

The **Addis Ababa Convention of 1963** was a pivotal event in African history. Its purpose was to bring together newly independent African nations to address common challenges and promote unity across the continent. The meeting, held from **May 22 to May 25, 1963**, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, led to the founding of the **Organization of African Unity (OAU)**, the precursor to today's **African Union (AU)**.

Key Purposes of the Meeting:

1. Foster African Unity and Solidarity

- The leaders sought to unite African countries and create a platform for cooperation in the face of colonial legacies and external interference.
- The goal was to strengthen solidarity among African states and affirm their sovereignty and independence.

2. Combat Colonialism and Apartheid

- A primary focus was the eradication of colonialism and white minority rule in Africa, including the ongoing struggles in countries like Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and South Africa.
- The leaders committed to supporting liberation movements and resisting external domination.

3. Promote Economic Development and Cooperation

- Recognizing the need for economic self-reliance, the meeting aimed to foster regional cooperation and collective development strategies.
- The leaders discussed mechanisms to reduce economic dependence on former colonial powers.

4. Prevent Fragmentation and Resolve Conflicts

- The meeting sought to prevent political and ideological divisions, particularly between the **Casablanca Group** (favoring immediate political unity) and the **Monrovia Group** (favoring gradual economic and functional cooperation).
- A central goal was to establish a framework for peaceful dispute resolution among African nations.

5. Establish a Pan-African Organization

- The Addis Ababa Meeting culminated in the creation of the **OAU**, which provided a formal structure for advancing African unity and collective action.

The **OAU Charter** was signed by representatives of 32 African states during the conference.

Legacy of the Addis Ababa Meeting:

The Addis Ababa Meeting laid the groundwork for Africa's ongoing efforts toward unity and collective self-determination. The **OAU** played a crucial role in the liberation of African countries from colonial rule and served as a platform for addressing political, economic, and social issues until it was replaced by the African Union in 2001. The meeting remains a symbol of Africa's shared commitment to independence, solidarity, unity, and progress.