



National Assembly of Zambia
Parliament Buildings
P.O. BOX 31299
www.parliament.gov.zm

ZAMBIA COUNTRY REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE 55TH SADC PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION HELD IN LUANDA, ANGOLA FROM 1ST TO 7TH JULY, 2023

	RESOLUTION	UPDATE AND COMMENT
1.	SADC Member Parliaments to prioritise the integration of SRHR into climate change policies, emphasising the need to address the disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls, through evidence-driven policymaking, and stressing the critical role of parliamentarians in promoting inclusive	Under the National Assembly SRHR, HIV/AIDS and Governance Project, a sub-technical Working Group was established to explore possible areas of intervention by Members of Parliament. The group consists of technocrats drawn from relevant line ministries, staff of parliament and CSOs working in the area of climate change and SRHR. The Technical Working Group will mainly provide evidence and data to parliamentarians, which will be used to inform

	<p>strategies that safeguard the health and rights of all individuals.</p>	<p>legal, policy and advocacy interventions with regard to the impact of climate change on the attainment and enjoyment of sexual reproductive rights by citizens of Zambia.</p> <p>To this effect the Zambian Parliament has strengthened the interactions among the work of the Parliamentarians from the SRHR and the Climate Change Caucus</p>
2.	<p>Calls on SADC Member Parliaments to ensure that sufficient resources for interventions addressing both climate action and SRHR, prioritising health services, education, and climate resilience programmes emphasizing the need to develop a budget tagging and tracking tool to accurately monitor the allocation and utilisation of funds to enable transparent oversight.</p>	<p>The National Assembly of Zambia in October 2024 rolled out the full implementation of Sector Budget Analysis (SBA). Leveraging on the in-depth budget analysis the project invited several of its technical working group members to make input in the budget making process.</p> <p>The SRHR Project team, the Climate change Caucus and selected partners that form the technical working group, beginning 2025, will work closely with the Parliamentary Budget Office and leverage on the Sector Budget Analysis by capacitating MPs in relevant committees of parliament to effectively undertake budget analysis and tracking of funds allocated towards climate action. This will be done in consonant with already existing SBA of the Health budget in general and SRHR in particular, which is coordinated by the SRHR Researchers and a consortium of CSO partners</p>
3.	<p>Calls on SADC Member Parliaments to establish a Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Southern Africa, to promote the adoption of policy, establish legislative frameworks, raise awareness,</p>	<p>The National Assembly of Zambia in 2022 established a Parliamentary Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition composed of over 100 Members of Parliament.</p>

	<p>and allocate resources for policy and programme implementation.</p>	<p>To this effect a training needs assessment among Zambian parliamentarians on responsible investment in agriculture and food systems (CFS RAI) was conducted.</p> <p>This emanated into two capacity building workshops on Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems from 23rd to 24th November, 2022 and the stakeholders’ workshop on 25th November, 2022.</p> <p>Similarly, in September of 2024 an orientation training for Members of the Parliamentary Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition on the Food Systems Transformation in Zambia and its significance for national development was conducted. The training held in partnership with the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) in conjunction with GIZ and UNICEF.</p> <p>The work around nutrition has led to a number of interventions among parliamentarians on food and nutrition</p>
4.	<p>SADC Member Parliaments to monitor and enforce the implementation of laws related to food security and nutrition, coordinate engagement with relevant stakeholders and advocate for increased investment in nutrition and food system policies. Nutrition</p>	<p>The National Assembly of Zambia recognises the pivotal role of policies and legislation in transforming agriculture for enhanced food security. Therefore, through its oversight function it observed that the following measures:</p> <p>a) Policy Development the Second National Agricultural Policy is under review to incorporate emerging trends in the agricultural sector.</p>

		<p>b) Government put in place the National Crop Diversification Strategy 2014-2028 that aims at strengthening agricultural production of various crop varieties for enhanced diversity.</p> <p>b) Comprehensive Agricultural Transformation Support Program (CATSP) is guiding public and private sector investment in agriculture, focusing on value chains;</p> <p>c) National Irrigation Policy and Development Plan (NIPDP) is what guides investments in irrigation infrastructure and technology to mitigate climate variability impacts;</p> <p>d) Agro-industrial Development Strategy is being implemented and it focuses on mechanization, value addition, and strengthening supply chains to modernize the agriculture sector;</p> <p>In terms of Legislative Support, the Zambian Parliament has on many occasions made demands to have the agricultural laws with goals of industrialization reviewed and aligned so that they facilitate investment and private sector participation in critical areas such as processing and marketing.</p>
5.	SADC Member Parliaments to actively participate in evaluating the current Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) and advocate for developing the next RAIP (2025-2030), stressing the importance of aligning national agricultural policies with the RAIP, operationalising the SADC Agricultural Development Fund, and	Zambia aligns itself with agricultural policies with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); as well as other Regional integration frameworks, such as Food Security and Climate Resilience Strategies under the Southern African Development Community (SADC). <p>In the same vein the Zambian Parliament during the period under review continued to make a number of interventions around agricultural investment.</p>

	promoting effective resourcing and coordination for implementation.	
6.	SADC Member Parliaments to prioritise strengthening political leadership and commitment at all levels to achieve the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) goals, highlighting the importance of increasing public expenditure on agriculture, enhancing data collection and management systems, and promoting partnerships for effective implementation.	The Zambia Parliament will explore this further going forward
7.	SADC national Parliaments to leverage their legislative mandates to enact and oversee laws that focus on electoral risk prevention and management and the enhancement of resilience in electoral processes to ensure the integrity and credibility of elections across the region.	<p>The Zambian Parliament has noted that the Electoral Commission of Zambia has been having regular engagements of political parties through various platforms. For instance, the Electoral Commission of Zambia shared the roadmap for the 2026 General Elections with the political parties.</p> <p>Further, in the inquest to enhance integrity of the Commission, it has also incorporated civil society organisations in the National Conflict Management Committee and the National Voter Education Committee. The National Conflict Management Committee resolves electoral disputes while the National Voter Education Committee oversees voter education activities.</p>

		Furthermore, the Commission has enhanced interactions with the media through various forums and has constituted media corps in all provinces as a forum to enhance its interaction with the media.
8.	National Parliaments to expedite the domestication and implementation of international and regional child rights instruments, ensuring that national laws align with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children.	<p>The Zambia Parliament passed the Children’s Code Act, No. 12 of 2022. In essence, it is a consolidation of various laws that concern the welfare of children, a tailor-made legal framework designed to ensure that children’s rights are upheld, respected, and protected. Its full implementation represents a significant step toward creating a society free from the injustices that children often face.</p> <p>This transformative Act aligns with international treaties on children’s rights that Zambia has signed. By incorporating these rights into our national law, the Code provides for every individual to be held accountable for any failure to uphold these rights.</p>
9.	National Parliaments to support legislation and policies aimed at achieving universal access to quality education, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable children, and expand healthcare services to include comprehensive child health and mental health support.	<p>This Children’s Code Act (Act No. 12) of 2022 codifies various children's rights including the right to social protection and social services, the right to health care, parental care and education.</p> <p>Further, the Act also outlines the responsibilities of parents, which encompass providing children with food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, and guidance. These provisions emphasise that we all have a part to play in securing the well-being and future of our children.</p>

		<p>To promote education the Zambian Parliament participated in the Curriculum reforms on life skills, health education. This was a multistakeholder meeting that facilitated for a national curriculum that is inclusive and reflective of the diverse needs and backgrounds of children, including marginalized groups.</p> <p>The life skills, health education new curriculum has since been approved.</p>
10	<p>National Parliaments to enact and enforce laws to eliminate harmful cultural practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation, accompanied by public awareness campaigns and community engagement strategies.</p>	<p>The Children’s Code Act (Act No. 12) of 2022 cited earlier is a comprehensive law governing children. The act makes the principle of the best interest of the child (which the Zambian Constitution defines as a person who is 18 years of age or below).</p> <p>The Act bars discrimination against children “on the basis of race, colour, sex, gender, age, language, political or other opinion, conscience, belief, tribe, pregnancy, health, ethnic or social origin, disability, property, birth, economic or other status.”</p> <p>The act includes a number of provisions that protect children from harmful practices. It bars female genital mutilation and subjecting children to child marriage “or cultural rites, and religious or traditional practices, that are likely to negatively affect the child’s life, health, social welfare, dignity, and physical or psychological development”. It also bars the sexual abuse or exploitation of children, use of children in prostitution, persuasion or coercion of children to engage in sexual activity, and exposure of children to obscene or pornographic material, among others</p>
11	<p>National Parliaments to formulate and monitor the implementation of specific measures to protect and rehabilitate</p>	<p>The National Assembly through the Parliamentary Committees, the SRHR Caucus, the parliamentary Children’s Caucus and the Zambian Women’s Parliamentary Caucus has been monitoring the</p>

	children affected by armed conflict, including their safe return to education and normalcy, and prevent their recruitment into armed forces.	implementation of the Children’s Code Act (Act No. 12) of 2022. One of the key aspects being looked out for is how the law will deal with implementation of specific measures to protect and rehabilitate children affected by armed conflict, including their safe return to education and normalcy, and prevent their recruitment into armed forces.
12	National Parliaments to formulate or review legislation on adoption and human trafficking, emphasising the promotion and prioritisation of kinship care to ensure the best interests of the child are upheld.	The National Assembly through the Parliamentary Committees, the SRHR Caucus, the parliamentary Children’s Caucus and the Zambia Parliamentary Women’s Caucus has been monitoring the implementation of <i>the Children’s Code Act, No. 12 of 2022</i> and the <i>Ant-Human Trafficking Act, No. 11 of 2008</i> with regard to promotion and prioritisation of kinship care to ensure the best interests of the child are upheld.
13	Member States to pass new laws to change electoral laws, political party laws at national and local levels to criminalise Violence against Women in Elections and Politics (VAWE&P) and enforce the laws.	<p>The Zambian Parliament noticed that the Zambia Electoral Commission of Zambia constituted an Electoral Reform technical Committee comprised of various institutions and individuals representing various sectors. Aspects of women’s participation and Violence against Women in Elections and Politics (VAWE&P) are some of the key issues that the technical Committee is considering in the consultation’s forums.</p> <p>Parliamentarians have been closely monitoring the Electoral Reform technical Committee and has participated in some of the public hearings and consultative meetings. The matters of low women’s participation and Violence against Women in Elections and Politics have been rigorously debated.</p>

		One of the progressive reforms is that the Commission is in the process of integrating the voter education content into the school curriculum so as to promote continuous voter education.
14	SADC Member States enhance awareness raising and norm changing through training and sensitization for parliaments, policymakers, judiciary, law enforcement/police on the cost of VAWP and GBV on women in public life and the need to ensure their security.	<p>The National Assembly of Zambia and other partners recognise the violence against women in politics as well as general gender-based violence a real challenge in Zambia.</p> <p>To this effect a number of activities especially on GBV were held to provide the evidence and identify workable solutions to the challenge.</p>
15	Member States to provide victims of GBV and VAWP with support, protection and access to justice as well as ensuring emergency assistance and safety measures for victims.	<p>The National Assembly through the SRHR, HIV/AIDS and Governance project continues to lobby for the provisions of the law that support safe homes and GBV fast track courts to facilitate for victims of GBV. In the same vein, Parliamentarians have been leveraging on the constituency Development fund in some constituency to have these funds utilised to build such facilities.</p> <p>On the Government front, the Zambian Government, in collaboration with Civil Society Organisations, conducted training with Subordinate Court Magistrates on gender equality and best practices to encourage GBV survivors to report cases to local courts. A total of 30 Subordinate Court Magistrates from various districts had been trained in 2024.</p>
16	Member States to create complaints mechanisms and response protocols as well	The Zambian Parliament awaits to see if this is part of the outcome of the reforms submitted during the public hearings.

	as establish and enforce effective sanctions for victims of VAWP.	
--	---	--