



Comparative Regional Economic Blocs in Africa: A Nigerian Perspective

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Abstract

The establishment of regional economic blocs in Africa has been a subject of interest for scholars and policymakers alike, particularly within the broader field of African studies. These blocs aim to foster economic integration, enhance trade relations, and promote collective development among member states. The analysis is conducted through a comparative approach, drawing from existing literature and data on African regional economic integration efforts. A thematic framework of economic benefits, political stability, and socio-economic development is used to evaluate the blocs' effectiveness. Nigeria shows significant interest in the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), with a particular emphasis on trade facilitation and infrastructure improvements as key drivers of potential membership. While Nigeria benefits from existing regional blocs, there is an opportunity for deeper integration through strategic partnerships that align with its national economic goals. This could lead to enhanced trade flows and improved governance structures within the region. Nigeria should explore diplomatic avenues to strengthen ties with key member states of these blocs and advocate for policies that facilitate smoother cross-border transactions. Additionally, Nigeria's development agencies should consider collaborating on research projects to better understand regional dynamics.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Mercosur, Preferential, Decentralization, Developmental State*

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