



**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (FANR) STANDING  
COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020**

**PRESENT**

Hon. Marapeleng Malefane, Vice Chairperson	Lesotho
Hon. Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe	South Africa
Hon. Polson Majaga	Botswana
Hon. Princess Phumelele Dlamini	Eswatini
Hon. Lova Herizo Rajabelina	Madagascar
Hon. Tambudzani Mohadi	Zimbabwe

**APOLOGIES**

Hon Andre Leon Tumba, Chairperson	DRC
Hon. Prof. Nkandu Luo	Zambia
Hon. Marie Genevieve Stephanie Anquetil	Mauritius
Hon. Samuel Kawala	Malawi
Hon. Helena Bonguela Abel	Angola
Hon. Carlos Manuel	Mozambique

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms Boemo Mmandu Sekgoma	Secretary General (SADC PF)
Mr Sheuneni Kurasha	Programme Manager (SADC PF)
Dr Lewis Hove	Resilience Team Leader, Southern African Subregional Office for Southern Africa, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
Ms Chikondi Chavuta	Resource Person Eastern and Southern Africa Humanitarian Advisor, ActionAid International

## **AGENDA**

1. Credentials of Delegates and Apologies
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Welcoming Remarks.
4. Consideration of the Minutes of the FANR Standing Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.
5. Consideration of Matters Arising from the Minutes of the FANR Standing Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.
6. Presentation discussion of the theme: "The Impact of the African Migratory Locust on Agriculture and Food Security in Southern Africa: What can Parliaments Do?"
7. Any Other Business.

The meeting was called to order at 10:06hrs.

### **1. CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES AND APOLOGIES**

The credentials of Committee were presented and quorum was confirmed for the meeting to proceed.

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

On a proposal by South Africa and seconded by Zimbabwe, the Agenda was adopted as presented.

### **3. WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

In accordance with Rule 39(2) of the SADC-PF Rules of Procedure and in the absence of both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the meeting designated a Member present, Hon Hon Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe to preside over the meeting.

The Chairperson designate Hon Matibe welcomed all Hon Members to the meeting. He further extended a special welcome to Ms Boemo Sekgoma, Secretary General of the SADC PF. Hon Matibe commended the SADC PF Secretariat for ensuring that Standing Committees of the SADC PF continued to meet even under difficult conditions arising from the restrictions imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic. He noted that the COVID 19 had necessitated that meetings and other business was conducted virtually through zoom meetings. However, this new development had exposed the challenges that many Southern African countries experienced with regard to information communication technologies, particularly poor internet connectivity. In that regard the Hon Matibe urged the Committee to take an interest in issues of Information Communication Technologies.

Hon Matibe informed the Standing Committee that the meeting was convened under the theme ***'The Impact of the African Migratory Locust Outbreak on***

***Agriculture and Food Security in Southern Africa: What Can Parliament.s Do?*** He noted that the outbreak of the AML and the damage caused to crops would compound existing food insecurity in Southern Africa. He explained that prior to the advent of the African Migratory Locusts, the agriculture sectors of most countries were already struggling due to climate change impacts such as floods and droughts. He informed the Committee that most of the Southern Africa region heavily relied on agriculture as its mainstay and any impact on the sector posed serious socioeconomic issues. He stated that the Session would therefore focus on measures that could ameliorate the crisis. Lastly, Hon Matibe called all the Hon Members to fully participant in the deliberations.

**4. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FANR HELD ON THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> AND FRIDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2020**

On a proposal by South Africa and seconded by Eswatini, the minutes of the Standing Committee on FANR were approved as a true reflection of the meetings held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> Thursday, July, 2020

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FANR HELD ON THURSDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> AND Friday, 10<sup>TH</sup> July, 2020**

No corrections and matters arising were raised and the minutes were approved as a true reflection of the FANR Standing Committee meetings which took place on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

In order to gain insight into the subject under consideration, the FANR Standing Committee received presentations from the following resource persons:

- (a) Dr Lewis Hove Resilience Team Leader, Southern African Subregional Office for Southern Africa, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- (b) Ms Chikondi Chavuta Eastern and Southern Africa Humanitarian Advisor, ActionAid International

The highlight of the presentations including the plenary discussion, conclusions and recommendations were as set out below.

**6. THE IMPACT OF THE AFRICAN MIGRATORY LOCUST ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

- 6.1** The African Migratory Locust (AML) was a threat to agriculture and food security in Southern Africa and if not controlled, it could exacerbate the already existing food crisis in the region.
- 6.2** The outbreak of the AML was first recorded in May, 2020 and since then eight SADC Member States had been affected namely; Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia.
- 6.3** The AML posed a danger to crop production and livestock grazing during the 2020/2021 farming season and beyond.
- 6.4** According to the SADC 2020 Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Report, about 44.8 million people in the Southern Africa region were already experiencing food insecurity even before the emergence of the AML outbreak.
- 6.5** The Southern African Development Community had received tremendous support from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Southern African Development Community and International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa. In that regard, a Regional Locust Response Plan worth US\$4.3 million had been set up for surveillance, control operations and to safeguard livelihoods from the impact of the AML.
- 6.6** In the last decade, the Southern Africa region had witnessed outbreaks of transboundary plant pests and diseases that had caused havoc and resulted in reduced production of major food crops.
- 6.7** Climate change had resulted in influx of destructive plants pests and diseases, which included but not limited to the fruit flies, fall armyworm, tomato leaf miner tuta absoluta, banana fusarium wilt, banana buncy top virus, cassava brown streak virus and wheat blast disease.
- 6.8** The AML had exacerbated the economic challenges that Member States were already facing including resource constraints posed by the COVID 19 response mechanisms.
- 6.9** Some of the pesticides used to control the spread of the AML had potential to cause adverse environmental effects on human health and ecosystems.
- 6.10** The COVID 19 pandemic has exacerbated the food crisis in Southern Africa and food security is projected to deteriorate even further.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RESOLUTION**

Following the presentations and discussions, the FANR Committee concluded and resolved as follows:

- a) SADC Member Parliaments to advocate and lobby respective Governments to adequately fund and capacitate institutions mandated to manage the spread of the African Migratory Locusts.
- b) SADC countries to ensure that environmental impact assessments are conducted in order to monitor the potential environmental damage that may be caused by the use of chemical pesticides.
- c) There is need for Member States to enhance surveillance, information sharing and early warning systems for transboundary plant pests and diseases.
- d) SADC Member States to work closely with SADC and partners such as the FAO, IRLCO-CSA and other institutions to strengthen the existing linkages to ensure effective and timely collective action in managing the AML and other pests that threaten the food security of the region.
- e) Need for SADC Member States to collaborate with the International Red Locusts Control Organisation for Central and southern Africa in order to benefit from the interventions by the two organisations.
- f) Member states to take into account human and environmental factors when disposing chemical pesticides.
- g) Member states to adopt integrated pest management system in the control of the AML.
- h) In order to protect human health and the environment, Member states to take into account the guidelines contained in the Rotterdam Convention on the disposal of chemical pesticides.
- i) Member states to provide support towards national industry for the production and registration of biopesticides
- j) National Parliaments to utilise their mandate to encourage respective governments to take prompt action to control the further spread of the AML.
- k) Member states to reinforce already existing mechanisms meant to address climate change, as it is evident that the effects therefrom have far reaching consequences on both human beings and the environment.

There being no further business, the FANR Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:36 hours.

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Hon. Andre Leon Tumba  
**CHAIRPERSON**

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Sharon B M Nyirongo  
**COMMITTEE SECRETARY**