ZIMBABWE COUNTRY REPORT

On

The Implementation of the 58th Plenary Assembly Resolutions

Presented

At

The 59th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC PF

KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

(20th to 27th November 2026)

Mr. President,

I am pleased to submit Zimbabwe's Country Report on implementing the Resolutions of the 58th Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF). This report is guided by Parliament's role in ratifying, approving, domesticating, and enforcing the SADC Protocols.

Mr. President,

By implementing the resolutions of the Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Programmes, Parliament, through its legislative, budgetary approval, and oversight roles, has continued to support the Government in delivering numerous social welfare programmes that cushion vulnerable citizens against poverty and economic shocks. Among these initiatives is the **Harmonised Social Cash Transfer Programme (HSCT)**, under which eligible households receive cash payments of approximately USD$25 per month, targeting around 250,000 households in 2025. **The WFP Food Assistance and Cash-Based Transfers Programme** distributed approximately 6,868 metric tons of food assistance and USD$229,265 in cash-based transfers, benefiting 10,989 people in the country's drought-prone south-eastern districts. The **Urban Cash Assistance (UCA)** programme also targets food-insecure and economically vulnerable households in urban and peri-urban areas.

Other social protection initiatives include the **School Feeding Programme**, under which 36,724 children across 123 schools benefited in 2025. The **Public Assistance (PA) Programme** for the elderly and persons with disabilities provides cash handouts and free medical treatment, while the **Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM)** supports school fees for orphans and other vulnerable children. Nutrition programmes for children and mothers reached approximately 700,000 beneficiaries as of 2025. Parliament continues to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of these programmes through its Portfolio Committees and budget oversight processes.

Mr. President,

Regarding the **Standing Committee on Democratisation, Governance and Human Rights**, recommendation number one concerns **Sustainable Funding for SADC Election Observer Missions**. The Parliament of Zimbabwe has consistently participated in **SADC PF Election Observation Missions (SEOM),** recently deploying observers to Mozambique (2024) and Malawi (2025), and has approved the necessary budgetary support.

Under recommendation number two on Anti-Corruption and Whistleblower Protection, Chapter 13 of the Constitution establishes the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) as an independent constitutional body. In 2024, ZACC achieved a 74% conviction rate and

recovered over US$30 million from illicit financial transactions. The Whistle-Blowers and Witness Protection Bill is before Parliament and will create a statutory framework to protect individuals who report unlawful conduct from reprisals.

Regarding recommendation number three on the ***'SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security and Model Law on Elections'***, section 327 of Zimbabwe's Constitution provides that international treaties require Parliamentary ratification before domestication where possible. Demonstrating its commitment to regional collective security, Zimbabwe participated in regional efforts under the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) in Cabo Delgado.

Mr. President,

On resolutions by the **Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment**, Parliament is accordingly guided by several SADC legal instruments, namely, the **SADC Protocol on Trade (1996)**, **SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment (2006)**, **SADC Protocol on Industry (2019)** and the **SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons (2005)**. Zimbabwe has ratified most of these frameworks and ratification is underway. These Protocols urge ***'Member countries to promote trade among African countries and within SADC as a means of advancing economic growth and reducing dependence on external markets'.***

Parliament and Government have also deliberately prioritised implementation, value addition, and beneficiation metrics as key pillars of industrialisation under the National Development Strategy 2 (2026–2030) and the Industrial Development Policy (2024–2030). To further advance this objective, Statutory Instrument 213 of 2022 and the Base Minerals Export Control (Lithium Bearing Ores and Un-beneficiated Lithium) Order, 2022, were promulgated to effect value addition and beneficiation of our minerals. Parliament continues to oversee the implementation of these policy measures through its appropriate select Committees.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe has already ratified the SADC Protocol on Trade and the Protocol on Finance and Investment, aligning them with the AfCFTA framework. The Protocol on Industry was approved for ratification in March 2024 and is being integrated into national industrial policies to advance value addition and beneficiation. Zimbabwe has also signed the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, and preparations are underway for its ratification and domestication where applicable.

Mr. President,

Delegates are aware that the implementation of the resolutions of the Standing **Committee on Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and**

Climate Action is guided by the **SADC Environmental Protocol**, **SADC Climate Strategy and Action Plan (2015–2030)**, **SADC Green Economy Strategy (2021)** as well as the **Revised SADC Protocol on Energy (2023)**. Parliament, in conjunction with the Government, has scaled up efforts to achieve food sovereignty through the Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy (2020–2025). These initiatives, coordinated at district level through District Development Coordinators, involve local authorities, traditional leaders and farmers. Parliament is currently closely monitoring the accelerated Dam Rehabilitation and Modernisation Programme, which targets over 24,000 dams for water harvesting to support perennial irrigation schemes. Through the self-contained Presidential 35 000 Village Business Units (VBUs). These initiatives aim to mitigate climate shocks through Climate Smart Agriculture, locally known as Pfumvudza/Intwasa, supported by solar-powered irrigation and rainwater harvesting initiatives anchored in the National Small Grains Programme.

Furthermore, digital agriculture and livestock interventions are being expanded, with drones being piloted for precision farming, crop monitoring, spraying and livestock tracking, while agricultural extension services are increasingly delivered through e-Agric platforms.

Mr. President,

The Parliament of Zimbabwe has spearheaded national climate action through legislation, including the Climate Change Management Bill (H.B. 5 of 2025), which addresses carbon trading, establishes the National Climate Fund, and provides for the creation of a dedicated department to coordinate climate adaptation and mitigation. Moreover, the Carbon Trading Regulations (SI 48 of 2025) established the Zimbabwe Carbon Markets Authority and a national carbon registry aligned with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, thereby opening new opportunities for climate finance. Parliament continues to provide legislative oversight of these emerging climate governance frameworks.

Mr. President,

Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee (RPMLOC) recommendation number two: ***'Advise(s) that SADC Member Parliaments institutionalise the domestication of SADC Model laws through the involvement of legal and research offices of Parliament'.*** Since 2025, Parliament has been conducting a sensitisation programme for Members of Parliament and staff on SADC Model Laws under the SADC PF SRHR, HIV and AIDS Governance Programme. This is bolstering Parliament's institutional capacity to domesticate regional instruments.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe has signed the **SADC Protocol Against Corruption** in 2001 and ratified it in 2004. In May 2025, Parliament accelerated the gazetting of the Whistle-Blowers and Witness Protection Bill in line with the SADC Protocol against Corruption Article 4, to protect whistleblowers.

Mr. President,

Parliament has continued to oversee the domestication and implementation of the **SADC Protocol on Health (1999)** and the **SADC Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) 2019–2030** through its relevant Portfolio Committees.

The Ministry of Health and Child Care, in collaboration with UNICEF, launched the national single-dose HPV vaccination campaign on World AIDS Day in December 2025, reaching over 80% of eligible girls in the fight against cervical cancer. The Ministry also officially launched the Clinical Guidelines on the Care and Management of Survivors of Sexual Violence in Zimbabwe, thereby standardising an evidence-based, survivor-centred response framework.

Regarding maternal health, Zimbabwe's maternal mortality ratio declined from 462 per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 363 in 2024, representing a 21% reduction attributable to enhanced skilled birth attendance, antenatal care, enhanced financial resources and emergency obstetric services.

Furthermore, three per cent (3%) of the national health budget was allocated to family planning in 2025, making Zimbabwe one of the first East and Southern African countries to qualify for UNFPA Match Funding.

Mr. President,

Parliament of Zimbabwe is participating in the **SADC-PF SRHR, HIV and AIDS Governance Project (2023–2026)**, which has successfully mainstreamed SRHR considerations across several Parliamentary Committees, supported by a Technical Working Group with diverse expertise. As a result, Zimbabwe has surpassed the UNAIDS 95-95-95 target.

Mr. President,

As delegates are aware, Article 10 of the **SADC Protocol on Health (1999)** urges Member States and Member Parliaments to ***"Develop regional policies and plans that recognise the intersectoral impact of HIV/AIDS/STDs and the need for an intersectoral approach to these diseases".***

Zimbabwe has complied with this recommendation by establishing a multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS and STIs that recognises their health, social, economic and developmental impacts. Through the establishment of the National AIDS Council (NAC), the enactment of the AIDS Levy,

and successive Zimbabwe National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plans (ZNASPs), Zimbabwe has institutionalised a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response to HIV/AIDS and STIs. Parliament continues to oversee these national frameworks, particularly through a ***Thematic Committee on HIV and AIDS*** to ensure alignment with the SADC HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework and the Maseru Declaration commitments.

Mr. President,

In line with the **Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (2016)**, Zimbabwe's Constitution in section 80 provides for the rights of women and this is reinforced by the National Gender Policy, reviewed in 2025 to align with Agenda 2030 and AU Agenda 2063. As a result of Zimbabwe's Women in Leadership and Decision-Making Strategy, affirmative action measures, mentorship and leadership development, women now occupy the positions of Attorney-General, Prosecutor-General and President of the Senate, while also serving as Deputy Speaker of Parliament. Women constitute 58% of magistrates and chair half of all national commissions.

Mr. President,

Regarding the **SADC Declaration on Youth Development and Empowerment (2015)**, Zimbabwe has made notable progress in aligning

its national laws, policies and oversight mechanisms with the Declaration, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union Agenda 2063 and the African Youth Charter as well as section 20 of the Constitution. These constitutional provisions, together with the Zimbabwe Youth Council Act, align directly with the SADC Youth Empowerment Policy Frameworks, which call for youth inclusion in the national development agenda.

Furthermore, Constitutional Amendment No. 2 of 2021 introduced a ten-member youth quota in Parliament, complementing the Junior Parliament, Junior Councils and Parliamentary Youth Caucus initiatives. The National Youth Empowerment Strategy (2026–2030) further reinforces these commitments. To boost youth participation, Parliament established the Parliamentary Youth Caucus and continues to oversee youth empowerment programmes, thereby remaining seized of the responsibility to promote meaningful youth participation in governance and development.

I submit.

Thank you.