59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION

EZULWINI PALAZZO, EZULWINI, KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

20–27 NOVEMBER 2026

COMMEMORATION OF TEN YEARS OF THE SADC MODEL LAW ON ERADICATING CHILD MARRIAGE AND PROTECTING CHILDREN ALREADY IN MARRIAGE

AND LAUNCH OF THE REGIONAL CHILD MARRIAGE MONITORING DASHBOARD

Programme

Theme: "From landmark law to measurable protection: political leadership, progressive culture and data for the eradication of child marriage"

22 November 2026

Synopsis

The SADC PF will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage, and officially launch the Regional Child Marriage Monitoring Dashboard on 22 November 2026, during its 59th Plenary Assembly in Ezulwini, Kingdom of Eswatini, where the Model Law was adopted in 2016. The event will bring together parliamentarians, government representatives, traditional and religious leaders, civil society, youth and survivor advocates, development partners and technical experts to assess progress, identify implementation gaps and define priorities for the next decade. Through high-level reflections, evidence-based dialogue, the Dashboard launch and demonstration, and stakeholder commitments, the programme will highlight the importance of political leadership, a progressive culture and reliable data in advancing legislative reform, parliamentary oversight and child protection. The event will culminate in an action register outlining priority commitments, responsible institutions, timelines and monitoring indicators to strengthen implementation and accountability.

Time	Session	Purpose and expected outputs	Lead/Contributors
13:45–14:00	Registration and commitment input	Registration; participants submit one priority action towards ending child marriage by 2030; distribution of event materials and validated data briefs.	SADC PF Secretariat
14:00–14:10	Opening and welcome	Opening remarks outlining the purpose, significance and expected outcomes of the commemoration and launch.	SADC PF Secretary General, H.E. Ms B. Sekgoma
14:10–14:25	Ten Years of the Model Law: Achievements, Gaps and the Next Decade	Reflection on the 2016 adoption in Eswatini, legislative and institutional progress, outstanding gaps and renewed parliamentary leadership.	SADC PF President
14:25–15:05	High-Level Dialogue: Political Leadership, Progressive Culture and Accountability	Facilitated dialogue across parliamentary, governmental, traditional/faith, civil society, legal aid, youth and survivor perspectives. Each contribution identifies an implementation gap and an actionable response; safeguarding protocols apply.	HIVOS/UNFPA (facilitation); invited stakeholder representatives
15:05–15:20	Official Launch of the Regional Child Marriage Monitoring Dashboard	Brief explanation of purpose, scope and institutional custodianship; formal unveiling by political leadership, supported by the Technical Working Group.	SADC PF President; Dashboard Technical Working Group
15:20–15:45	From Data to Parliamentary Action: Dashboard Demonstration	Demonstration using verified indicators and audience-selected oversight questions, including legal alignment, implementation gaps, data limitations, committee scrutiny and budgetary follow-up.	Dashboard Technical Working Group
15:45–16:00	Break and technical orientation	Refreshments; interactive Dashboard stations, data gallery and media engagement, subject to responsible data and safeguarding protocols.	Dashboard Technical Working Group; SADC PF Secretariat
16:00–16:15	Solidarity and Call to Action	Solidarity reflections linking the tenth anniversary to sustained regional and international action, with emphasis on implementation and protection of children already in marriage.	Dr Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, UN Women Deputy Executive Director & former AU Goodwill Ambassador for Ending Child Marriage
16:15–16:50	The Next Decade: Priority Commitments and Action Register	Delegations and partners identify and consolidate practical commitments, with responsible institutions, timelines, measurable indicators and an initial reporting/review point, subject to institutional mandates and approvals.	SADC PF Secretariat; Dashboard Technical Working Group; delegations and partners
16:50–17:00	Closing and follow-up confirmation	Summary of key messages; confirmation of action-register circulation and arrangements for the first Dashboard review and parliamentary follow-up.	SADC PF Vice-President