



# ASSOCIATIONS IN AFRICA

## Potentials and Challenges

As a teaser to the Special Africa Supplement to be published early 2015, we have chosen here to examine continental trends across diverse nations in Africa. This of course can provide some challenges. Evident are the historic and current factors which support associational life: post-colonial connections (e.g. Commonwealth & Francophonie), regional multinational groupings (e.g. SADC), and intergovernmental seats of activity (UN Nairobi).

How mobile internet access allows people to overcome traditional challenges (information awareness and travel distances) to association activity will need to be studied in the coming years.

The following articles, all available online, provide a sense of the complexity of the relationships involved in the growing population of associations in Africa:

### **BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS IN AFRICA: WHAT ARE THEIR POTENTIALS?**

*by International Trade Centre - Business & Trade Policy Team - September 2012*

The three separate studies focus on the regions of the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community

and the Indian Ocean Commission. The findings provide an updated assessment of the state of business advocacy and public-private dialogue in these African sub-regions.

### *The North-South Institute*

This study explores what women are doing in police services to change the nature of their work in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ghana. It reveals that, while female

**IN AFRICA, COUNTRIES WITH HIGHER INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIES, RELATIVE SOCIO-POLITICAL STABILITY AND/OR THE SEATS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES SHOW A HIGHER LEVEL OF INGO HEADQUARTERS LOCATIONS AND HIGH COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS GENERALLY.**

### **FREEDOM THROUGH ASSOCIATION: ASSESSING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GENDER-SENSITIVE POLICE REFORM IN WEST AFRICA**

*by Jenny Becker, with Caroline Bowah Brown, Aisha Fofana Ibrahim - April 2012*

police staff associations are not overtly contributing to security sector reform, they are contributing to changing the culture of policing and assisting female officers assert themselves within the service.

## BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS AND BETTER GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

by Arthur A. Goldsmith - 2002

Public Administration and Development 22, pp 39–49

This article reports results of a survey in eight African countries that illuminates [...] [how] business associations in Africa conform better to the pluralist model of interest group behaviour.

## THE ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN FACILITATING ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN AFRICA

by Ngozi Blessing Ossai-Ugbah - 2013

Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, 2, 2

This study is a survey on the role of professional Library associations and institutions in facilitating access to information in Africa.

## EFFECTIVENESS OF AFRICAN REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

by Evie Browne - August 2013

GSDRC Applied Knowledge Services, Helpdesk Research Report

Provides examples of African regional professional associations considered effective. What explains their success and what role does leadership play?

## WHAT'S THE UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (UIA)?

The Union of International Associations - UIA - is a non-profit, independent, apolitical, and non-governmental institution in the service of international associations.

Since its foundation in 1907, the UIA is a leading provider of information about international non-profit organizations and a premium networking platform between international organizations and the meeting industry worldwide.

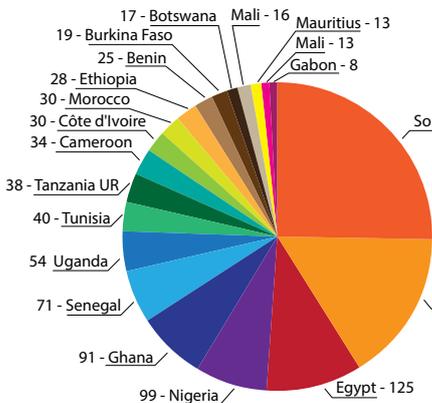
### Main activities:

- Yearbook of International Organizations - contains information on over 64,000 international organizations active in all fields of human endeavour, in all corners of the world, and over centuries of history. Available online and in book form.
- International Congress Calendar - with information on over 350,000 international meetings. Available online, in pdf, and on paper.
- Annual Associations Round Table - features both open-space / networking and discussion oriented sessions as well as practical skills training sessions for associations. See [www.uia.be/roundtable](http://www.uia.be/roundtable)

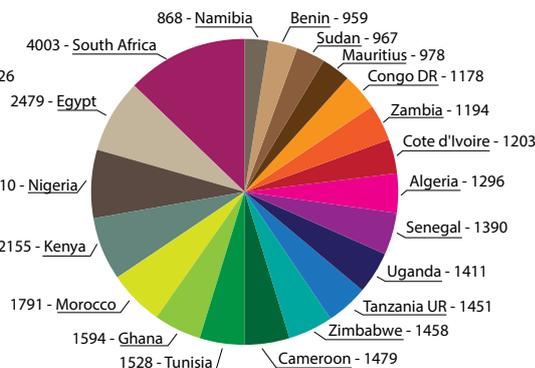
Who can use the UIA's research and networking platform? Everyone with an interest in international associations and cooperation: international associations, the businesses which provide services to them, media and press, research centres, universities, libraries, government offices. Associate Members have quick access to first quality material to benefit their business. To join, see <http://www.uia.be/associate-members>.

**For more information, please contact [uia@uia.org](mailto:uia@uia.org)**

## COUNTRIES IN WHICH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION HEADQUARTERS ARE LOCATED, RANKED BY CONTINENT



## COUNTRY PARTICIPATION (IE MEMBERSHIP) IN INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, RANKED BY CONTINENT



The charts presented here are prepared from extracts from the Yearbook of International Organisations 2014/2015 edition: The data used presents the top twenty countries for all Yearbook categories except inactive and unconfirmed bodies.

In reviewing the data from five and ten years ago we see similar trends in the countries in these tables. Countries with higher industrial economies, relative socio-political stability and/or the seats of inter-governmental bodies show a higher level of INGO headquarters locations and high country participation in international associations generally.