## THE ROLE OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN COFLICT RESOLUTION: CASE OF DARFUR IN SUDAN (2001-2017)

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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIMENT FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTERS OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY.

Leitigia Maureen

Leiticia, Maureen The role of the African Union in conflict

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#### DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for masters in any other institution of higher learning.

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### THE SUPERVISOR

This Research Project has been submitted with an approval of the university supervisor

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#### ABSTRACT

The African Union is a regional organization for the African countries; it was created in 2001 to replace the OAU that had failed in addressing insecurities. AU was formed with an aim of protecting continental security instead of protecting states sovereignty. One of the goals of the AU is to resolve conflicts; it usually intervenes in the internal affairs of its partner states using peaceful means, but if the means doesn't work, it opts to use force to resolve conflicts. Since its creation, the AU has had remarkable success in some regions through conflict resolution. This particular research seeks to find out the role of the African Union in conflict resolution, the case of Darfur region. This particular study sought to realize the following objectives; to examine conflict resolution mandate of the AU, survey the conflict situation in Darfur and to examine AU conflict resolution initiatives in Darfur. To achieve the objectives, the researcher used both primary and secondary data. The data that was collected was organized and analyzed thematically; the related topics were categorized, major themes were identified and put into relevant topics together and developed a summary report. The study was carried out in Nairobi. The research adopted a descriptive research design; it was used to describe the Darfur violent conflict; described the conflict the way it is. The findings of this particular research will likely benefit all the actors in the Darfur conflict; they will be able to know why the African Union is taking long to find a long term solution. The study will also be of importance to the African Union policy makers as they make policies concerning conflict resolution. The study will also benefit the general public from Sudan it will increase their general knowledge about the organization and enable them to fully support it. The research will also be of importance to the future researchers who would want to carry out research on the similar topic.