**REPORT OF THE SADC PF REGIONAL WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS TO THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION**

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus to the 59th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, laid on the Table on 23 November 2026.

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## 1.0 COMPOSITION OF THE REGIONAL WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS

The Caucus was composed of the Members as contained in Appendix I. The list of officials and Resource Persons who attended the meetings is provided in Appendices II and III, respectively.

## 2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND THEME OF THE MEETING

The Terms of Reference of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC) are articulated in Article 16(5) of the Constitution of the SADC PF and Rule 19 of the SADC PF's Rules of Procedure.

## 3.0 MEETINGS HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

During the period under review, the RWPC held two engagements: a virtual statutory meeting on 12 May 2026 under the theme: "*Women parliamentarians' leadership on climate change and the blue economy: An ocean of Opportunity"* and a High-Level Lobbying and Advocacy on the Domestication and Implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development in the Republic of Botswana from 18–24 October 2026.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

Given the foregoing, this statutory meeting of the RWPC was a capacity-building engagement whose main focus was to capacitate and empower the women parliamentarians with the skills, knowledge, data, and evidence needed for them to effectively advocate for a gender-responsive approach to climate change action and the blue economy. The meeting also aimed to strengthen capacity-building efforts to support women's leadership and participation, ensure that the voice of the women of the SADC region is heard, as well as to refresh efforts towards gender equality and women's empowerment in the region. The meeting further resonated with the SADC PF's aspirations and ongoing initiatives on climate action, women's empowerment and inclusivity, as contained in its Constitution and Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2028.

The Lobbying and Advocacy Mission on the Domestication and Implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development in the Republic of Botswana, undertaken from 18 to 23 October 2026, sought to advance Botswana's accession to, domestication and implementation of the Protocol, with particular emphasis on constitutional and legislative measures to introduce quotas to guarantee women's equal representation and effective participation in political and public decision-making. The Mission engaged a broad range of stakeholders, including the President of the Republic, Parliament, Government Ministries, political parties, electoral institutions, traditional leaders, civil society, women's and youth organisations, organisations representing persons with disabilities, and diplomatic partners. The Mission welcomed the Government's high-level

commitment to complete the outstanding accession formalities by the end of 2026, while highlighting persistent challenges, including women's low parliamentary representation, discriminatory sociocultural practices, barriers within political party nomination and financing processes, gender-based violence, including technology-facilitated abuse, and the exclusion of young women and women with disabilities from political and public decision-making. The Mission underscored the need for time-bound constitutional, legislative, policy and institutional reforms to accelerate progress towards gender parity, promote inclusive political participation and strengthen accountability for regional commitments. The Mission's detailed findings and recommendations will be presented to the next Plenary Assembly following consideration and deliberation of the Mission Report by the RWPC.

## 5.0 SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Pursuant to the presentations from the resource persons listed at ***Appendix III*** of this Report, the RWPC makes the recommendations set out below.

**WHEREAS** the RWPC convened to deliberate on how it could contribute towards the attainment of gender-responsive climate and blue economy action, based on SADC Member States' commitments at global, continental and regional levels;

And **WHEREAS** this statutory convening meeting was intended to amplify the importance of women's participation and leadership in climate action and the blue economy;

**NOTING** that the blue economy entails the sustainable use of ocean, coastal, and inland water resources that balances economic growth with ecosystem protection;
**ALSO NOTING** that the blue economy encompasses fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, shipping, coastal and marine ecosystems and renewable energy, among others;

**RECOGNISING** that fisheries, tourism and coastal economies create millions of jobs with women playing a dominant role in fish processing and trading, among others;

**FURTHER RECOGNISING** that fish and water systems are critical for nutrition, food security, and agricultural productivity;

Specifically **NOTING** the Africa Blue Economy Strategy, which outlines roadmaps of how African countries can utilise or optimise the resources of Africa's rich blue economy;

**RECOGNISING** SADC regional frameworks such as the SADC Climate Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2030), and the SADC Green Economy Strategy (2021), which emphasises gender-responsive climate policies, among others;

**CONCERNED** that climate change, including sea-level rise, floods, droughts and rising temperatures pose significant threats to the blue economy through reduced revenues, infrastructure damage, food insecurity and ecosystem degradation;

**ALSO CONCERNED** that women in the blue economy remain underrepresented in governance and decision-making, and that climate change impacts disproportionally affect women and girls and exacerbate existing gender inequalities;

**AWARE** that women parliamentarians have been side-lined on climate change issues, yet they play a critical role through their constitutional mandate;

**AFFIRMING** the role of women parliamentarians in enacting climate resilience laws, influencing national budgets for adaptation and ecosystem restoration, and providing oversight of government commitments and spending;

**ALSO AFFIRMING** the central role of women parliamentarians in advancing an equitable, climate-resilient blue economy through representation of constituents' concerns, and enacting relevant legislation;

**FURTHER AFFIRMING** the critical role of women's leadership in governance for more robust and sustainable climate policies;

**NOTING** also the critical need to empower women parliamentarians with the necessary tools to advocate for climate policies that are responsive to women's unique needs, and to empower women to be resilient in the face of the of climate change threats;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of amplifying citizens' voices, promoting regional cooperation on shared marine resources, and addressing gender-specific climate risks;

**FULLY AWARE** of the importance of clear regulations to ensure that local communities, especially women and other vulnerable groups, benefit from the blue economy;

**UNDERSTANDING** the need for gender-responsive policies to ensure that women and other marginalised groups benefit from the blue economy;

**STRESSING** the need for gender disaggregated data collection on the level of participation of the citizenry of SADC in the blue economy;

**ALSO STRESSING** the need for SADC Member States to commit to strengthening their responses to climate change, including mainstreaming gender in climate policies and programmes, specifically SDG 13 (climate action);

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable populations including women and girls; and SDG 5 (gender equality), which includes targets to ensuring women's participation in decision-making processes, and providing equal opportunities for women in all areas of life;

**NOW, THEREFORE** the RWPC resolved to recommend to the 59th Plenary Assembly to:

(i) **ENCOURAGE** SADC Member States to promote policies and legislation that advance the sustainable development of the blue economy in their respective countries in line with national and international commitments.

(ii) **URGE** SADC Member States to prioritise investments and regulations that safeguard employment, food security, and youth participation in blue economy sectors.

(iii) **APPROVE** that the RWPC undertake sensitisation and advocacy missions in SADC Member States on the need for the domestication and implementation of the relevant global, continental, and regional commitments to promote gender-responsive climate and blue economy action;

(iv) **DIRECT** that the SADC PF, through the RWPC, collaborate with relevant partners to undertake a mapping exercise to identify discriminatory laws and administrative challenges in SADC Member States that affect women's participation and leadership in the blue economy.

(v) **CALL** on SADC Member States to undertake gender disaggregated data collection on the level of citizen's participation in the blue economy;

(vi) **ALSO CALL** on SADC Member States to localise early warning systems to facilitate early mitigatory action, and also decentralise the coastal protection;

(vii) **CALL FOR** urgent integration of climate resilience measures into all laws, budgets and programmes relating to ocean governance, fisheries, coastal protection, and marine infrastructure by all SADC Member States.

(viii) **SUPPORT** advocacy efforts by SADC Member Parliaments for the advancement of gender-responsive policies, including gender responsive budgeting, that expand women's access to finance, skills, markets, and leadership in the blue economy.

(ix) **ENCOURAGE** SADC Member States to be receptive to advocacy calls by the RWPC for increased accountability for their commitments to global, regional, and continental instruments on climate change.

(x) **URGE** SADC Member States to implement specific measures to address the challenges faced by women and which prevent them from participating effectively in climate action at various levels.

(xi) **ALSO ENCOURAGE** the members of the RWPC to utilise parliamentary tools, including questions, hearings, motions, and debates to strengthen oversight and accountability for climate-resilient blue economy action.

(xii) **URGE** SADC Member States to align new maritime and aquatic laws with the revised SADC Protocol on Gender in Development, and to audit all existing and pending maritime legislation in SADC Member States to ensure that policy, institutional, and governance frameworks include mandatory quotas for women in maritime and ocean governance.

(xiii) **CALL** on SADC Member States to increase budgetary allocation for girls' education in STEM and maritime sciences to ensure that women transition from just being participants, to taking a leading role in managing SADC's aquatic resources.

Mr. President, I beg to move

| | |
|---|---|
| Hon. Linda NXUMALO | Ms. Clare MUSONDA |
| **CHAIRPERSON** | **SECRETARY** |

## 6.0 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: COMPOSITION OF THE CAUCUS

As at the date of the meeting, on 12th May 2026, the membership of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC) was as set out below.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Hon. Prof. Joyce Lazaro Ndalichako ***Chairperson*** | Tanzania |
| 2. | Hon. Mary Maulidi Khembo ***Vice Chair*** | Malawi |
| 3. | Hon. Ruth Mendes | Angola |
| 4. | Hon. Teresa Neto | Angola |
| 5. | Hon. Helen Pushy Manyeneng | Botswana |
| 6. | Hon. Francoise Bemba | DRC |
| 7. | Hon. Cathy Sakombi Moleka | DRC |
| 8. | Sen. Linda Nxumalo | Eswatini |
| 9. | Hon. Nokuthula Dlamini | Eswatini |
| 10. | Hon. Makatleho Motsoasele | Lesotho |
| 11. | Hon. Dr. Pinkie Manamolela | Lesotho |
| 12. | Hon. RABY SAVATSARAH Ain'Harimanga Gabrielle | Madagascar |
| 13. | Hon. Ratsiraka Sophie Soamiadana | Madagascar |
| 14. | Hon. Abigail Sheriff Bongwe | Malawi |
| 15. | Hon. Jeronima Agostinho | Mozambique |
| 16. | Hon. Ivandro Massingue | Mozambique |
| 17. | Hon. Marie Roxana Collet | Mauritius |
| 18. | Hon. Paula Kooper | Namibia |
| 19. | Hon. Denise Clarisse | Seychelles |
| 20. | Hon. Claudette Louise | Seychelles |
| 21. | Hon. Sylvia Lucas | South Africa |
| 22. | Hon. Ntombovuyo Veronica Mente-Nkuna | South Africa |
| 23. | Hon. Mwanahamisi A. Munkunda | Tanzania |
| 24. | Hon. Mercy Mugomo | Zimbabwe |
| 25. | Hon. Lynette Karenyi | Zimbabwe |
| 26. | Hon. Maybe Mbohwa | Zimbabwe |
| 27. | Zambia (Parliament dissolved) | |

### APPENDIX II: LIST OF OFFICIALS

**SADC Parliamentary Forum**

1. Mr. Sheuneni Kurasha, Director Parliamentary Business and Programmes
2. Ms. Clare Musonda, Programme Manager – RWPC and RPMLOC
3. Dr Jacob Segale, Programme Manager, FANRCA
4. Ms Masenate Molapo, Programme Manager, TIFI
5. Mr Munashe Tofa, Programme Manager, HSDSP
6. Ms Paulina Kanguatjivi, Assistant Procedural Officer and Coordinator
7. Mr. Ronald Windwaai, Webmaster

**SADC Member Parliaments**

1. Ms Idda Kombe, SADC PF Desk Officer, Tanzania

**APPENDIX III: LIST OF RESOURCE PERSONS**

1. Mr. Leon Mulema – Head of Legal Department and Local Representative, African Group of Negotiations Experts Support (AGNES)
2. Ms. Jacqueline Makoka – Director, Gender Balance and Equality - African Group of Negotiations Expert Support (AGNES)