately 2,500 kilometers within Algerian territory. A total of 9,000 kilometers of the road have been completed out of the planned 10,000 kilometers. (Ould Mohanedi, 2025) The objectives of this highway include:
 - Ending the isolation of landlocked African countries that have no ports or maritime outlets, namely Mali, Niger, and Chad, by ensuring the transportation of goods to these countries through Algerian and Tunisian ports, thereby achieving a significant reduction in transit time;
 - Facilitating trade exchanges and the movement of people;
 - Ensuring regular supplies for the populations of the countries through which the highway passes;
 - Promoting the flow of Algerian investment toward the Sahel and West African countries in the energy, services, and manufacturing sectors, in which Algeria possesses significant capabilities and potential;
 - Distributing Algerian products, including agricultural products, in response to growing demand for them across the African hinterland;
 - Making it a genuine link for African economic integration, thereby supporting the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement. (Shuaa Electronic Channel, 2023)
- **The Tindouf (Algeria)-Zouerate (Mauritania) Road** is a road extending over a distance of 840 kilometers. It is being constructed and financed by Algeria and aims to strengthen land connectivity and facilitate trade exchanges in a manner that supports development in border areas. (Kharchi, 2025)
- **The Railway Project** will connect Algeria with the African countries bordering it to the south, namely through the Tamanrasset-Niger and Adrar-Mali railway lines. These two projects are currently under construction and have made considerable progress. The railway line connecting Algiers to Tindouf is expected to be completed by the end of 2026, while the Algiers-Tamanrasset line is expected to be completed by the end of 2028.
- **Launching direct flights** with several African capitals in 2022, including South Africa, Ethiopia, the Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Mauritania, Niger, and Mali. (AL24news, 2022)
- **Strengthening logistics (maritime transport):** Maritime routes connecting Algeria with West Africa were launched in 2022, namely the Algeria-Mauritania (Nouakchott) route (AL24news, 2022) and the Algeria-Senegal route, which is considered a gateway to West Africa (Echourouk News, 2022). These routes aim to strengthen Algeria's presence in West African countries and increase the flow of goods and commodities.
- **Optical Fiber Project (Digital Infrastructure):** This is one of the most important strategic projects aimed at connecting the Sahel countries to high-speed global networks. The network extends for approximately 4,500 km, of which Algeria has completed a 2,600-km section connecting Algiers to Ain Guezzam (on the Nigerien border), in addition to a branch line toward Tindouf (on the Mauritanian border). This terrestrial route is integrated with the Mediterranean submarine cable project, "**Medusa**," which extends over 8,700 km with a capacity of up to 20 terabits per second and connects more than 10 Mediterranean countries. This project strengthens Algeria's position as a major digital infrastructure hub between Africa and Europe across the Mediterranean. (Algerian Public Television Corporation, 2026)

- **In the energy sector**, and with the aim of achieving regional energy integration, Algeria established a 40-megawatt power generation plant in Niamey, the capital of Niger, in June 2026, as a grant from the Algerian state. During the same period, the foundation stone was laid for the construction of a power generation plant in N'Djamena, Chad. Algeria, through its company **Sonatrach**, also drilled an exploratory oil well in August 2026 in the Kafra area, 85 kilometers from the Algerian–Nigerien border. Algeria is also undertaking the largest energy project with a continental and international dimension, in partnership with Nigeria and Niger, namely the **Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline**, which will enable African gas to be supplied to European markets. The construction works on the Algerian section were officially launched in June 2026. (Sonatrach, 2026)

4.4 Human and Social Integration

Human resources are developed through the training of African professionals by allocating scholarships for African students to enroll in universities and schools in various fields of specialization. The number of scholarships has been estimated at 8,000, with Zimbabwe having benefited from 300 scholarships since 2019 to date. Since 1965, no fewer than 65,000 African professionals have graduated. (Tebboune, 2025)

With regard to **the free movement of persons**, it can be stated that Algeria is among the countries that grant entry visas to its territory with difficulty. Only six (6) African nationalities are exempt from the Algerian entry visa requirement for holders of ordinary passports, namely Tunisia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, and Seychelles, with a permitted stay of 90 days. Other exemptions apply to holders of diplomatic passports, based on bilateral agreements.

Conclusion

After sixty years of efforts to achieve the vision of African integration launched by the founders of the Organization of African Unity, and thanks to numerous achievements, it can be affirmed that Africa is strongly engaged in the integration process with the aim of developing the continent by making progress in regional and continental integration.

Nevertheless, the path toward establishing the African Economic Community continues to face major challenges, including political instability, economic disparities, inadequate infrastructure, limited financial resources, and the limited implementation of policies and agreements. In addition, new and complex challenges have emerged within a rapidly evolving international context. Between 2023 and 2025, there was a resurgence of protectionism, which indirectly affected global trade exchanges and supply chains. Inflation, geopolitical tensions, and restrictive monetary policies have placed considerable pressure on African economies by exacerbating public debt burdens and reducing financing directed toward transformative investment. The ability to confront the risks posed by these external shocks, in addition to internal shocks such as insecurity and the lack of peace, poverty, and drought, varies according to the capacity of each country to respond to them. Since their establishment, African economic communities have worked to achieve development through coordination among member states in implementing their agreements and established policies, thereby achieving regional integration, which constitutes a stepping stone toward continental integration. As Algeria is an African country and a member of the Arab Maghreb Union, it is making considerable efforts toward regional and continental integration. It works within the regional community despite its low degree of integration (0.466 out of 1), while also operating beyond the community to reach the African hinterland through the implementation of development projects with a continental dimension involving Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad and Nigeria.

Validation or Rejection of the Research Hypotheses:

First Hypothesis: African integration is progressing at a slow pace toward its achievement. The hypothesis was confirmed through an analysis of the trajectory of African continental and regional integration, which was measured using the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII) for 2025. The analysis showed positive but slow progress, with considerable variation among the regional economic communities. This is attributable to several factors, including differences in the level of economic growth among member states, similarities in export structures, the dependence of some member states on external markets for trade exchanges, as well as internal constraints affecting some countries, such as instability and insecurity and the

worsening of public debt. The regional economic communities that achieved the highest levels of integration were ECOWAS, EAC, and SADC.

Second Hypothesis: Algeria's contribution to achieving African continental integration is multidimensional. This hypothesis was confirmed by examining the achievements undertaken in accordance with the pillars and dimensions of the African Regional Integration Index, namely: **political integration**, through which Algeria makes considerable diplomatic efforts to preserve peace and security in the Sahel region and other parts of Africa, such as Sudan. It also plays an important role in the African Union by holding key positions that enable it to strengthen its role in supporting sustainable development in Africa. **Economic integration** is reflected in Algeria's new orientation toward strengthening its openness to its African surroundings by intensifying economic cooperation and expanding partnerships with countries across the continent through the signing of cooperation agreements and supporting multiple investment and trade projects. **Infrastructure integration** is reflected in Algeria's initiation of projects with a continental dimension that benefit neighboring countries as well as Algeria itself, given their direct impact on economic and social development, including roads and border crossings, electrical energy, optical fiber networks, and others. **Human and social integration** remains weak in terms of the free movement of persons and health cooperation, while progress has been made in the field of training, to which the state attaches particular importance through the training of professionals from certain African countries, the exchange of expertise, and the provision of scholarships to African students.

Results:

The study reached the following results:

- Regional integration is one of the strategic priorities of the African continent, driven by an African vision of a united and prosperous Africa;
- In a context characterized by multiple shocks, there is an increasingly urgent need to accelerate the implementation of continental frameworks such as the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**, the **Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)**, **Agenda 2063**, and the **Abuja Treaty**;
- The **African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII)** has made it possible to assess the actual progress of regional economic communities and member states with regard to integration by identifying the dynamics, achievements, shortcomings, and areas for improvement in achieving continental objectives;
- The assessment revealed moderate progress among regional economic communities, but continental African integration remains incomplete;
- The results showed notable progress in the institutional, infrastructure, and trade fields, driven particularly by the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** and the **Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)**, as well as the existence of relatively robust legal frameworks in some regional economic communities;
- There is a delay in the human, social, environmental, scientific, and health fields, mainly due to fragmented policies, insufficient coordination, and limited ownership of continental instruments;
- Algeria has reaffirmed its leading role in Africa, particularly in the field of the continent's economic integration, by hosting a large number of conferences, exhibitions, and forums with a continental dimension devoted to various fields and sectors. These events have provided platforms for consultation, exchange, and partnership aimed at strengthening continental integration in a spirit of cooperation based on mutual interests;
- Algeria has translated its initiative for regional and African integration into concrete action through numerous infrastructure projects with a continental dimension and its involvement in development projects aimed at supporting and strengthening the capacities of neighboring countries. Among these projects are those aimed at contributing to addressing energy deficits and improving electricity services for citizens. These projects seek to support sustainable development efforts in neighboring

and brotherly countries through the transfer of expertise and the provision of vital infrastructure that contributes to improving living conditions and strengthening stability across the continent;

- Algeria faces obstacles to its contribution to achieving regional and continental integration, particularly instability and insecurity, especially in the Sahel countries, which hinder the progress of infrastructure projects that have already been initiated, as the development of the region is a key to peace and security;
- Algeria's contribution to intra-African trade remains weak and faces competition from Asian and European products available in African markets. Algeria therefore needs to contribute further by strengthening its trade strategy and increasing its share of intra-African exchanges through promoting its products, simplifying customs procedures, and improving transport infrastructure.

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