

# THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN AFRICAN UNION'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES: AGENDA SETTERS, PARTICIPANTS, COLLABORATORS AND SHAPERS?

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## INTRODUCTION

The African Union (AU) recognizes at its founding the 'need to build a partnership between governments and all segments of civil society.' Most significantly, one of the principles of the AU as enunciated in the Constitutive Act is 'participation of African peoples in the activities of the Union.' These provisions constitute the normative foundation for the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the decision-making processes of the AU. As noted in the Amani Africa, Mapping of AU Decision-Making Actors and Processes, Special Report of April 2023, decision-making "refers to the 'how' and 'who' of the adoption of policies, laws, resolutions, regulations, recommendations and guidelines."

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