

EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The east African countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania inherited from British colonial rule the most highly developed cooperative regional institutions and arrangements in Africa. These include a common market unified currency and a number of centrally administered public services.

The east African governments have discussed the formation of a political federation for several years, but such a federation is no longer considered a realizable objective for the near future. Nonetheless, hope for the evolution of regional institutions still exists as evidenced by the formation of a tripartite commission under an independent chairman to study the entire range of regional cooperation.

Regional cooperation is essential for strengthening economic ties with emerging new nations of Africa. Recently, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States announced the establishment of the East African Chamber of Commerce, the only nonpolitical organization of its kind anywhere in the world dedicated to sponsoring east and central African trade, industry, tourism, and cultural exchange with the United States. This new organization demonstrates the interest of American businessmen and investors in concerted efforts to promote the economic development of the African Continent. This joint venture might also be applied to countries of west Africa.