

The Lasting Advantages Of The State's Union

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Abstract: This article presents the sustainable benefits enjoyed by the Member States of the Unions. By adopting a triangulation approach (documentary research, documentary analysis and non-participant observation) as well as direct interviews with individuals, the article identifies these sustainable benefits. These benefits include permanent bilateral or multilateral relations, constant circulation of people (e.g., interstate diplomacy, the circuit of doctors, surgeons, specialists, gynecologists, ophthalmologists, lawyers, etc., or civilians, traders, etc.), goods and services (such as medicines, health products, food, care in health institutions, commercial enterprises, etc.), as well as assured justice, peace, and stability (such as respect for equity, equality, and cohesion in all its forms among individuals, etc.). These points have not yet been studied as sustainable benefits by researchers, whereas, according to the study in this article, this is the case. This article highlights information that can help novices fully understand the lasting benefits of unions. It also helps policymakers take advantage of them by joining unions, regional, sub-regional, or international communities, as these are lasting benefits that last over time. This article also makes general recommendations and suggestions to promote sustainable development through justice, cultural exchange and collaboration, and community preservation through union among states. Because sustainable development is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Keys-words: Union, lasting advantages, States, sustainable development, international cooperation, health

INTRODUCTION

When we speak of Unions or Union, we refer to the States that form this Union (Bélich Nabli, 2007). These States form this Unions or Union with the aim of satisfying certain needs that they define themselves. A Union can also be defined as an association of sovereign states sharing certain institutions or competences (Isa Germain, 2019). Hence the idea of the lasting advantages that states belonging to the same Union can enjoy; indeed, it is these institutions and competences of the Union that produce these lasting advantages.

But some states find pretexts to discredit the Union or the states Union, even to the point of leaving the Union to which these states once belonged. One example is Morocco, which left the former Organization of African Unity (OAU, predecessor of the AU) in 1984 to protest the allocation of seats to the Polisario Front, admitted as a representative of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), a former Spanish colony west of the Sahara (Monique Petit-Renard, 2022). This's also the case for the United Kingdom, which left the European Union on 31 January 2020, but not its market (Constance de Jean, 2022). This's why this article asks: do states Union not have lasting advantages?

States Union offer lasting advantages, particularly in terms of relations between member states, which become permanent bilateral or multilateral relations. There is also the constant, uninterrupted flow of people, goods, and services, as well as justice, peace, and stability for the states involved in the Union. Moreover, these few elements that are advantageous for the member states of a Union are important lasting advantages that encourage every State to seek membership in a Union and for states to unite more so that the Union is a point of common sustainable development, that's, development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, 2016 ; Ajoba Audrey Paule N'ze and Abderrahman Tenkoul, 2024). This can thus effectively reduce the various inequalities, guarantee lasting global relations, justice, peace and stability. This article will attempt to provide more detailed answers to the above question with a view to highlighting the reality of the lasting advantages that states Union offer to their member states.

METHODOLOGY

In order to carry out the study of the present article, the qualitative research methodology made it possible to undertake a triangulation approach encompassing documentary research, documentary analysis and non-participant observation, as well as direct interviews to arrive at results of intrinsic quality to the research and to understand the different subjects which revolve around the theme of the article, (Ajoba Audrey Paule N'ze and Abderrahman Tenkoul, 2024). Indeed, the qualitative research methodology having been at the center of the development of this article made it possible to have a deep understanding of the results presented in the present article (Juul Dupont, 2023).

The selection and presentation of data

The data for this study in this article are both written, electronic, audio-visual and direct responses from interviewees. Those other than the responses from direct interviewees were obtained from credible websites from Google and in a university library. As for the main documents consulted, it consists mainly of research articles, press articles, official reports and ministerial decrees. On the other hand, these texts were selected because of their relevance and the direct link they have with the lasting advantages of states Union between states. As for the responses of the interviewees, they were retained based on their coherence, logic, common sense and objectivity.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The first step of the triangulation approach is related to the documentary research carried out using the Google search engine and the library of the EROMED University of Fez, to have data from various sources. As for the second step, it relates to the documentary analysis of the texts, it is a meticulous analysis which made it possible to obtain satisfactory results, by reading all the documents relating to the study of the present article. This reading made it possible to highlight the important points which allowed the realization of the study presented in the article. Concerning the last step of the triangulation approach, it's the non-participant observation which carried out, through audio-visual debates, official video reports observed on the YouTube platform and on websites, on the movements of the states within different states Union. Finally, regarding the direct interviews, these involved people aged between 18 and 55 years old, residents of Morocco, of different nationalities. After obtaining their informed consent, they were asked questions to determine whether, in their opinion, there were lasting advantages to forming states Union, which could benefit the member states and their citizens, or whether there were simply lasting advantages for a state belonging to a Union.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Permanent bilateral or multilateral relations between the States of the Union(s)

There is no break between states that come from the same Union or Unions; relations are therefore lasting, whether bilateral or multilateral, and this engenders a very strong solidarity between states as well as interstate diplomacy, as demonstrated by the non-participant observation conducted to develop the study for this article. The perfect example that reflects the spirit of permanent bilateral relations between states that come from the same Union of states, considered a lasting advantage of Union of states, is that of Ivory Coast and Ghana. Both (02) member countries of the African Union (African Union, 2025) and the Economic Community of West African States maintain extraordinary relations.

Ivory Coast, facing a reduction in its wildlife due to the security crisis in the Sahel, whose security situation is deteriorating (Fatoumata Diallo, 2024), has called on Ghana to address this. Indeed, faced with the recent ban on livestock exports decreed by Niger, Ivory Coast has turned to Ghana, its western neighbor, to guarantee the supply of animals for consumption to the Ivorian market (Ulrich A, 2025). Indeed, the Nigerien government has decided to temporarily ban livestock exports to neighboring markets since May 9, 2025, through the Ministry of Trade and Industry, while the sheep festival was scheduled in a few weeks (Théodore Tchopa, 2025).

On the other hand, the Ministry of Trade and Industry on May 30, 2025, exceptionally authorized the export of nine (9) trucks of livestock to Burkina Faso (in the cities of Bobo Dioulasso, Ouagadougou and Dori) in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity between the member countries of the Confederation of Sahel States (Ministry of Trade and Industry of Niger, 2025). This point demonstrates once again that bilateral relations are still permanent between the states resulting from the same Union, and that the security crisis in the Sahel is not a reason for bilateral state relations to fade away.

Table 1: The list of trucks and their registration numbers for livestock transport from Niger to Burkina Faso.

N°	First and last name	Registrations	Destinations
1	HOUN ZAMBE Doamekpo	TG 6106 BL TG 4101 X	Bobo Dioulasso
2	NOULEKOUSSI Kodjo	TG 1193 BE TG 7926 AY	Bobo Dioulasso
3	NAGBAME Sambilou	TG 0446 BG TG 7926 AY	Ouagadougou
4	AFODA Alirou	TG 2104 AQ TG 1241 BD	Ouagadougou
5	TRAORE Ahmed	TG 8486 F8 09	Ouagadougou
6	DIARRA Boureima	BF 45 84 GI 09	Ouagadougou

7	KANTE Malamine	BA 7562 MD	Ouagadougou
8	LAMBOUNI Nameka	TG 27 28 AK	Dori
9	KOURAOGO Guelilou	BF 67 91 E203	Dori

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Niger.

To address the problem facing Ivory Coast, the latter and Ghana have strengthened cross-border collaboration through an agreement aimed at strengthening livestock supplies to the Ivorian market, aiming to meet the high demand for livestock due to the approaching Tabaski 2025 festival, for which the need is estimated at 160,000 sheep and 80,000 cattle," declared the President of the OIA, "of large ruminants (Noel Ahoulou, 2025).

This then demonstrates the disadvantages, for states and their citizens, of not being within one or more of the same states Union. Indeed, the African Union (AU) suspended Niger, having been the scene of a military coup in late July (TV5MONDE, 2023). And in addition to having also left the Economic Community of West African States on its own initiative (Salim Boussaïd, 2024), Niger has intangible relations with other states, apart from Burkina Faso and Mali, and ruptures with almost all West African States. This is justified by the fact that it has increasingly distanced itself from the States Union almost everywhere except the Confederation of Sahel States, of which it is a member. This constitutes an obstacle to exchanges and cultural collaboration between states, which does not promote shared sustainable development. But it also creates more room for disagreements between states, states disputes, and community estrangement.

These forms of permanent bilateral or multilateral relations between the states of the Union represent a lasting advantage, in the sense that by them, food insecurity may not be an insurmountable problem, to protect the populations affected by this type of insecurity. But also, and above all, these relationships allow us to "meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Furthermore, the relations that countries maintain with each other have a real impact on the daily lives of their inhabitants, particularly when they are required to travel (Klervi Drouglazet, 2016).

The constant movement of people, goods and services between the states of the Union

The constant movement of people, goods, and services between states within the same Union is a lasting advantage because it fosters closer ties between member states, enhances collective and regional prosperity, and promotes stability (Muhammad and *al.*, 2024).

Indeed, people, goods, and services move easily across borders, further creating more cohesive and dynamic regional markets. This's the case with the European Union's Schengen Area and the African Union's efforts to facilitate intercontinental travel, which promote economic growth, cultural exchange, and regional cooperation (Muhammad and *al.*, 2024). For example, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, is an association (union) of states founded in 1967 in Bangkok to stimulate the region's economic development and stability in the face of the Cold War. It brings together ten (10) Southeast Asian countries, including many emerging economies: the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand since 1967, to which Brunei was added in 1984, Vietnam in 1995, Laos and Myanmar in 1997, and Cambodia in 1999 (Géoconfluences, 2022). Or the example of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, where Directive No. 06/2005/CM/UEMOA on the free movement and right of establishment of doctors provides that: "any doctor who is a national of the Union, duly registered with the National Order of Physicians of a member country of the UEMOA, may freely practice his profession, independently or as an employee, in any other member country of the Union, [...]"; "any doctor who is a national of the Union, duly registered with the National Order of Physicians of a member country of the UEMOA, has the right to establish himself permanently in any member country of the Union to practice his art there, [...]". This may contribute to the shortage of medical practitioners, most often specialized, such as pediatric surgeons, who can easily travel to practice their medicine in order to save lives. This may thus undoubtedly contribute to sustainable development through the Union between States. In relation to ASEAN, since 2015, a Mutual Recognition Agreement has been developed between member countries regarding, among other things, migration related to the mobility of workers. In addition, ASEAN protects and is prepared to promote the rights of migrant workers, as well as their assimilation into host societies, which ensures social progress and economic cooperation (Muhammad and *al.*, 2024).

This demonstrates a lasting advantage for citizens of members of the same Union, in that they can work with peace of mind in a state other than their own.

On the other hand, the constant movement of people, goods, and services is practically very difficult between states that are not members of the same Union. This is the case, in terms of the movement of people, for nationals of African states wishing to travel to a European state such as France. Indeed, travelers must obtain a short-stay visa (Type C) in advance and present it, along with their passport and supporting documents, to enter French territory (Europ Assistance Hoding, 2025). So, what about the movement of goods and services, which in any case cannot be a constant circulation.

As for the States of the Schengen Area, the European Union, and certain Associated States, it is sufficient for their nationals to present a National Identity Card or Passport (Europ Assistance Hoding, 2025).

Furthermore, outside the Union (Association) between the States grouping ASEAN, which benefits them and their nationals, there is the case of the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS, which introduced the ECOWAS Passport in 2010. This measure facilitates the free movement of people, trade, tourism, and cultural exchanges between ECOWAS member states, thus promoting unity and cooperation among their nationals (Muhammad *et al.*, 2024). Furthermore, ECOWAS, with a view to supplementing its Protocol A/P1/5/79 relating to the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment, adopted in Dakar on 25 May 1979, the ECOWAS Council of Ministers adopted Decision C/DEC.8/11/79. This covers total exemption from customs duties and taxes, the free movement of goods without any quantitative restrictions and the non-payment of compensation for loss of revenue resulting from importation (Koffi Nutefé Tsigbé and Koffi Bakayota Kpaye, 2017). Overall, these texts guarantee the freedom of movement, free of any customs duty, of local products, traditional crafts and industrial products originating from ECOWAS member states as well as of goods by road without paying customs duties, from the customs office of departure of the goods to the customs office of the country of destination (Koffi Nutefé Tsigbé and Koffi Bakayota Kpaye, 2017). In addition, we can also mention the example of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), an international economic integration organization composed of five (5) member states: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia, which has established the common pharmaceutical market for mutual trade and which will allow in the future not only to control the circulation of medicines on the territory of the EAEU, but also to contribute to the development of the pharmaceutical industry of each member country by expanding distribution channels and increasing the range of medicines produced by foreign manufacturers established on the territory of the EAEU.

Thus, the constant circulation of goods and services between the states from the same Union, will avoid for the different nationals, even those residents who are not from these states, the high cost of the products resulting from these goods and services, thus avoiding increasing social inequalities and ensuring the preservation of the financial resources of the people concerned. So, we can say that this can contribute considerably to sustainable development, which is the fact for a community "to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Justice, peace and stability for the States of the Union

The states that emerge from the Union and their people benefit from the assured justice, peace, and stability that this Union offers. For example, Article 3(2) of the Treaty on European Union sets out the broad objectives of the European Union about the area of freedom, security, and justice (AFSJ). This title contains a specific chapter devoted to policies relating to border control, asylum and immigration, judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and police cooperation (Udo Bux, Mariusz Maciejewski, 2025). The measures relating to justice and security provide that: "The Union shall strive to ensure a high level of security through measures to prevent and combat crime, racism and xenophobia, through coordination and cooperation between police and judicial authorities and other competent authorities, as well as through mutual recognition of judgments in criminal matters and, where necessary, through the approximation of criminal laws.

The Union shall facilitate access to justice, in particular through the principle of mutual recognition of judicial and extrajudicial decisions in civil matters." (Udo Bux and Mariusz Maciejewski, 2025). These are mechanisms that guarantee justice, which leads to peace and stability within the European Union, as well as for nationals of its member states.

This justice can often take the form of sanctions against a member state when it commits acts contrary to the values, principles, and objectives of the Union. We can mention the case of Russia, which was officially excluded from the Council of Europe on March 16, 2022, during a meeting of the Committee of Ministers after twenty-six years of membership because of its invasion of Ukraine launched on February 24, 2022.

Thus, causing its withdrawal from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), and which deprives its 145 million citizens of access to the European Court of Human Rights (Alexandre Schmidt, 2022). While the Council of Europe is a pan-European intergovernmental organization whose mission is to promote and defend the principles of democracy, the rule of law and human rights (Alexandre Schmidt, 2022).

This type of sanction imposed on a member country of a Union is a reminder to order that can lead this country to rediscipline or correct itself and this promotes justice rendered to the victims or to the people victim of violation, an aggression or a prejudice. For example, Gabon and the African Union is a palpable case, in fact Gabon had been suspended from the African Union in August 2023 and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) had imposed economic sanctions that affected the national economy after the dismissal of President Ali Bongo Ondimba, in power for 14 years, successor to his father Omar Bongo, who had ruled the country for more than four decades. General Brice Oligui Nguema, leader of the military coup, won the presidential elections held on April 12, 2025, with a large majority, according to the official results (African

perceptions, 2025). The African Union (AU) then announced the lifting of sanctions imposed on Gabon following the August 2023 military coup. The decision was made public by the pan-African organization's Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, emphasizing that the political transition had led to a "successful return to constitutional order" (African Perceptions, 2025).

This demonstrates the justice, peace and assured stability that the Union offers to states and their citizens who are members, because the sanction pushed for there to be free and transparent elections to the satisfaction of the people as well as the Union. Unfortunately, this is not the case for Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, which means that these are still suspended and whose sanctions affect populations already wounded by insecurity and political instability, and these sanctions also deprive ECOWAS and the AU of making the three countries concerned contribute to meeting major challenges. However, these sanctions also undermine sub-regional and African solidarity, which constitutes the cardinal principle of regional and continental integration and cooperation (France 24, 2023).

These Union sanctions are justified because, for example, the African Union, through its Department of Political Affairs, is responsible for promoting, facilitating, coordinating, and encouraging democratic principles and the rule of law, respect for human rights, the participation of civil society in the continent's development process, and the search for lasting solutions to humanitarian crises. This Department also coordinates the implementation of the African Governance Architecture and the implementation of lasting solutions to humanitarian and political crises, including preventive diplomacy (African Union, 2025). This demonstrates the importance of belonging to a Union for states, but especially for the citizens of these states, who are often powerless in the face of public power. Consequently, when the Union acts, it represents justice tending toward peace and stability, which military coup destroys. Indeed, the sudden, usually violent, seizure of political power in a nation is called a military coup, ignoring the norms established for this purpose in the legal system, that is, violating the legitimacy of a state's institutions.

This's generally perpetrated by powerful groups within society, particularly the military, when established electoral and legal regulations are ignored and they seize control of state institutions, imposing their law. The military coup is usually carried out by the same social sector (and its allies). The history of military coups around the world is generally violent and cruel, as rebel forces must prevail over those loyal to the state, and this generally involves street fighting and other forms of violence (Being Green, 2022). And these fighting and forms of violence show disorder, social inequality, and the plundering of resources and infrastructure.

Indeed, the consequences of any military coup are generally tragic, as they often involve the loss of human lives and public and private property, as there are usually street battles between the putschists and resistance factions. Not to mention that, ultimately, any military coup involves the sudden change of government from one to another (Being Green, 2022), which creates a loss of revenue and public spending. Moreover, the institutions of the Union are called upon to establish justice, peace, and stability. This's the case of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which issued a judgment in the case of the dispute between Burkina Faso and Niger over a section of their common border. The Court delimited the territories of the two countries, along a section representing more than half of their common border. It's the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (of which Niger and Burkina Faso are members), having been established in June 1945 by the United Nations Charter and having begun its activities in April 1946 (United Nations, 2013).

This's also the case of the matter of Dame Hadijatou Mani Koraou against the Republic of Niger, a case judged by the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which condemned the State of Niger for violating Articles 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 18(3) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States, 2008).

In this way, the Union has lasting advantages, including the reign of justice, the establishment of peace and stability, with the idea of allowing there to be "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The limits of research

This article, while presenting some lasting advantages for the member states of the Union, also has shortcomings, particularly regarding the collection of data, which is solely based on qualitative research.

The approach adopted therefore cannot yield results from a mixed or solely quantitative approach that could also yield other types of lasting advantages different from those presented in this article, from which the member states of the Union may well benefit.

CONCLUSION

The Union is nowadays discredited by most research, and especially by some states that were previously members of the Union, and this's further evidenced by Rwanda's withdrawal from the Economic Community of Central African States (Rwandan Council of Ministers, 2025).

Thus, this article has highlighted the lasting advantages for states of belonging to the Union to better understand the theme.

The article has successfully demonstrated that there are indeed lasting advantages for states to belong to one or more Union. These advantages are consistent with sustainable development, which is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs," and prove the importance of the Union for the states involved. This essentially concerns everything that leads to permanent bilateral or multilateral relations between the states of the Union, to the constant movement of people, goods, and services between the states of the Union, and to assure justice, peace, and stability for the states of the Union. Furthermore, these advantages, demonstrated and considered sustainable by this article, are likely to objectively restore, with supporting elements, the image of the Unions, which is increasingly facing unconstructive criticism.

However, beyond objectively restoring the image of the Union, this article also proposes ideas in the form of perspectives and motives for creating more states Unions, in order to maintain strong community solidarity, so that states do not withdraw from the Unions to which they belong, in order to avoid isolation and ruptures, and to join Unions to take advantages of what the Union offers. Furthermore, to resolve scourges such as injustice, the insecurity of essential human resources, and social inequality, states must now consider a more comprehensive global Union, bringing together all states without exception (strong or weak) with a view to jointly finding multiple sources of collective sustainable development. Indeed, the intermingling of states will allow for a vertical elevation of these member states of the Union, to guarantee life and the joy of living, because each state will have to contribute something of its own to achieve this, in the interest of achieving peace, solidarity leading to development, or the fight against wars. And we can allow ourselves to mention the one that has existed for more than three (03) years between Russia and Ukraine for example, because if the circumstances meant that they belonged to the same Union, this war would perhaps not have broken out. And we can allow ourselves to mention the one that has existed for more than three (03) years between Russia and Ukraine for example, because if the circumstances were such that they belonged to the same Union, this war would perhaps not have broken out. War affects the global economy, undermining growth and causing price increases. Indeed, the sharp rise in food and fuel prices could increase the risk of unrest in the regions of sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Caucasus and Central Asia, not to mention food insecurity which will worsen further in certain parts of Africa and the Middle East (Alfred, and *al.*, 2022).

Furthermore, this global, general Union of all states will allow them to know each other to envision a collective ideal and exchanges, thus avoiding autarky. Consequently, this will allow for development that's likely to "meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The lasting advantages of the Union for its member states, presented in this article, also allow us to see a new way to achieve sustainable development, beyond the predisposing factors known as standard factors, or the only factors, of sustainable development.

However, further research would be welcome to understand the importance of the Union for States, particularly by using different approaches used in the study presented in this article, namely a mixed (qualitative and quantitative) or a quantitative approach. Indeed, it would be interesting for other analyses to focus on the Union of states, to highlight elements that could encourage more access than withdrawals of states within the Union and demonstrate the need for states and their components to unite around the Union.

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