REPORT OF THE SADC PF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE ACTION TO THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION

Mr President, I beg to move that this Plenary Assembly adopt the Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Climate Action (FANRCA), laid on the Table on 23 October 2026.

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Climate Action (FANRCA) comprises the Members listed in Appendix I. The officials and resource persons who attended its meetings are listed in Appendix II.

1.0 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The specific Terms of Reference for the FANRCA Standing Committee are set out in Rule 42(3) of the SADC PF Rules of Procedure and cover matters relating to agriculture, fisheries, forestry and wildlife, water and the environment, energy, transport, tourism, information and communication technologies, meteorology, food security and natural resources.

2.0 MEETINGS HELD DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Committee held two meetings during the period under review. At its first meeting, held on 22 May 2026 in Johannesburg, South Africa, it considered the SADC Protocol on Energy and priorities for its modernisation, domestication and implication. At its second meeting, held on 15 October 2026 in Sandton, Johannesburg, it examined climate-related disaster risks, including the implications of anticipated El Niño conditions for the 2026/27 agricultural season, and identified parliamentary priorities for preparedness, food security and resilience across the SADC region.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Modernisation of the SADC Protocol on Energy

The SADC region faces persistent power deficits, dependence on fossil fuels, ageing infrastructure, and increasing exposure to droughts, floods, and other climate-related shocks. The Committee was informed that the SADC Protocol on Energy (1996), as amended in 2021, requires further implementation and modernisation to address climate resilience, renewable energy, a just transition, and decentralised energy systems. Presenters reported that ten Member States had signed the 2021 amendment and highlighted outstanding steps towards its entry into force and national implementation.

Reliable, affordable and sustainable energy is essential for agricultural production, irrigation, storage, processing and resilient food systems. It also supports industrialisation and poverty reduction. Parliaments can help translate regional commitments into results through legislation, budget scrutiny and oversight of executive action. The Committee therefore examined the regional energy landscape, priorities for modernising the Protocol and parliamentary measures to strengthen implementation.

3.2 Early Warning and Early Action for Food Security and Resilience

Food and nutrition security in the SADC region remains highly vulnerable to climate variability and recurrent shocks. According to SADC figures presented to the Committee, an estimated 67.7 million people across the 16 Member States were food insecure in 2024–2025. Approximately 23 million children under five were affected by stunting, while an estimated 49 million children experienced child food poverty. The Committee was informed that the Thirty-Third Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-33),

convened in August 2026, forecast a higher likelihood of below-normal rainfall across much of the central and southern parts of the region, and above-average temperatures across most of the region, during the 2026/27 season. The outlook presented to the Committee indicated that El Niño conditions had been established and were expected to strengthen towards the end of 2026.

The food-security outlook also reflects conflict, high food prices and existing livelihood vulnerabilities. FEWS NET projections presented to the Committee indicated Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes in parts of southern Angola, southern and central Malawi, southern Mozambique and southern Madagascar between October 2026 and January 2027. Conflict remained a major driver of acute food insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and northern Mozambique. The Committee was further informed that the 46th Ordinary SADC Summit, held in August 2026, urged Member States to strengthen early-warning systems, drought preparedness, climate-smart agriculture, irrigation, and the use of drought-tolerant crops. The Summit also called for increased regional agricultural trade to facilitate the movement of commodities from surplus to deficit areas.

Against this background, the Committee's meeting on 15 October 2026 considered how parliaments could help translate forecasts and risk assessments into timely financing, preparedness measures and sustained investment in resilience.

4.0 SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Modernisation of the SADC Protocol on Energy

The presentation and subsequent deliberations highlighted several issues, including that the 1996 Protocol established a framework for harmonising energy policy, ensuring energy security, and promoting regional integration. Subsequent strategies and programmes, including the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), have broadened regional cooperation, although implementation remains uneven. Progress includes the expansion of SAPP, cross-border interconnections and renewable energy projects. Constraints include uneven infrastructure development, limited financing, inconsistent policies, dependence on fossil fuels, institutional capacity gaps and electricity shortages. Presenters identified decarbonisation, climate adaptation, green hydrogen, battery storage, regional grids, rural electrification and a just transition as priorities for modernisation.

Research on electrification technologies in Eswatini, Tanzania, Malawi, Namibia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Mozambique highlighted substantial solar resource potential alongside persistent energy poverty and dependence on imported fossil fuels. Reported solar potential ranged from 263 MWh per capita per year in Malawi to 18,851 MWh in Namibia, while the reported solar share ranged from 0.4% in Mozambique to 35.4% in Namibia. Electricity demand remained below the study's energy-poverty benchmark of 1 MWh per capita per year in six of the seven countries assessed. Electricity also accounted for a small share of total energy use, including 3.1% in Tanzania and 3.8% in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Net fossil-fuel import costs were reported at 12.7% of GDP in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 8% in Namibia.

Presenters argued that solar, wind, batteries and electric vehicles offer opportunities to expand access and reduce dependence on imported fuels. They emphasised rural electrification and affordable electric equipment for productive and household uses. The discussion emphasised the need for clear institutional mandates and enforceable frameworks for mitigation, adaptation and resilience. South Africa's Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) was presented as an example of multi-stakeholder engagement involving government, labour, business, civil society and academia. Such engagement can help address employment, affordability, gender equality and industrial competitiveness within transition planning. Presenters highlighted progress on cross-border electricity interconnections and the need to extend effective access to regional electricity trading. They identified outstanding interconnection projects as vital to regional supply security.

Members sought clarification on reducing coal emissions and on the implications of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). Presenters discussed economic diversification, reskilling, social protection and transition planning for coal-dependent communities. They also referred to sectoral emissions targets and carbon budgets under South Africa's Climate Change Act, as well as opportunities for regional cooperation on credible renewable energy certification. The Committee heard reports of severe electricity shortages, including prolonged load-shedding in drought-affected Zambia, low and uneven energy access, ageing infrastructure, financing gaps, and tariff arrangements that constrain investment. Presenters cited a regional energy access rate of approximately 54% and investment needs of USD 250 billion by 2030.

Climate change, the just energy transition, growing demand for critical minerals and the interdependence of water, energy and food systems were identified as issues requiring greater attention within the regional energy framework. Presenters called for completion of the applicable procedures under the amended Protocol, stronger implementation of existing instruments, regional transition planning, increased financing for renewable energy and greater local beneficiation of minerals.

4.2 Parliamentary leadership for food security and resilience

The presentation on early warning and early action highlighted several issues, including the outlook for the 2026/27 season, which indicated increased risks of below-normal rainfall, above-average temperatures, and prolonged dry spells in parts of southern and central Southern Africa. Localised flooding could also occur, requiring preparedness for multiple hazards. Countries identified in the presentation as facing elevated rainfall risks included Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini. Potential food shortages and reduced dietary diversity could disproportionately affect children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

Reduced rainfall could constrain domestic water supplies, irrigation, livestock watering, hydropower generation and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in communities, health facilities and schools. Depending on local conditions, water scarcity, flooding and heat could increase the risk of waterborne disease, heat-related illness, dehydration and malnutrition, placing additional pressure on health services. Presenters emphasised that African countries face disproportionate climate impacts despite their relatively low historical contribution to global emissions. They called for anticipatory action grounded in the protection of lives, livelihoods and human dignity. Seasonal forecasts should be translated into accessible, location-specific advisories linked to preparedness decisions and timely financing. Early investment in prevention and resilience can reduce emergency response and recovery costs.

The growing frequency and severity of climate shocks require stronger risk management, parliamentary oversight, sustainable financing and regional coordination to address cross-border impacts. Preparedness should include contingency arrangements for transport, storage and distribution, developed in collaboration with public agencies, humanitarian organisations and private operators, to enable the timely movement of food and other essential supplies. Conflict, displacement and drought can compound food insecurity and humanitarian needs. Responses should protect food systems and ensure affected communities can access food, nutrition support and essential services.

Shock-responsive social protection should include scalable cash transfers, school feeding, nutrition assistance and well-designed public works programmes. Regional cooperation can improve access to supplies, reduce costs and strengthen collective resilience. Presenters also called for greater access to adaptation finance, loss and damage funding, and international support for countries and communities facing disproportionate climate impacts.

5.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Following the deliberations at the two meetings, the Committee made the following observations and recommendations:

5.1 Energy Security and a Just Transition

NOTING the need to strengthen the regional energy framework to address climate resilience, renewable energy, energy efficiency, decentralised systems and a just transition;

CONCERNED about persistent energy poverty and inequalities in access to reliable and affordable electricity, particularly in rural communities;

RECOGNISING that dependence on fossil fuels and climate-sensitive hydropower, together with ageing infrastructure and financing constraints, exposes regional energy supplies and food systems to significant risks;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to complete the applicable signature, ratification or accession procedures for regional energy instruments and to strengthen national implementation;

RECOGNISING the respective constitutional roles of governments and parliaments in advancing regional commitments through legislation, budgets and oversight;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Committee resolved to recommend that the 59th Plenary Assembly should:

(i) **URGE** Member Parliaments, through their relevant committees, to scrutinise government action towards signature, ratification or accession, as applicable, to the 2021 amendment to the SADC Protocol on Energy and to oversee its implementation;

(ii) **CALL UPON** Member Parliaments to request government reports on outstanding steps towards implementing regional energy commitments and to consider legislation establishing renewable energy targets, energy-efficiency requirements and climate-resilience standards suited to national circumstances;

(iii) **DIRECT** the SADC PF Secretariat, in consultation with the SADC Secretariat and relevant regional technical bodies, to identify legislative gaps relating to a just energy transition, energy efficiency, critical-minerals beneficiation, and climate-resilient energy infrastructure, and to submit a prioritised, costed proposal to address them through existing or approved model-law initiatives; and

(iv) **ENCOURAGE** Member Parliaments to use oversight and parliamentary diplomacy to advance cross-border electricity interconnections, regional power trading and cooperation on strategic energy projects, including Grand Inga, subject to applicable agreements and to environmental, social and financial safeguards.

5.2 Food Security and Climate Resilience

NOTING that the climate outlook for the 2026/27 season indicates risks to agricultural production, water supplies, energy generation, public health, and food and nutrition security;

ACKNOWLEDGING that many communities are still recovering from the 2023/24 El Niño drought and that further shocks could exacerbate poverty, displacement and existing inequalities;

CONCERNED that vulnerable countries and communities face disproportionate impacts from climate change and require timely support to protect lives, livelihoods and human dignity;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Committee resolved to recommend that the 59th Plenary Assembly should:

(i) **URGE** Member Parliaments to advocate for increased access to adaptation finance and loss and damage funding, and oversee the allocation and use of resources to benefit vulnerable communities, including women and girls;

(ii) **CALL UPON** Member Parliaments to scrutinise government preparedness against updated forecasts and promote forecast-based financing, suitable weather-index insurance and statutory contingency funds with clear activation triggers and financial safeguards; and

(iii) **URGE** Member Parliaments to prioritise budget scrutiny and support for climate-resilient agriculture and livelihoods, water and sanitation, animal health, strategic food reserves, and local early-warning systems, and to seek government reports on expenditure, implementation, and benefits for vulnerable communities.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Energy security, climate resilience and food security require coordinated legislation, adequate financing and sustained oversight. The Committee calls for stronger implementation of regional energy commitments, investment in reliable, affordable clean energy, and a just transition that supports livelihoods, industrialisation and resilient food systems. The Committee further urges Member Parliaments to use updated climate forecasts to scrutinise preparedness and financing before risks escalate into emergencies. It commends the proposed resolutions for the 59th Plenary Assembly for consideration and adoption.

Mr. President, I beg to move.

Hon. Mwanahamisi A. MUNKUNDA	Mr. Dennis Gondwe
CHAIRPERSON	**COMMITTEE SECRETARY**

7.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee comprises the following Members:

1. Hon. Mwanahamisi A. Munkunda (Tanzania) **Chairperson**
2. Hon. Lazaro de Oliveira G. Kakunha (Angola), **Vice Chairperson**
3. Hon. Faustin Kenda Kaziteriko (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
4. Hon. Sicelo Jele (Eswatini)
5. Hon. Mamamello Holomo (Lesotho)
6. Hon. RAJAOBELINA Lova Herizo (Madagascar)
7. Hon. Abigail Sheriff Bongwe (Malawi)
8. Hon. Jacques Edouard (Mauritius)
9. Hon. Marquita Jaime (Mozambique)
10. Hon. John Likando (Namibia)
11. Hon. Rocky Uranie (Seychelles)
12. Hon. Karabo Gare (Botswana)
13. Hon. Chinhenza Chigwadzara (Zimbabwe)
14. Zambia (Representation to be confirmed following elections)
15. Hon. Ntombovuyo Mente-Nkuna (South Africa)

APPENDIX II: LIST OF OFFICIALS AND RESOURCE PERSONS

1.	Mr Dennis Gondwe	Committee Secretary
2.	Mr Munashe Tofa	SADC PF Secretariat
3.	Mrs Deliwe Mataka	Resource Person-OXFAM
4.	Mr Vincent Ogra	OXFAM
5.	Ms Veronica Mwale	OXFAM
6.	Dr Pascal Mnyakaidze	OXFAM
7.	Mr Aitlton Ofelia	OXFAM