

Challenges to Regional Development Block in Southern Africa: The Case of Southern African Development Coordination Conference

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Abstract

This study investigates Southern African Development Coordination Conference. Secondary data were employed to examine these issues. There were several challenges to Southern African Development Coordination Conference. Political and security challenges, shortage of financial resources, influence of globalization, historical legacy, lack of political commitments and implementation problems, and lack of diversification of products are identified as the most constraints to the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. Conflicts, national interests and lack of agreements among leaders of Southern African Development Coordination Conference were challenged security arrangements, on the one hand, and affected the attempts to create effective regional integration in the Southern African Development Coordination Conference sub-region on the other. Moreover, lack of sufficient governments' budget and the boost of commodity prices in the world market were negatively affected Southern African Development Coordination Conference.

Key words: Challenges, Conference, Coordination, Integration, Regional.

1. Introduction

Regional co-operation in Southern Africa was established due to historical, economic, political, social, and cultural factors, which have created strong bonds of solidarity and unity among the peoples of Southern Africa (SADC, 2003: 1). These factors have contributed to the formal formation of Frontline States as an initiative of regional co-operation and integration, as well as, extended this to the economic and social sectors in Southern Africa (Buscher, 2009: 87). Members of Frontline States included Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia (Evans, 1985: 1). These states played a great role in fighting against colonialism and racism. They fought bloody wars together and for each other, as brothers and sisters for many years (Adolfo, 2009:7). Later, this initiative was extended to addressing military attacks and destabilization of minority-ruled states by apartheid South Africa (Gibb, 1998: 67).

After most countries of Southern Africa achieved political independence, Frontline States shifted their alternative to reducing poverty and economic backwardness. As a result, the leaders of the Southern Africa saw the benefits of economic and social development through co-operation and integration as the next logical step after political independence. Based on the outcome of the July 1979 Arusha Conference, in which the heads of state agreed to setup the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

Accordingly, in 1980, in Lusaka, Zambia, Southern African Development Coordination Conference was established (SADC, 2003: 1). The political motive at the heart of the SADCC's development strategy also shaped against colonial and minority rule in Rhodesia, South Africa and Namibia (Buzdugan, 2007: 9). Political and economic liberalisation was the vital priorities of SADCC. SADCC consisted nine states including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to end apartheid

South Africa, as well as, to pursue policies aimed at economic cooperation on the basis of fair and equitable regional integration (SADC, 2005 b: 9-10). There were several priorities for regional integration and cooperation in the early years of SADCC. Regional transport and communication sectors were considered as a prerequisite for increased intra-regional trade in the SADCC sub-region (Lee, 2002:10). Besides, energy, industry, and trade were also priorities for the SADCC. Still food and agriculture became highly prioritized in the early years of SADCC due to drought in the early 1980s (SADC, 2005b: 49). In this regard, the development of transportation was the most important means to increase the supply of food, goods, and services. The production and distribution of electricity was also another strategic priority of the SADCC in order to reduce power dependence on South Africa (Buzdugan, 2007:11). It is argued that SADCC was established to enhance political and economic security for its members, as well as, to reduce the dependence of member states on apartheid South Africa. However, SADCC failed to fulfill the objectives of its establishment. This means that it was unable to reduce dependence on South Africa (Simon, 1998: 166).

Moreover, the existence of weak economies in the sub-region also compelled SADCC leaders to restate their objectives (Buzdugan, 2007: 18). The continued dependence on primary commodities for exports compelled Southern African leaders to urgently transform SADCC into SADC. SADCC had also no legally binding treaty, which would govern member states. That is to say member states were reluctant to implement regional agendas. This was another factor for the transformation of Southern African Development Coordination Conference into Southern African Development Community, in 1992 by the Treaty of Windhoek in Namibia (Farley, 2008: 127). It is argued that SADC replaced not merely by name but also in content because it was changed from coordination of conference to community, as well as, from economic liberalization to economic cooperation and integration. It was also transformed from unbinding treaty to legalized and binding treaty (SADC, 2005 b: 24).

The treaties of SADC not only emphasize development areas but also give emphasis to protection of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. The significance of these treaties was largely to achieve regional integration on the one hand, and reduce conflicts in member countries on the other. The understanding was that if democracy and rule of law were ensured, human and state security might be assured in the sub-region. Currently the SADC consists of 14 member states (Buscher, 2009: 87). The overall population of SADC sub-region is also more than 257 million with a combined gross national product of US\$471 billion in 2010 (SADC, 2010a: 1). It is rich in minerals including gold, diamond, and platinum, as well as, historical and cultural heritage (Ndulo, 1999: 11; SADC, 2005 b: 5).

Infrastructure development has been identified as a factor of regional development and integration in the Southern African Development Community and this, was emphasized in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) as the mechanism to enhance intra-regional trade (SADC, 2009 b: 12). Infrastructure development is an important method of accelerating regional integration in the sense that it increases the flows of goods, services, and labour. However, regional integration in Southern African Development Coordination Conference has been highly challenged due to a number of problems in the member states (Kalaba and Willcox, 2006: 15). Identifying these challenges are the main objective of the study.

2. Statement of the Problem

Establishing Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) was very crucial to bring about economic transformation in the region. However, different findings contradict with one another on this issue. For instance, while some argued that there is lack of unanimity on protocols signed among member states of SADCC and thereby consider it as challenges, for instance, Chingono and Nakana (2009), Gasa (2004), IGD (2008) and other consider it as achievement.

There were huge gaps between SADCC regional initiatives and member states' national missions, which are challenging objectives of the SADC (Saurombe, 2009: 100). However, how these problems are challenging cooperation in SADCC is not been articulated well.

There were also significant differences between member states of SADCC in terms of political stability, levels of democracy, social and economic development, economic structure, and domestic market (Arkwright et al., 2001: 18). These had their own negative impacts on cooperation and integration among member states of SADCC. Besides, SADCC had both the richest and poorest states like South Africa and Democratic Republic of Congo, respectively (Cawthra, 2010:10). As a result, trade imbalance between these states was occurred.

SADCC had failed to respond to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in a coordinated and sustainable manner (Simon, 1998: 36). However, Simon (1998) did not clearly justify why SADCC had been unsuccessful in responding to different conflicts inside its member states. This study has identified actual challenges that destabilize peace and security in the SADCC sub-region.

Absence of effective governance and democratic accountability do also persist in the sub-region. This and the above problems imply the existence of challenges to SADCC's integration and cooperation endeavors. However, these challenges have not deeply and well identified in the existing literature, for instance, in Alden and Soko (2005), Chingono and Nakana (2009). This means that there are gaps in the existing literature and knowledge. This study has attempted to identify and examine these gaps.

3. Central Argument of the Study

The central argument of this study is that although Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) encountered a number of problems that constrained the achievements of its objectives.

4. Objectives of the study

The overall objective of this study is to explore challenges to Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC). The specific objectives of this study are:

- To examine socio-economic and political challenges of SADCC
- To assess historical challenges to SADCC
- To identify Globalization and protocols implementation challenges to SADCC

5. Methodology and Methods of Data Collection

This study pursues qualitative approach. Qualitative research approach is an approach that consists of an investigation that seeks answer to a question, collect evidence, produce findings that are not determined in advance and produces findings that are applicable beyond the immediate boundaries of the study (Guest et al., 2005 : 1). It is also concerned about what people think, perceive and also enable researchers to have insights into attitudes and motives rather than measuring the frequency with which different attitudes or behaviours occur (Hedges, 2005: 9).

In terms of methods of data collection, the study is based on secondary sources. These include books, articles, research papers and reports, official documents, internet sources, including reputable news. Data collection was followed by data analysis through critical analysis of secondary data. Facts and information regarding challenges to SADCC were described and interpreted in this study. This study explains challenges to Southern African Development Coordination Conference between the periods, 1980 - 1992.

6. Challenges to Southern African Development Coordination Conference

This chapter mainly explains challenges faced Southern African Development Coordination Conference. These include political and security challenges, economic and financial challenges, historical challenges, challenges of globalization, weakness of adopted protocols and implementation, and nature of economic system, and trade.

6.1. Socio-Economic and Political Challenges to Southern African Development Coordination Conference

6.1.1. Political and Security Challenges

Political stability is the main precondition for regional integration because it has implications for economic development and political commitment, which enhance the achievement of regional agenda (Lee, 2002: 8). The lack of commitment by the SADCC member states to the common objectives, as well as, the disagreements among their leaders weakened SADCC regional integration (Adolf, 2009: 25). Many of these leaders had been reluctant to give up their authority to regional authoritative organ because politics among member states were interrelated with the personalities of leaders (Ongayo, 2008: 2). For instance, as Mbeki, former president of South Africa, Mugabe (President of Zimbabwe) has big personality and very influential one. He had been used his personality to dominate SADCC sub-region (Adolf, 2009: 26).

The celebration of nationalism and national interests had also been the major obstacle to regional political integration and, in turn, caused more hostility than unity between and among the countries of the SADC (Lee, 2002: 8). Most member states of SADCC seek to promote their national interests at the expense of other members, which had been undermining the objectives of regional integration. In addition to this, some member states of SADCC were not implemented treaty into national constitution (Ndulo, 1999: 14). This situation challenged the spirit of co-operation and unity among member states (Chingono and Nakana, 2009: 402). It is argues that without political cooperation and stability; it is difficult to build strong regional cooperation and consensus.

Moreover, SADCC had been characterised by two poles, which were one led by Zimbabwe and Angola, which looked security and conflict resolution in more traditional state-centric and military terms. The other led by South Africa, which considered that sustainable peace can only emerge from negotiations and compromise among all parties involved in the conflict (Sidiropoulos, 2007: 6). This means that there were absences of agreements among some member states of SADCC on the methods of conflict resolutions.

As a result, in terms of stability, some SADCC member states were unstable (CNN, 2011; Lee, 2002: 8). For instance, there were conflicts in Angola, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, which had a negative impact on the regional agenda. These conflicts were over critical resources such as water, land, and control over rich minerals. As a result, these conflicts affected intra-trade, in particular and undermined overall social and economic development of the states in general. In this regard the war in DR Congo disrupted trade and farming, as well as, led the state to lack of infrastructure (BBC, 2006).

Besides, due to internal instability caused over land rights, Zimbabwe had not been able to pay its debt to its neighbours and, in turn, its exports to and imports from its neighbours had declined, as well as, foreign investors had also running away from the country (Lee, 2002: 8). This means that the incomes, which flows from foreign investors to this country would decreased and this affected the contribution of state towards regional integration.

There were factors that prevented SADCC from playing a useful peacemaking role on the one hand and political cooperation on the other hand (Chingono and Nakana, 2009: 402). Firstly, there was an absence of common values and agendas among member states particularly, between democratic and authoritarian foreign policy orientated states (APB, 2009: 8; Melber, 2004: 93). This implies that member states of SADCC need to pursue different ways of regional integration and, this in turn, undermined common vision and objectives, in particular and regional cooperation and integration in the SADCC in general.

Secondly, a major problem is that SADCC member states were reluctant to surrender some of their sovereignty to their regional organ that encompasses binding rules and the possibility of intervention in domestic affairs (Adolf, 2009: 25; Poku, 2001: 110). This was due to lack of political commitments and mutual trust among the member states. Implementing and enforcing regional integration without political commitments are very difficult. In this regard, despite the fact that protocol on free movement of persons was accepted by some states, there are still many problems to free movement of people, including vast bureaucracy, nationality and residence permits in the region. These kinds of restrictions were due to the fear that unemployment increase because of the entrance of foreign workers and possibilities of increase of illegal migration (ECA, 2008: 27).

Thirdly, a problem is that the region is characterized by small markets, weak institution and administrative capacity, which undermine regional agenda and values of regional integration (Chingono and Nakana, 2009: 402). This reflected the existence of corruption and lacked of solid ground of popular support, as well as, low flows of foreign direct investment in SADCC member states.

There are the facts that war and insecurity were the challenges of economic progress and social benefits so that good political cooperation among the countries of the region coupled, with peace and mutual security are critical requirements for regional cooperation and integration (Goucha and Cilliers, 2001: 30). Effective regional cooperation and integration would take place when peace and stability consolidate.

Although security problems were highly manifested in SADCC, SADCC was successfully overcome political unrest in Lesotho and also managed to restrain Angola from invading Zambia, accused of involvement in the rearmament of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) (Berman and Sams, 2000: 23). It is argued that SADCC standby peacekeeping force, which established by a treaty, was played somewhat role in preserving the sovereignty of member states, on the one hand and in facilitated regional integration in the SADCC on the other hand (Sidiropoulos, 2007: 6). It is also tried to mediating conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Adetula, 2004: 17).

6.1.2. Economic and Financial Challenges

The lack of finance to cover high administrative costs were slowing down SADCC from achieving its regional integration (Adolf, 2009: 26 ; Chauvin and Gaulier, 2002: 11 ; Lee, 2002: 8). As a source of revenue, SADCC is been financed by equal contributions from member states, but the members are unable to provide sufficient contribution to maintain a permanent secretariat and standby peacekeeping force (Gasa, 2004: 10; Schalkwyk, 2005: 40). As a result, there were only few individuals at the Secretariat with a mandate to deal with issues of peace and security (Schalkwyk, 2005: 37). Inadequate human resources may imply lacked of finance to employ human resources and this exposed the SADCC to high vulnerable.

Southern African Development Coordination Conference relies on international funding agencies as a source of revenue generation mostly in the form of debt (Gasa, 2004: 11). The inability to paid back debts easily caused more vulnerability, as obtaining further loans becomes increasingly difficult, because member states had not been meeting their obligations (UNIDO, 2009: 26). It is argued that debt is one of the biggest obstacles to regional integration in the SADCC due to it had impact on social spending, which further economic marginalization and social exclusion of the poor, as well as, led to political conditionality through debt rearrangement agreement (Chingono and Nakana, 2009: 403; Kamidza et al., 2002: 14). As far as foreign aid and debt are concerned, the influence of developed countries was increasing from time to time in SADCC. This implies that member states of SADCC were highly indebted. For instance,

South Africa had \$25 billion foreign debt. Angola's owed about \$10 billion while the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) owed about \$2 billion. Mozambique owed about \$5.5 billion, and it paid about \$56 million to foreign creditors per annum. Malawi's external debt commitment stands at about \$2.3 billion, while Zambia was about \$7.1 billion. Zimbabwe's debt commitment is estimated at about \$5 billion. Namibia's debt levels are estimated at about \$159 million. Botswana had also a \$610 million external debt commitment (Chingono and Nakana, 2009: 403).

Huge foreign debts burden can seriously undermined social and economic situation of the member states of SADCC. The interest rate paid to developed countries due to debt burden highly affected not only the contribution of member states to their sub-region, but may also generated social and economic crisis in each member state (UN, 1999: 11).

Most member countries of SADCC faced high deficits in 2010. The countries that experienced current account deficits were DRC, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, the current account deficit had widened as a result of disproportionately huge imports, mainly food items and fuel against slow growth in exports (TRBZ, 2011: 25). High budget deficit in the SADC implies the existence of low saving culture in the member states.

Member states of SADCC do not contribute sufficient funds, which may accelerated their integration and overcome development challenges in the sub-region. In addition to this, they are faced the problems of high rates of inflation and high tax rates, which limited their ability to attract foreign investments (Rossouw, 2006: 158). This demoralized the role and involvement of both domestic and foreign investments in the SADCC sub-region.

6.1.3. The Nature of Economic System and Trade

Economic systems of SADCC member states were not complementary to one another in the sense that incompetent and similar products are produced. This opened the market of SADCC for Western markets and investments (Meissner, 2005: 4). For example, Mozambique produces cotton, while Zimbabwe also produces cotton and tobacco, yet their greater needs are technology, computers, cars, and other manufactured goods, which are harder to produce in the SADCC. Similarly, Angola, Botswana, and the DRC all produce diamond, yet neither of them can even process diamond nor manufacture the machinery to mine it (Chingono and Nakana, 2009: 402). This shows the inadequacy of complementary goods and services in the member states.

In addition to this, unequal distributions of benefits between developing and developed countries were creating budget deficits and overall social and political crisis in the SADCC. This was also altered the interests and capacity of each member states to contribute towards regional integration. Besides, there was also low intra-trade among member states of the SADCC. As a result, the leading market for the SADCC exports was European Union and others as follows. SADCC exports to European Union, which was by far the largest market for the sub-region, taking 42% of its exports, followed by the U.S.A. at 17%. Other SADCC countries absorbed about 10% of SADCC exports, while Japan (6%) and China (4%) (Krakoff, 2003: 3). Producing similar products in the SADCC sub-region had negative impacts on trade between member states. Consequently, trade flowed among member states of SADC were very minimal (Maringwa, 2009: 7; Mengesha, 2009: 22). These expose each member states to expenditures and lack of revenue, as well as, to low cooperation and integration.

The financial systems of SADCC depended heavily on trade, especially on agricultural products for their exports and these types of economic structure also affected the objective of becoming speed up integration in SADCC. Some argue that trade liberalization in SADCC was slowing due to a rule of origin (Flatters, 2001: 31; Flatters, 2002: 2; Melber, 2004). It is argued that a rule of origin was seriously delaying regional integration in SADCC because some member states of SADCC were able to choose the products that entitled to the special treatment. This means that some member states of SADCC imposed high/less restriction on import products from other member states, which undermined the values of their products. For instance, Mauritius and Tanzania agreed in 2000 to allow 65% and 9%, respectively imports from the South Africa to enter its economic duty free (ECA, 2007).

A rule of origin is challenging regional integration by protecting particular products intentionally or unintentionally from regional competition (ECA, 2007: 4; Khandelwal, 2004: 1). When products are protected from regional competition, there is the possibility of producing uncompetitive products, which flowed in the sub-region. It can be argued that restrictive rules of origin would affect consumers' access to different kinds of products and hence, consumers diverted their attention to other sub-regions.

6.2. Historical Challenges to Southern African Development Coordination Conference

Some problems of the SADCC member countries can be traced back to their relationships with former colonial powers (Gasa, 2004: 11; Hwang, 2007: 58). Although all member states of SADCC were colonised in different periods and by different colonizers such as Portugal, France, Britain, and Germany, they did share one thing in common that is, they had been colonised (Cawthra, 2010: 10). Their colonial histories have left important legacies in terms of culture, language, and political systems, which had complicated initiatives for peace and security, as well as, ideological divisions, which continued to characterize the SADCC (Cawthra, 2010: 10; Schalkwyk, 2005: 38). Moreover, after independence, some states attempted to follow the 'socialist road' and allied themselves with the Soviet Union and its partners, while others were more pro-Western. Ideological differences had its own negative repercussions on states' relations. For instance, Angola and Mozambique civil wars took place as a result of this clash of ideologies (Cawthra, 2010: 10).

Furthermore, the dominance of ruling parties had also manifested in the most member states of SADCC. This made government less or no accountable to the legislature, in particular and citizens of the member states in

general (Adolf, 2009: 34). The dominance of ruling party in SADCC was symptomatic of the weakness, fragmentation and disorganization of opposition party (Matlosa, 2007: 34). The opposition parties normally had some role in ensuring democracy and maintaining the interests of the people, because they have alternative policies. In addition to this, they also condemn the government when it fails to achieve the interests of the society.

However, during independence, most leaders of the member states of SADCC came to power through political struggle and some of these leaders are not still willing to leave government power. For instance, it is difficult for SADCC leaders to condemn Mugabe for his unlimited power because they were exercising the same administration (ibid). In many cases in SADCC, liberation parties had simply replaced their former colonial masters and practically had continued very similar administrations as those colonial masters (ibid). The most leaders of liberation parties in SADCC had been learning the system and style of governance from their former colonial powers. These administration systems were manifesting itself in some member states of SADCC. For example, except South Africa, Namibia and recently Lesotho, which far has taken a deliberate effort to adopt an electoral system of their own choice where as the rest of the SADCC member states were operating electoral systems of colonialists (Matlosa, 2000: 5; Matlosa, 2002: 6).

At independence, member states of SADCC adopted different ideological systems ranging from Mozambique and Tanzania's 'socialism' to Zambia's 'Humanism' (Chingono and Nakana, 2009: 402). Neo-liberalism and capitalism were the dominant ideological and economic framework within SADCC, pursuit of self-interest over interests of regional community, as well as, encouraging individualism over collectivism (ibid: 403). This implies that capitalist ideology had negatively affected the effective regional integration in the SADCC.

In addition to this, the persistence of autocratic leadership and political culture was also the main reason for the severe problems with state consolidation in a number of SADCC member states (Berries, 2010: 143). In the autocratic leadership, the leaders did not require any inputs that challenge their authority from the citizens of their country.

6.3. Globalization and Protocols Implementation Challenges to Southern African Development Coordination Conference

6.3.1. Challenges of Globalisation

After end of the Cold War, the world has shifted to a unipolar world and the development of multinationals, which are highly technologically advanced and, in turn, has affected regional integration such as SADCC (Gasa, 2004: 11). This was because agricultural and mineral products are bought at lower prices, which are determined by buyers in the developed countries, and processed and sold back to the SADCC member states at higher prices (Chauvin and Gaulier, 2002: 11). The prices of these products are determined by developed countries. As a result, the SADCC was facing unequal exchange, which has contributed to trade deficit, debt, as well as, future dependence in the sub- region (ibid).

The real problem here is that the key players in the SADCC economies were Multinational Corporations (MNCs), whose originating in developed world. Like elsewhere in the developing world, the motive of MNCs in SADCC member countries was profit making and pursued investment policies that reflected the needs and interests of their home countries at the expense of SADCC member states (Chingono and Nakana, 2009: 403).

The effects of the financial crisis were likely to affected SADCC economies, which relied on mining. The demand for commodities produced in SADCC countries was decreasing and this exposed SADCC member states to lack of foreign exchange (ADBG, 2009: 7; Peters, 2010 : 155 ; SADC, 2009 a: 12). The mining sector accounts for 60% of the member states foreign exchange earnings and this contributed an average of ten percent to the regional Growth Domestic Product (GDP). It also directly employed about five percent of the total wage earners (TRBZ, 2011: 12-13). Hence, it is possible to say that global financial crisis was also the main factor for low regional integration and cooperation in the SADCC.

Global financial crisis reduced capital flows including Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), foreign direct investment (FDI), and remittances in the SADC (UN, 2009: 3, 4). The increase of commodity prices in the world market was another effect of financial crisis, which had heavily impacted member states of SADCC due to the fact that it depended on primary products for exports. In this regard, high costs of imported food and rising international oil prices were main manifestations of this crisis in the SADCC (TRBZ, 2011: 14).

The increase of food price mainly emanated from food shortages due to frequent droughts in the SADCC, and has become impediment to food production (ibid: 15). Food is the basic needs that some member states of SADCC should looked for. Food insecurity affects psychological feeling of human beings and undermines the desire and contribution of member states towards regional cooperation.

6.3.2. Weakness of Adopted Protocols and Implementation

There were policy and implementation gaps in the SADCC member states (Gasa, 2004: 10). While member states of the SADC were signatories to its protocols, there are challenges on enforcement in the sense that commitments and agreements were not necessarily honoured by member states (Ditlhake, 2008: 19 ; Gasa, 2004: 10 ; TA, 2002: 11). The agreements of SADCC member states did not proceed beyond signing protocols so that this situation undermining the attempt to build effective regional integration and cooperation. In addition to this, some SADCC protocols were ambiguous and this may led to dispute on the basis of divergent interpretations and lack of clarity. As a result, member states are opted to ignore or act contrary to their provisions (Ditlhake, 2008: 19; Schalkwyk, 2005: 39). This was another problem to the SADCC integration. Moreover, all the protocols took a long time to conclude due to the fact that some member states feared prospective losses (ECA, 2007: 48). Consequently, delays had been made in the sense that protocols had not been attractive. Discussions and agreements on the trade protocol may required long time so that the protocol may not implemented in time and this, in turn, prolonged the attainment of forming effective regional integration in the region. There were also different attitudes and interests towards protocols among member states of SADCC. In other words, there were lacks of willingness regarding signing and implementing certain protocols among member states of SADCC. This had negative impacts on social and economic development, as well as, interdependence among member states. Signing and implementing of protocols are the main means to promote cooperation among member states of a given regional communities. Signing of protocols implies that the existence of commitments among member states to ratify and implement protocols, as well as, to translate into domestic laws. However, there were no actual and true commitments in some member states of SADCC as regards implementation and ratifying of protocols. This was clearly affected the attempting of regional cooperation and integration in the SADCC.

7. Summary and Conclusion

There are a number of regional economic communities in Africa. Of these, Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) is the one, which formed to achieve and sustain social and economic developments in member states. SADCC was facing different challenges that hampered regional integration. Of these, political and security challenges were the main ones that hindered effective regional integration in the region. There were also political crisis and conflicts within some member states of SADCC. This means that leaders of SADCC member states failed to implement some of their commitments. In addition to this, many member states had been also slow in signing and ratifying regional agreements and protocols. This shows that there is absence of common action and regional agenda among SADCC member states. There was also uneven distribution of benefits among member states of SADCC. Shortage of budget was another problem of SADCC, because the contribution of member states and external support did not meet the budgetary needs of the sub-region. The main reason for the shortage of budget was the decrease of prices of agricultural products in international market. Besides, the role of stakeholders including civil society and private institutions was also low as the leaders in the member states overlook them. This implies that some SADCC leaders would not appreciate the role and contribution of stakeholders.

This study suggests the need for the existence of political commitments among member states of SADC. This means that political cooperation and commitments are important in minimizing conflicts between and within member states, as well as, considering the voice of stakeholders including civil society and private institutions. Stakeholders could enhance development and create job opportunities in the SADC. Besides, to be competent in the international market, it would be necessary for SADC member states to make fundamental changes regarding diversification of products because it is vital for both investment flows and employment creation. The member states also must seriously tackle the limitations in signing and delaying of different agreements and protocols so as to accelerate integration in the SADC sub-region.

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