REPORT OF THE SADC PF STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT TO THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION

Mr President, I beg to move that the 59th Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report of the Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI), laid on the Table on 23 November 2026.

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1.0 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The TIFI Standing Committee comprises the Members listed in Appendix I. Officials and resource persons who attended the meetings are listed in Appendices II and III, respectively.

2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The specific Terms of Reference for the TIFI Standing Committee are set out in Rule 42(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the SADC PF. The Committee is mandated to deal with matters relating to economic cooperation, industry and trade, mining, finance and investment, and regional integration.

3.0 NUMBER AND DATES OF MEETINGS

The Committee held two statutory meetings in Johannesburg, South Africa: on 22 May 2026 at the Southern Sun O.R. Tambo Hotel, under the theme *"Building a Fair and Sustainable Global Economy: The Role of Parliaments in Combating Protectionism, Reducing Non-Tariff Barriers, Promoting and Attracting Investment and Tax Co-operation"*; and on 15 October 2026 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, under the theme *"Strengthening Parliamentary Action on Value Addition: Building Regional Value Chains for SADC Industrialisation and Intra-Regional Trade".*

4.0 BACKGROUND

The Committee examined how trade, investment, industrialisation and tax cooperation could strengthen regional value chains, domestic revenue mobilisation and inclusive development. Its inquiry addressed the gap between regional commitments and their national implementation, particularly in trade facilitation, critical-minerals governance, value addition and investment oversight. The deliberations considered the SADC Protocols on Trade (1996), Finance and Investment (2006), Industry (2019) and the Facilitation of Movement of Persons (2005), alongside commitments under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Persistent non-tariff barriers, rising protectionism, uneven investment flows and harmful tax practices continued to constrain regional integration. Dependence on minimally processed exports limited opportunities for manufacturing, employment and domestic suppliers, while climate shocks disrupted agriculture, energy and transport infrastructure. Members identified delayed treaty procedures, legislative gaps, fragmented national frameworks and weak oversight of implementation as constraints on progress. The inquiry therefore focused on parliamentary responsibilities for legislation, budget scrutiny, oversight and public participation. These functions could help translate regional commitments into effective national measures and ensure that trade and investment delivered measurable public benefits.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS AND DELIBERATIONS

5.1 Regional Value Chains and the North–South Corridor

The Committee considered transforming the North–South Corridor from a transport route into an economic corridor linking infrastructure to manufacturing, mineral beneficiation, agro-processing, small and medium-sized

enterprises (SMEs) and employment. Improved connectivity needed to be accompanied by productive investment and stronger links between regional suppliers and markets. Members emphasised that increased trade alone would not secure development gains if countries continued to export raw materials, lose revenue to illicit financial flows, or attract investment that delivered limited local employment and industrial benefits. Geopolitical tensions, supply-chain disruptions and debt pressures reinforced the need for coordinated regional responses.

5.2 Non-Tariff Barriers and Trade Facilitation

Customs delays, restrictive licensing, export restrictions, inconsistent standards and inefficient border procedures were identified as obstacles to intra-regional trade. These costs particularly affected SMEs, informal traders and small-scale producers, thereby weakening their participation in regional value chains. The Committee emphasised the need for governments to identify persistent barriers, improve notification and removal mechanisms, and report progress to the relevant parliamentary committees. Oversight should distinguish legitimate regulatory measures from unjustified restrictions and assess their effects on traders and consumers.

5.3 Tax Cooperation and Domestic Revenue Mobilisation

Submissions identified illicit financial flows, trade misinvoicing, corporate profit shifting, harmful tax competition and weak tax administration as threats to domestic revenue mobilisation. Revenue losses reduced the resources available for infrastructure, industrial development, social protection and climate adaptation. Members emphasised that regional integration required adequate public financing and more effective implementation of tax-cooperation commitments. Priorities included transparency of beneficial ownership, transfer-pricing oversight, disclosure of corporate tax and royalty payments, and stronger enforcement capacity. Regular parliamentary hearings and scrutiny of tax incentives were proposed to assess revenue risks and the effectiveness of corrective measures.

5.4 Investment governance and mineral beneficiation

The Committee emphasised that the benefits of investment depend on local processing, manufacturing, technology transfer, skills development and participation by domestic suppliers. Regional cooperation on critical minerals could help retain value and support complementary industrial activities across Member States. Submissions proposed stronger beneficial ownership disclosure, country-by-country reporting, independent commodity-price benchmarking, responsible contracting and community benefit-sharing, all underpinned by environmental and social safeguards. Members emphasised assessing investment incentives and agreements against measurable outcomes, including employment, local procurement, technology transfer, skills and public revenue. This would enable parliamentary scrutiny to determine whether the benefits justified the concessions granted.

5.5 Inclusive and Climate-Resilient Regional Development

The Committee emphasised that regional integration should benefit women traders, young people, SMEs, smallholder farmers, workers, and communities affected by industrial and extractive activities. Participation in production should be accompanied by equitable access to enterprise ownership, skilled employment, leadership, and finance. Complex regulations, unofficial border charges, limited finance and inadequate infrastructure constrained smaller enterprises. Members highlighted decent work, food security, environmental protection, community participation and fair benefit-sharing as integral to trade and industrial policy. Floods, droughts and extreme heat also threatened agriculture, transport corridors and energy supplies. The Committee identified climate-resilient infrastructure and coordinated food-security measures as essential to protect livelihoods and regional production networks.

6.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

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

RECOGNISING the potential of regional value chains in agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, textiles, pharmaceuticals, capital goods and supporting services to advance industrialisation under the SADC Protocol on Industry;

CONCERNED that non-tariff barriers, delayed implementation, unequal economic opportunities and climate shocks constrain regional production and trade;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that illicit financial flows, trade misinvoicing and harmful tax practices erode public revenue;

EMPHASISING transparent investment governance, responsible business conduct, local value addition and community benefit-sharing;

RECOGNISING Member Parliaments' legislative, budgetary and oversight responsibilities in implementing SADC and AfCFTA commitments;

REAFFIRMING that regional integration should benefit women, young people, small and medium-sized enterprises, informal traders, workers and affected communities;

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

(i) **URGE** Member Parliaments to identify SADC and AfCFTA obligations requiring domestic legislation and prioritise the necessary customs, trade, investment, mining and tax reforms;

(ii) **CALL UPON** Member Parliaments to request government inventories of non-tariff barriers, time-bound removal plans and progress reports, and monitor implementation through the relevant committees;

(iii) **URGE** Member Parliaments to review legislation and scrutinise investment agreements and incentives against measurable outcomes for value addition, local suppliers, employment and public revenue, while ensuring transparency, community benefit-sharing and environmental and social safeguards;

(iv) **CALL UPON** Member Parliaments to hold regular hearings on illicit financial flows, trade misinvoicing, transfer pricing, tax incentives and regional tax cooperation, and scrutinise the resources and performance of enforcement institutions;

(v) **ENCOURAGE** Member Parliaments to track regional economic commitments through committee reviews and implementation reports, and use the TIFI Committee for peer learning and accountability; and

(vi) **URGE** Member Parliaments, particularly those of South Africa, Lesotho, Malawi, Eswatini and Tanzania identified during the deliberations, to seek government reports on outstanding ratification and domestic implementation requirements for the SADC Protocol on Industry (2019), and follow up on their timely completion.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee identified national implementation and sustained oversight as priorities for translating regional economic commitments into public benefits. It calls for enabling legislation, effective trade facilitation, transparent investment governance, and stronger revenue accountability, with attention to inclusion and climate resilience. The Committee commends the proposed resolutions for the 59th Plenary Assembly for consideration and adoption.

Mr President, I beg to move.

Hon. Dumelang SALESHANDO	Masenate MOLAPO
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON	**COMMITTEE SECRETARY**

8.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Hon. Dumelang Saleshando (Botswana) ***(Chairperson)***
2. Hon. RABY SAVATSARAH Ain'Harimanga Gabrielle (Madagascar) ***(Vice Chairperson)***
3. Hon. Ruth Mendes (Angola)
4. Hon. Celestin Loleke Ekoto (DRC)
5. Hon. Michael Masilela (Eswatini)
6. Hon. Mary Maulidi Khembo (Malawi)
7. Hon. Marie Roxana Collet (Mauritius)
8. Hon. Siamome Macuiane (Mozambique)
9. Hon. Nelson Kalangula (Namibia)
10. Hon. Gervais Henrie (Seychelles)
11. Hon. David Mandla Skosana (South Africa)
12. Hon. Mohamed Khalifan Issa (Tanzania)
13. Hon. Dr. Pinkie Manamolela (Lesotho)
14. Zambia
15. Hon. Mercy Mugomo (Zimbabwe)

APPENDIX II: LIST OF OFFICIALS

SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM SECRETARIAT

1. Mr Sheuneni Kurasha, Director – Parliamentary Business and Programmes, SADC PF
2. Ms. Masenate Molapo, Committee Secretary, SADC PF
3. Ms. Clare Musonda, SADC PF
4. Dr. Moses Magadza, SADC PF
5. Ms. Lorenda Booi, SADC PF

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

1. Ms. Gontse Tau, Botswana
2. Mr. Ngese M, South Africa

APPENDIX III RESOURCE PERSONS

1. Dr. Mupingashato Luke Tafadzwa; Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs
2. Dr. Zubane, Patrick Sphephelo, Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs
3. Mr. Adam Anthony, Resource Justice Network
4. Ms Diane Sayinzoga, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
5. Mapule Maema, Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA
6. Hon. Princess Mojapelo; Southern Africa Youth Parliament
7. Ms Sinethemba Mazibuko
8. Mr. John Thomi; Tax Justice Network Africa
9. Ms. Zodwa Mabuza; UNECA

10. Mr. Darlington Muyambwa; Danish Institute for Human Rights