KINGDOM OF ESWATINI
COUNTRY REPORT

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI TO THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC PF)



Theme: *Enhancing Parliamentary Advocacy for the Signing, Ratification, Domestication and Implementation of SADC Legal Instruments*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY i
1. INTRODUCTION 1
2. PARLIAMENT AS A DRIVER OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION 1
3. STATUS OF SADC LEGAL INSTRUMENTS UNDER CONSIDERATION 2
4. PARLIAMENTARY ADVOCACY FOR SADC LEGAL INSTRUMENTS 3
4.1 Energy, Environment and Climate Change 3
4.2 Gender Equality and Youth Development 4
4.3 Health, Employment and Social Development 5
4.4 Trade, Industry, Finance, Investment and Free Movement of Persons 7
4.5 Corruption, Peace, Security and Democratic Governance 8
5. CROSS-CUTTING PARLIAMENTARY INITIATIVES 9
6. CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION 10
7. FUTURE PARLIAMENTARY PRIORITIES 11
8. CONCLUSION 11

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini is pleased to present this Report to the 59th Plenary Assembly of the SADC PF in fulfilment of the resolutions adopted at the 58th Plenary Assembly, which called upon Member Parliaments to strengthen advocacy for the signing, ratification, domestication and implementation of SADC legal instruments. This Report demonstrates Parliament's deliberate efforts to integrate regional commitments into its legislative, oversight, representative and parliamentary diplomacy functions, thereby contributing to the realisation of the SADC integration agenda.

During the reporting period, Parliament aligned its oversight agenda with the thematic legal instruments identified by the 58th Plenary Assembly, covering climate change and environmental sustainability, gender equality and youth development, health and labour, trade and economic integration, as well as corruption, peace, security and democratic governance. Through legislative scrutiny, policy engagement, budget oversight and stakeholder consultations, Parliament promoted the progressive domestication and implementation of these regional commitments within Eswatini's constitutional and legal framework.

The Report highlights several notable developments, including strengthened parliamentary oversight of climate governance through specialised Sessional Committees, continued advocacy for legal reforms relating to public health and employment, enhanced oversight of the health sector and social protection institutions, scrutiny of legislation supporting regional economic integration, and sustained efforts to promote integrity, transparency, democratic governance and peaceful dialogue. Parliament has equally prioritised institutional strengthening through evidence-based oversight, public participation, parliamentary diplomacy and the proposed establishment of an Institute of Diplomacy and Parliamentary Studies to enhance legislative capacity within Eswatini and the wider SADC region.

The Parliament acknowledges that the effective implementation of SADC legal instruments remains a progressive undertaking influenced by the pace of legislative reform, institutional capacity, resource availability and the status of regional ratifications. Nevertheless, Parliament remains resolute in exercising its constitutional mandate to ensure that regional commitments are translated into responsive national legislation, accountable governance and tangible socio-economic benefits for the people of Eswatini. In so doing, Parliament reaffirms its commitment to advancing the objectives of the SADC Treaty and strengthening regional integration through effective parliamentary action.

1. INTRODUCTION

Regional integration remains one of the principal foundations upon which the Southern African Development Community (SADC) seeks to achieve sustainable economic growth, democratic governance, social justice and collective security. Since its establishment, SADC has progressively developed a comprehensive legal framework comprising Treaties, Protocols, Charters, Strategies and Declarations that guide Member States in addressing common regional challenges. The 58th Plenary Assembly reaffirmed that national Parliaments occupy a central role in advancing this regional agenda by advocating for the signing, ratification, accession, domestication and implementation of SADC legal instruments. The Assembly further resolved that Parliamentary oversight should increasingly focus on monitoring Government compliance with these regional obligations and promoting harmonisation between domestic legislation and regional commitments.

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini fully embraces this mandate. Parliament recognises that regional integration is not achieved solely through Executive action. Rather, it is strengthened when Parliament exercises effective legislative scrutiny, holds the Government accountable for implementation, approves adequate public resources, facilitates citizen participation and promotes parliamentary diplomacy across the region. This Report therefore highlights the parliamentary actions undertaken during the reporting period in advancing the implementation of selected SADC legal instruments identified by the 58th Plenary Assembly. It demonstrates Parliament's contribution towards ensuring that regional commitments increasingly translate into practical national outcomes capable of improving the lives of the people of Eswatini and the broader Southern African region.

2. PARLIAMENT AS A DRIVER OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini continues to regard regional integration as a constitutional responsibility that extends beyond the enactment of legislation. Parliament increasingly views its oversight, representative and diplomatic functions as indispensable instruments for advancing the objectives of the SADC Treaty and related regional legal instruments. During the reporting period, Parliamentary Committees deliberately incorporated regional obligations into their annual programmes of work. Committee inquiries, stakeholder consultations, legislative scrutiny and oversight visits were increasingly designed to evaluate the extent to which Government policies and programmes advance commitments undertaken at the regional level. This approach reflects the growing appreciation that Parliament constitutes the principal democratic institution through which regional commitments acquire national legitimacy. It equally strengthens accountability by requiring Government Ministries and public institutions to demonstrate progress in implementing obligations arising from SADC Protocols, Strategies and Declarations.

Parliament has also expanded its role in parliamentary diplomacy through active participation in SADC PF and similar parliamentary bodies' programmes, regional policy dialogues, election observation missions and specialised capacity building initiatives.

These engagements have enhanced institutional learning while facilitating the exchange of legislative best practice amongst Member Parliaments. The Parliament further acknowledges the observations made during the 58th Plenary Assembly that regional integration requires Parliamentarians to think beyond domestic political cycles and exercise sustained oversight over the implementation of regional commitments. Parliament has therefore increasingly adopted long-term oversight approaches that emphasise implementation rather than legislative enactment alone.

3. STATUS OF SADC LEGAL INSTRUMENTS UNDER CONSIDERATION

The 58th Plenary Assembly identified several SADC legal instruments requiring enhanced parliamentary advocacy towards their signing, ratification, accession, domestication and implementation. The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini has organised this Report around these thematic areas. Table 1 summarises the legal instruments under consideration and provides the framework within which Parliament has exercised its legislative, oversight and representative functions during the reporting period.

Table 1 - SADC Legal Instruments Covered by this Report

Sectors/Thematic Areas	**SADC Protocols and Decisions**
3.1 Energy, Environment and Climate Change	3.1.1 SADC Environmental Protocol, 2014 3.1.2 SADC Climate Strategy and Action Plan, 2015-2030 3.1.3 SADC Green Economy Strategy, 2021 3.1.4 Revised SADC Protocol on Energy, 2023
3.2 Gender Equality and Youth Development	3.2.1 Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, 2016 3.2.2 SADC Declaration on Youth Development and Empowerment, 2015
3.3 Health, SRHR, Employment, and Labour	3.3.1 SADC Protocol on Health, 1999, 3.3.2 SADC Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive 3.3.3 Health and Rights (SRHR) 2019-2030 3.3.4 SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour, 2023
3.4 Trade, Industry, Finance, Investment and Free Movement of Persons	3.4.1 SADC Protocol on Trade,1996, 3.4.2 SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment, 2006, 3.4.3 SADC Protocol on Industry, 2019, 3.4.4 SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, 2005.

3.5 Corruption, Peace and Security and Elections	3.5.1 SADC Protocol Against Corruption, 2001, 3.5.2 SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, 2001 3.5.3 Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, 2021

4. PARLIAMENTARY ADVOCACY FOR SADC LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini structured its oversight activities around the thematic areas adopted by the 58th Plenary Assembly, namely Energy, Environment and Climate Change; Gender Equality and Youth Development; Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Employment and Labour; Trade, Industry, Finance, Investment and Free Movement of Persons; and Corruption, Peace, Security and Democratic Governance. Each thematic area reflects Parliament's ongoing efforts to strengthen the implementation of relevant SADC legal instruments through legislative action, institutional oversight and stakeholder engagement.

4.1 Energy, Environment and Climate Change

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini recognises climate change as one of the most pressing development challenges confronting the Southern African region. The increasing frequency of droughts, floods, biodiversity loss and energy insecurity has reinforced the need for stronger legislative and oversight interventions to promote sustainable development and climate resilience. Parliament has therefore intensified its advocacy and oversight in support of the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development, 2024, the SADC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, 2015–2030, the SADC Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan, 2021, and the Revised SADC Protocol on Energy, 2023.

Eswatini has progressively developed a national legal and policy framework that advances the objectives of these regional instruments. Environmental governance is principally anchored in the Environment Management Act, 2002, which provides for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of the environment and establishes institutional mechanisms for environmental regulation. This legislative framework is complemented by the National Climate Change Policy, 2016, the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement and sectoral policies promoting renewable energy, climate resilience and sustainable natural resource management.

Parliament has assumed a proactive role in promoting implementation through specialised oversight structures. During the reporting period, both Houses strengthened their institutional capacity by operationalising dedicated Climate Change Sessional Committees. These Committees provide a coordinated parliamentary platform for monitoring Government implementation of national, regional and international climate commitments. Parliament further adopted a Joint Parliamentary Work Plan on Climate

Change to promote collaboration between the Senate and the House of Assembly and strengthen thematic oversight across Government institutions responsible for environmental management, energy, agriculture, water resources and disaster risk reduction.

Recognising that effective climate governance requires evidence-based decision-making, Parliament facilitated the establishment of a Technical Working Group comprising Government institutions, academia, civil society organisations and development partners. The Technical Working Group provides technical advice to Parliament and enhances legislative scrutiny of climate-related policies and programmes. This collaborative approach has strengthened Parliament's capacity to assess the implementation of climate commitments while ensuring that legislative oversight is informed by scientific evidence and stakeholder perspectives.

Parliament has also continued to scrutinise budgetary allocations to climate-related sectors through the budget approval process and committee oversight engagements. Particular attention has been directed towards financing climate adaptation, promoting renewable energy, strengthening disaster preparedness and enhancing resilience within vulnerable communities. These interventions reflect Parliament's appreciation that effective implementation of regional climate commitments depends upon adequate domestic resource allocation and institutional coordination.

While notable progress has been achieved, Parliament observes that climate governance remains constrained by limited financial resources, fragmented implementation across sectors and the increasing severity of climate-induced disasters. Parliament will therefore continue advocating for greater policy coherence, increased investment in climate resilience and accelerated implementation of regional climate commitments to ensure that Eswatini contributes meaningfully to the achievement of the SADC climate agenda.

4.2 Gender Equality and Youth Development

The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and young people remain central to the regional integration agenda and the attainment of sustainable development. Parliament has therefore prioritised advocacy for the implementation of the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, 2016 and the SADC Declaration on Youth Development and Empowerment, 2015, through legislative oversight, policy engagement and public participation.

Eswatini has made considerable progress in domesticating regional commitments on gender equality through a robust legislative framework. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination on various grounds, including sex. These constitutional guarantees are reinforced by the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018, which modernised the legal framework relating to sexual offences, strengthened protection for survivors of gender-based violence and expanded access to justice. Parliament has also enacted the People Trafficking and People Smuggling (Prohibition) Act, 2009, which contributes to the

implementation of regional commitments to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children.

During the reporting period, Parliament intensified oversight of Government programmes aimed at preventing gender-based violence and promoting gender equality. Parliamentary Committees engaged relevant Ministries, constitutional bodies, development partners and civil society organisations to assess the implementation of existing legislation and identify remaining legislative and institutional gaps. Parliament has consistently advocated for survivor-centred approaches, improved coordination among implementing agencies and strengthened access to justice and support services for survivors.

Consistent with the theme of the 59th Plenary Assembly, Parliament has also expanded its oversight of emerging forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Members participated in regional dialogues examining digital violence against women in politics, online harassment, cyberbullying, disinformation and other digital threats that undermine women's participation in democratic processes. These engagements have strengthened Parliament's appreciation of the need to review existing legal frameworks governing cybercrime, digital governance and online safety to ensure that technological advancement does not undermine democratic participation and gender equality.

Parliament has further strengthened its engagement with young people through committee consultations, policy dialogues and oversight of youth development initiatives. Parliament recognises that meaningful youth participation is indispensable to democratic governance and sustainable development. Continued oversight will therefore focus on expanding opportunities for youth participation in public decision-making, employment creation, digital innovation and entrepreneurship, consistent with the aspirations of the SADC Declaration on Youth Development and Empowerment.

4.3 Health, Employment and Social Development

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini continues to prioritise universal access to quality healthcare, the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, decent work and social protection as essential pillars of sustainable development and regional integration. In pursuit of these objectives, Parliament has strengthened its advocacy for the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Health, 1999, the SADC Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, 2019–2030, and the SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour, 2023.

Eswatini has established a comprehensive legal and policy framework that supports the implementation of these regional commitments. Public health governance is principally provided for under the Public Health Act, 1969, which has served as the cornerstone of the country's public health system for over five decades. Recognising the evolving public health landscape, including emerging diseases, technological advancements and contemporary health governance requirements, Parliament has called for a comprehensive review of the Act to align it with current national priorities, international standards and regional commitments under the SADC Protocol on Health.

Labour relations are governed through the Employment Act, 1980, the Industrial Relations Act, 2000 and related labour legislation that collectively promote decent work, social dialogue and the protection of workers' rights. Recognising that the Employment Act, 1980, no longer adequately responds to the realities of the modern world of work and evolving international labour standards, Parliament is currently considering the Employment Bill, 2024, which seeks to repeal and replace the existing Act with a contemporary legislative framework that reflects current labour market dynamics and strengthens the protection of workers' rights. Parliament notes that although the SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour was adopted in 2023, it has not yet entered into force at the regional level, and Eswatini has signed but is yet to ratify the Protocol. Nevertheless, the principles and aspirations of the Protocol are substantially reflected in the provisions of the Employment Bill, 2024, demonstrating Eswatini's commitment to progressively aligning its domestic labour legislation with regional standards.

During the reporting period, Parliament undertook one of its most comprehensive health oversight interventions through the establishment of a House of Assembly Select Committee to inquire into the state of service delivery at Mbabane Government Hospital, which is the National Referral Hospital. The inquiry examined governance, procurement systems, infrastructure, human resources, availability of medicines and medical equipment, patient welfare and institutional accountability. Through public hearings, site inspections and stakeholder consultations, Parliament assessed systemic challenges affecting healthcare delivery and developed recommendations aimed at strengthening governance and improving service delivery. These recommendations emphasised improved health financing, enhanced procurement systems, accelerated recruitment of healthcare professionals, strengthened referral systems and improved institutional accountability.

Parliament also continued exercising oversight over the Government's implementation of programmes relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Committee engagements with the Ministry of Health and development partners focused on maternal and child health, adolescent reproductive health, HIV and AIDS prevention, access to essential health services and health systems strengthening. Parliament has consistently advocated for sustained investment in preventive healthcare and equitable access to health services, particularly for women, children and vulnerable communities.

Oversight of employment and social protection similarly remained a parliamentary priority. Parliament scrutinised governance arrangements within statutory pension and social security institutions, recognising that sound governance contributes to decent work, income security and sustainable economic development. The inquiry into governance challenges affecting the Eswatini National Provident Fund provided Parliament with an opportunity to review institutional arrangements governing social protection and recommend reforms aimed at strengthening accountability, transparency and public confidence. Parliament remains committed to supporting Government efforts to modernise health systems, strengthen labour governance and promote universal access to quality healthcare in accordance with regional commitments. Particular attention will continue to be directed towards strengthening implementation of the SADC

Health Protocol, promoting occupational health and safety, enhancing workforce resilience and accelerating reforms necessary for achieving Universal Health Coverage.

4.4 Trade, Industry, Finance, Investment and Free Movement of Persons

Economic integration remains one of the principal objectives of the Southern African Development Community and an important driver of sustainable economic growth within the region. Parliament has therefore continued advocating for the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade,1996, the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment, 2006, the SADC Protocol on Industry, 2019, and the SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, 2005 through legislative scrutiny, budget oversight and policy engagement.

Eswatini has progressively aligned its legislative framework with these regional commitments through several key statutes. Trade facilitation and customs administration are governed by the Customs and Excise Act, 1971, while domestic taxation is regulated through the Income Tax Order, 1975 and the Value Added Tax Act, 2011. During the reporting period, Parliament considered several amendment Bills relating to taxation, customs administration and fuel levies, thereby strengthening the legal framework governing domestic revenue mobilisation and trade facilitation.

Parliament has exercised rigorous oversight over public finance management through the Finance Committee's scrutiny of fiscal policy, revenue administration and public expenditure. Legislative consideration of amendments to taxation and customs legislation was undertaken with due regard to promoting fiscal sustainability, enhancing domestic resource mobilisation and supporting an enabling environment for trade and investment. The Committee also strengthened oversight of regulatory institutions responsible for revenue administration, customs enforcement and financial governance. Engagements focused on institutional efficiency, tax compliance, revenue collection and measures aimed at combating illicit trade and revenue leakage. These oversight interventions contribute directly to the objectives of the SADC Protocol on Trade by promoting transparent and predictable regulatory systems that facilitate regional commerce.

With respect to regional mobility, Parliament notes that Eswatini ratified the SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons on 2 August 2006. However, the Protocol has not yet entered into force because the requisite number of Member State ratifications has not been attained. Parliament continues to encourage regional efforts aimed at securing wider ratification of the Protocol to facilitate the gradual removal of barriers to the movement of persons within the SADC region.

Parliament further recognises that industrialisation, investment promotion and regional value chain development remain essential to achieving the aspirations of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap. Continued parliamentary oversight will therefore focus on improving the legislative and policy environment for industrial development, supporting private sector competitiveness and promoting inclusive economic growth within the context of regional integration.

4.5 Corruption, Peace, Security and Democratic Governance

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini remains committed to strengthening democratic governance, accountability, constitutionalism and the rule of law as indispensable foundations for sustainable development and regional integration. During the reporting period, Parliament intensified its advocacy for the implementation of the SADC Protocol Against Corruption, 2001, the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, 2001, and the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, 2021, through robust legislative scrutiny, institutional oversight and public participation.

Eswatini has established a sound constitutional and legislative framework to advance the objectives of these regional instruments. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini provides the foundation for constitutional governance by affirming the separation of powers, judicial independence and the accountability of public institutions. The national anti-corruption framework is principally provided for under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 2006, which established the Anti-Corruption Commission as the statutory body responsible for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of corruption offences.

Notwithstanding these institutional measures, corruption remains one of the most significant governance challenges confronting the Kingdom. According to the latest Corruption Perceptions Index, Eswatini scored 23 out of 100, where 0 represents the highest perceived level of corruption and 100 the lowest. Parliament is concerned that, despite the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the strengthening of the legislative framework, these efforts have yet to translate into a commensurate number of successful prosecutions and convictions. Parliament therefore continues to advocate for enhanced institutional effectiveness, adequate resourcing of anti-corruption agencies and strengthened accountability mechanisms to reinforce public confidence in governance institutions.

Parliament has equally continued to exercise oversight over public expenditure through the annual budget process and engagements with Government Ministries, constitutional bodies and public enterprises. Particular emphasis has been placed on promoting prudent financial management, transparency in the utilisation of public resources and institutional accountability. Parliament recognises that effective financial oversight constitutes one of the most important preventive measures against corruption and contributes directly to the objectives of the SADC Protocol Against Corruption.

With respect to peace and security, Eswatini remains steadfast in its conviction that sustainable peace can only be achieved through dialogue, mutual respect and inclusive political engagement. Consistent with the objectives of the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, 2001, Parliament supports peaceful resolution of disputes and believes that the silencing of guns should remain at the centre of regional and international diplomatic efforts. Parliament further recognises the important role of parliamentary diplomacy in fostering dialogue, conflict prevention, mediation and confidence-building as essential components of lasting peace and regional stability.

Regarding democratic governance, Parliament affirms that the Kingdom of Eswatini operates under a unitary democratic system based on the Tinkhundla System of Government, which is founded upon the Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini. Within this constitutional framework, Parliament remains committed to promoting democratic principles, citizen participation, transparency and accountable governance. Parliament fully respects and supports the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, 2021. These principles continue to provide valuable regional benchmarks for promoting credible, peaceful and transparent electoral processes while respecting the constitutional and political systems of Member States.

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini remains committed to strengthening integrity, accountability and constitutional governance through effective legislation, rigorous oversight and sustained parliamentary diplomacy. Parliament will continue working with the Government, constitutional institutions and regional partners to advance the implementation of SADC legal instruments while promoting peace, democratic governance and public confidence in national institutions.

5. CROSS-CUTTING PARLIAMENTARY INITIATIVES

Beyond thematic oversight, Parliament has continued to strengthen its institutional capacity to advance the implementation of SADC legal instruments through several cross-cutting initiatives designed to improve legislative effectiveness, policy coherence and parliamentary diplomacy. Recognising that effective implementation of regional commitments requires informed parliamentary decision-making, Parliament has invested in strengthening research and evidence-based oversight. Parliamentary Committees increasingly rely on technical research, comparative legislative analysis and stakeholder consultations to inform committee deliberations and legislative scrutiny. This approach has enhanced the quality of parliamentary recommendations while ensuring that oversight remains responsive to emerging regional and global developments. Parliament has also continued to deepen public participation in legislative and oversight processes. Through public hearings, stakeholder consultations, petitions and committee engagements, Parliament has provided citizens, civil society organisations, professional bodies and development partners with meaningful opportunities to contribute to legislative development and public policy oversight. These participatory processes strengthen democratic legitimacy and reinforce Parliament's representative function.

Parliamentary diplomacy has equally remained an important instrument for advancing regional integration. Active participation in the programmes of the SADC PF, thematic conferences, regional workshops and election observation missions has enhanced institutional learning while promoting harmonisation of legislative practice across Member Parliaments. Parliament remains convinced that sustained parliamentary engagement at the regional level contributes significantly to the implementation of SADC legal instruments and the strengthening of democratic governance throughout Southern Africa.

During the reporting period, Parliament further initiated processes aimed at establishing an Institute of Diplomacy, Governance and Parliamentary Studies in partnership with the

University of Eswatini and Mohammed V University in Morocco. The proposed Institute is envisaged as a regional centre of excellence dedicated to parliamentary research, legislative studies, diplomacy and capacity building for Parliamentarians and parliamentary officials from across the SADC region. Once operational, the Institute is expected to strengthen Parliament's contribution to regional integration by promoting continuous professional development, comparative parliamentary research and the exchange of best practices among Member Parliaments. These institutional initiatives demonstrate Parliament's commitment to ensuring that implementation of SADC legal instruments is supported by strong parliamentary institutions, informed legislative processes and sustained regional cooperation.

6. CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini acknowledges the considerable progress achieved in advancing the implementation of SADC legal instruments. Nevertheless, the reporting period has highlighted several structural and institutional challenges that continue to affect the pace and effectiveness of domestication and implementation. The **first challenge** relates to the complexity of harmonising domestic legislation with regional legal instruments. While Eswatini continues to review its legislative framework to give effect to regional obligations, the enactment or amendment of legislation requires extensive stakeholder consultations, policy alignment and legislative scrutiny to ensure consistency with the Constitution and national development priorities. Parliament therefore recognises that domestication is a continuous process rather than a single legislative event.

Secondly, several SADC legal instruments have not yet entered into force at the regional level owing to the outstanding signatures, ratifications or accessions by Member States. This limits the extent to which national institutions can fully implement certain regional obligations. Parliament therefore continues to encourage accelerated regional cooperation aimed at bringing these legal instruments into force while maintaining national preparedness for their eventual implementation. Parliament further observes that emerging policy areas such as climate governance, digital transformation, cyber security, artificial intelligence and transnational organised crime require specialised legislative expertise and sustained institutional capacity development. These rapidly evolving areas necessitate continuous capacity building for Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to ensure that legislative oversight remains responsive to contemporary governance challenges.

The implementation of regional commitments also requires adequate financial resources and strong inter-institutional coordination. Parliament notes that successful implementation depends upon effective collaboration between Parliament, Government Ministries, constitutional bodies, development partners, academia, civil society organisations and the private sector. Continued investment in institutional capacity and evidence-based policymaking will therefore remain essential. Finally, Parliament recognises that effective implementation extends beyond legislative enactment. The true measure of progress lies in translating regional commitments into tangible improvements in governance, economic development, public service delivery and the quality of life of

citizens. Parliament will therefore continue strengthening post-legislative scrutiny and implementation oversight to ensure that enacted legislation achieves its intended objectives.

7. FUTURE PARLIAMENTARY PRIORITIES

Building upon the progress achieved during the reporting period, the Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini has identified several strategic priorities that will guide parliamentary advocacy for the implementation of SADC legal instruments over the coming years. Parliament will continue strengthening legislative oversight to ensure that national laws progressively align with regional legal instruments and international obligations. Particular attention will be directed towards monitoring Government implementation of SADC Protocols, Strategies and Declarations through regular committee engagements, ministerial accountability sessions and post-legislative scrutiny. Recognising the increasing complexity of regional governance, Parliament will continue investing in institutional capacity building for Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff. This includes strengthening research services, expanding comparative legislative analysis and enhancing technical expertise in emerging areas such as climate governance, digital regulation, artificial intelligence, energy security and regional economic integration.

Parliament will equally deepen parliamentary diplomacy as an instrument for promoting regional cooperation and legislative harmonisation. Continued participation in the programmes of the SADC PF will facilitate the exchange of best practices, strengthen peer learning and promote coordinated parliamentary responses to common regional challenges. The proposed establishment of the Institute of Diplomacy and Parliamentary Studies will remain a strategic institutional priority. Once established, the Institute is expected to serve as a regional centre of excellence for parliamentary research, legislative drafting, parliamentary diplomacy and professional development, thereby strengthening the capacity of Parliamentarians and parliamentary officials throughout the SADC region.

Parliament will also continue promoting inclusive governance by strengthening public participation in legislative processes and oversight activities. Greater emphasis will be placed on engaging women, young people, persons with disabilities, traditional leaders, civil society organisations, academia and the private sector in the formulation and implementation of public policy. Parliament recognises that regional integration can only be sustained when it remains responsive to the aspirations and lived experiences of the citizens of Southern Africa.

8. CONCLUSION

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini remains committed to working collaboratively with the SADC PF, Member Parliaments and all regional stakeholders to advance the signing, ratification, domestication and implementation of SADC legal instruments in pursuit of a peaceful, prosperous and integrated Southern Africa.