



REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL PROJECTS (HSDSP) OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM TO THE 49TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY VIRTUAL SESSION, 25TH TO 27TH JUNE 2021

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report of the Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Projects (HSDSP) to the 49th Plenary Assembly Virtual Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum.

1. PREAMBLE

Mr. President, the Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Projects (HSDSP), guided by its mandate in terms of Rule 42(d) of the SADC PF Rules of Procedure, held virtual meetings on Friday, 16th April 2021 and on Monday, 31st May 2021, respectively.

2. CREDENTIALS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Projects (HSDSP) held two virtual meetings, and in both meetings the attendance of Members reached the required quorum

3. INTRODUCTION

The SADC PF's Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Projects (HSDSP) held a meeting on Friday, 16th April 2021 and another on Monday, 31st May 2021. This report therefore covers the deliberations and resolutions of both meetings. Honourable Bertha Ndebele, the Chairperson of the HSDSP officially opened the meetings and welcomed the regional and national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. She however stressed that this should not negate the fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB), malaria and other communicable diseases. The advocacy against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) was also encouraged to continue.

With reference to the Annual Report of the second year of implementation of Phase Two of the SRHR HIV, Aids and Governance Project 2020-2021, the , achieved the objectives of the Project in spite of the challenges of COVID-19. Furthermore, she applauded the decision of the SADC PF's Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee of the Forum (RPMLOC) to monitor the domestication of the SADC Model Laws by obtaining empirical data. In this regard, the HSDSP Committee had to consider and approve the scorecard, which would be used to obtain information regarding the domestication of the SADC PF Model Law on Child Marriage.

4. ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SRHR HIV, AIDS AND GOVENANCE PROJECT (2020-2021)

- 4.1.** WHEREAS the HSDSP Committee received a presentation on the Annual Report for the second year of implementation of the Second Phase of the SRHR HIV, AIDS and Governance Project (2020-2021) which was presented by Ms. Pamela Nyika, the Project's Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant. The presentation was complimented by a briefing on the finances of the Project by Mr. Raj Mahendrasing Khooblall, the Project Accountant.

- 4.2.** NOTING with satisfaction that the Project in accordance with its work plan convened a number of regional meetings by virtual means such as the Gender in Renewable Energy (15 September 2020), joint session of the RPMLOC and RWPC (25 September 2020), SRHR Researchers' Orientation (27-28 January 2021), Committee of Clerks' session (5-6 March 2021) and the SRHR Researcher's Budget Analysis (1 October 2021).
- 4.3.** FURTHER WELCOMING the progress made regarding the development of the Model laws on Public Finance Management and Gender Based Violence (GBV) and expressing support for their finalization.
- 4.4.** APPRECIATING the SADC PF's Guidelines on COVID-19 to the national Parliaments that enabled continuity in the implementation of the project and other activities.
- 4.5.** ACKNOWLEDGING the important contribution that the electronic and print media is making towards the achievement of the objectives of the Project and urging the continuation of this in order to enhance the popularisation of the SRHR agenda.
- 4.6.** APPLAUDING the national Parliaments, the SADC PF Secretariat and all the stakeholders of the SADC PF's SRHR, AIDS and Governance Project for a good performance in spite of the formidable implementation challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.7.** ACKNOWLEDGING the significant progress made regarding the campaign to freely provide sanitary pads for the Girl Child across the SADC Region and urging that this be scaled up to ensure that the pads meet the hygiene and comfort requirements of the end users.
- 4.8.** ENCOURAGING the continuation of the good coordination and collaboration between the Office of the Secretary General, national Parliaments and the Researchers which was instrumental in obtaining the remarkable Project performance. This is important for the sustainability of the Project.
- 4.9.** WELCOMING the interest expressed by Madagascar to join the implementation of the Project and encouraging other Parliaments to formally join suit as the Project may be extended by a further two years.
- 4.10.** CALLING on Parliaments to enable the HSDSP Committee Members to undertake exchange visits to different countries to share experiences and learn from best practises once the travel restrictions across the region are lifted.

5. THE SCORECARD-DECONSTRUCTING THE SADC MODEL LAW ON CHILD MARRIAGE AND PROTECTING CHILDREN ALREADY IN MARRIAGE (2016).

- 5.1.** APPRECIATING the presentation received from Ms. Boemo Sekgoma, the Secretary General on the Scorecard which is aims to monitor the domestication of the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage (2016).
- 5.2.** NOTING that the Model Law draws inspiration from best practices and norms contained in international and regional treaties governing the protection of the child and has been adapted to the African and SADC context.
- 5.3.** RECOGNISING that the domestication of model laws is important for enhancing regional norms and standards and evidence in this regard will serve to support the case for the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) into a Regional Parliament.
- 5.4.** ACKNOWLEDGING the important role of the Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee (RPMLOC) in monitoring the domestication of the Forum's Model Laws.
- 5.5.** PROPOSING that the domestication of the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage (2016) will be monitored through a scorecard system that will track performance regarding the different aspects of the model law.
- 5.6.** HIGHLIGHTING that the proposed scorecard will seek to ascertain countries' performance regarding important aspects such as the:
- (a) Legal recognition of the rights of children and parental responsibility;
 - (b) Prohibition of child betrothal and marriage and the existence and effectiveness of punitive measures to deter perpetrators;
 - (c) Existence and implementation of practical measures and interventions to prevent child marriage;
 - (d) Mitigation measures against the effects of child marriage and interventions to protect children already in marriage which may be in place;
 - (e) Availability of information and monitoring and evaluation systems in place to ensure the protection of children.
- 5.7.** AFFIRMING that the objective of the scorecard initiative is not necessarily to rank and compare countries' performances but rather to

monitor the regional progress being made and to collectively address any domestication challenges that may be encountered.

- 5.8.** AWARE that SADC has a scorecard system to monitor its own processes over which the SADC PF has no control or monitoring mandate and that the Forum therefore needed to design its own system that would focus on its model laws.
- 5.9.** IMPLORING the relevant Ministries in SADC Member States, SADC Member Parliaments, SRHR Researchers and all other national and regional stakeholders to support the domestication and monitoring of model laws.
- 5.10.** CONFIRMING that the HSDSP Committee considered and approved the scorecard and recommended that it be presented to the RPMLOC for final approval and transmission to national Parliaments.

Hon. Bertha NDEBELE
CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Dennis GONDWE
COMMITTEE SECRETARY