The New African Initiative and The African Union : A Preliminary Assessment and Document

By Henning Melber

Publication : 2001
35 pages

The following analysis and related observations concern recent efforts to strengthen Africa’s profile and role in the international community by means of a programmatic policy document aimed at defining a far-reaching common denominator for African states in their collective development aspirations, in the context of globalisation, by means of the New African Initiative (NAI) ; and the transformation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) into African Union (AU) as a new platform for closer inter-state collaboration on the continent.

The observations below and the conclusions drawn are necessarily tentative, given the continuously changing nature of the processes being described and assessed : final judgement would be premature. Instead, the aim is to acknowledge and critical reflect upon recent developments regarding the desire and political will within the continent to map out an agenda respecting the intended 21st century role of Africa in the world.


Contact :

The Nordic Africa Institute
P.O.Box 1703,
SE-751 47 Uppsala
Tel.: (46) 18-56-22-00
Fax : (46) 18-56-22-90
Email : nai nai.uu.se
Internet : www.nai.uu.se