PARLIAMENT OF MALAWI

COUNTRY REPORT FOR THE PARLIAMENT OF MALAWI TO THE 59TH SADC PF PLENARY ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

NOVEMBER, 2026

NO	SECTOR	SADC PROTOCOL AND DECISIONS AND STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
1.0	**Energy, Environment and Climate Change**	**SADC Environmental Protocol** i. Malawi signed and ratified the SADC Protocol on Environment. In terms of implementation, the country is focused on implementing strategies towards attaining high levels of adaptation to disasters including climatic shocks such as droughts, floods and tropical cyclones ii. The implementation of the protocol is coordinated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the following are some of specific activities being carried out for implementation: a) scaling up climate-resilient agriculture through climate-smart agriculture practices; b) restoration of degraded forests and catchment areas; c) expansion of community-based adaptation programmes; strengthening disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; d) implementation of adaptation projects financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and other development partners; e) investment in systematic weather observations under the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), f) improving climate monitoring and early warning capabilities; g) and preparation of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) which outlines the country's medium to long term Adaptation Strategies. **SADC Climate Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2030)** i. In order to effectively implement the SADC Climate Strategy and Action Plan (2015-20230, the country has established a comprehensive climate policy framework that supports implementation of regional climate commitments and the following milestones have been achieved:

		a) The formulation of a comprehensive climate policy framework that supports implementation of regional climate commitments; b) Development and implementation of the National Climate Change Management Policy since 2016; c) Reparation and submission to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) the country's 3rd Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) d) Reviewed and updated the 2021 NDC; e) Submitted reports to the UNFCCC including First, Second, Third and Fourth National Communications Report, First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) and First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1); f) Development of climate legislation through the proposed Climate Change Bill (currently under development); g) Strengthening of environmental governance including national coordination structures such as the National Steering Committee on Climate Change, the National Technical Committee on Climate Change and Disaster management, and Expert Working Group on various thematic areas ii. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment through Environmental Affairs Department developed and implemented the Carbon Market Framework that is aimed at protecting the already existing natural forests. **SADC Green Economy Strategy (2021)** i. Malawi adopted the SADC Green Economy strategy (2021), and the strategy is being implemented through the integration and mainstreaming of green economy principles into national planning;

		ii. The strategy has been incorporated into major development policy guidelines that promote sustainable industrialization, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, and natural resource management consistent with SADC's Green Economy Strategy iii. The following are some of the policy documents that guide the strategy on green economy; a) Malawi Vision 2063; b) Malawi First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1); c) National Climate Change Management Policy; d) National Resilience Strategy and National Energy Policy; e) Forestry and Environmental policies; iv. Under the Renewable Energy Development, the country has expanded the solar energy programmes, and the following initiatives have been put in place; a) the installation of 21 MW Selengeti Solar PV Plant and 20MW Golomoti Solar PV Plant, b) Development of mini-grids and off-grid electrification; c) promotion of improved cookstoves and alternative cooking technologies; d) investment in hydropower rehabilitation and diversification of energy sources; e) mobilized support for private sector investment in renewable energy; and f) the inclusion of the National Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) into Renewable Energy and the strengthening the linkage between climate action, renewable energy, sustainable natural resource management and adaptation and resilient development v. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the country is also implementing sustainable natural resource management initiatives aimed at improving ecosystem resilience while supporting livelihoods and such initiatives include Landscape restoration

		programmes; Community forestry management.; Sustainable land management; Watershed restoration; Biodiversity conservation; Promotion of ecosystem-based adaptation. vi. The country is also strengthening systems for climate finance tracking, carbon market readiness, and development of carbon trading frameworks to promote green investment. **Revised SADC Protocol on Energy (2023)** i. Malawi signed and ratified the Revised SADC Protocol on Energy (2023), and the protocol is being implemented under the guidance of the Department of Energy and other relevant government agencies. ii. The implementation process has encompassed issues of regional integration. For example, the country is in the process of interconnecting its transmission network with that of Mozambique (bilaterally) and by default with the Southern African power pool at large through the construction of the Mozambique-Malawi Power interconnector (MOMA)
2.0	**Gender Equality and Youth Development**	**Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (2016)** i. **M**alawi signed and ratified the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (2016), and under the Constitutional and Legal Rights (Articles 4–11), Gender equality is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi (1994) ii. The Constitution has been reinforced by a set of laws enacted over the past decade, including the following Gender Equality Act (2013), the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act (2015), the Deceased Estates (Wills, Inheritance and Protection) Act (2011), the Trafficking in Persons Act (2015), the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, and the Child Care, Protection and Justice Act (2010).

		iii. In order to achieve the effective implementation of the Protocol, the Parliament of Malawi in 2017, passed the Constitutional Amendment Act which raised the minimum marriage age from 16 to 18 years, harmonizing the supreme law with the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act (2015) and later the Penal Code Amendment Act (2023), and iv. Currently, Malawi is making efforts to domesticate the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Gender-Based Violence to further strengthen the already existing frameworks.
3.0	**Health, SRHR, Employment and Labour**	**SADC Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) 2019-2030** ***i.*** Malawi adopted the SADC SRHR strategy as well as the SADC SRHR scorecard and some of the milestones towards the achievement of the strategy include promoting health and well-being for all across the life course and the following milestones have been achieved: ***a)*** Total fertility has been reduced to 3.7 per woman from 6.7% within ICPD implementation, ***b)*** Maternal mortality has been reduced to 224 per 100,000 live births from 439/100,000 live births, ***c)*** Access to modern contraceptives by all women is at 48.9%, ***d)*** Unmet family planning need is at 13 % in 2024 from 37% in 1992, achieved a ten-fold increase in contraceptive prevalence rate from just over 7% in the 1992 to 66% among married women in 2024. ii. Malawi government in its policies and strategies aims at reducing maternal mortality and morbidity by adopting to bundle of interventions for care, adopting Group ante-natal care, improving transport system for referrals, strengthening death audits among others.

		iii. Significant strides have also been achieved in improving child health outcomes and newborn health and over the past eight years the country has registered some positive outcomes that include a reduction to 22% of under-five mortality from 63 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016 to 48 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2024 (MDHS, 2024) and Newborn mortality rates have declined by 25% from 42 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016 to 35 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2024 (MDHS, 2024) iv. Considering that 80% of Malawi's population of 20 million is aged below 35 years and 45% are below 15 years, the country is making the strategic investments in youth as they are critical agents for positive socioeconomic change if they are empowered to innovate and lead economic productivity. v. Currently, the teenage pregnancy is at 32% (15–19-year-olds), a rise from 29% in 2016 (MDHS, 2024). In view of this, the Malawi government has put in place measures to reduce teenage pregnancy as well as reducing early child marriages in collaboration with other line Ministries. vi. Malawi aims to reduce the adolescent fertility rate to 38 births per 1000 adolescents (aged between 15 and 19 years) by 2030, reduce teen childbearing from 30.8% to 20% by 2030, and end child marriages by 2030, and youth friendly health service coverage across the country has been increased to 75%. **SADC Protocol on Health (1999)** i. Malawi signed the SADC Protocol on Health and the Country completed its ratification process prior to August 2004, supporting regional cooperation on communicable disease control such as HIV/AIDs, tuberculosis, and Malaria. In an effort to fully implement the

		Protocol, Malawi has aligned its national health policies with regional standards, participating in cross border disease control, and establishing a joint pharmaceutical and tertiary care partnerships ii. In terms of national policy integration, the government integrated the protocol into the Malawi National Health Policy in order to achieve universal health coverage and standard care iii. In line with the protocol's health promotion goals, Malawi launched the implementation plan for Executive Order No 2 of 2026 with the aim of enforcing strict water, sanitation and hygiene standard across public spaces, schools and workplaces to prevent outbreaks such as cholera and typhoid
4.0	**Trade, Industry, Finance, Investment and Free Movement of Persons**	**SADC Protocol on Industry (2019)** The Protocol does not have an implementation plan per se but it offers an assurance, protection and safeguard for business interests especially across borders. It is something that can be made reference to especially for high business ventures and international corporations and also used when there is a business crisis. MITC also makes use of this most when promoting and protecting business **SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons (2005)** i. Malawi signed the SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, a regional legal instrument adopted in 2005 to promote the gradual removal of barriers to the movement of people within the community. The signing took place on 16 July 2026 on the margins of the 28th Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in Salima, Malawi;

		ii. Through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malawi reaffirmed its commitment to deepening regional cooperation and expanding opportunities for the free movement of persons. He added that Malawi's decision to sign the Protocol reflects the country's commitment to advancing SADC's objectives of economic development, social progress, regional integration and unity among Member States. iii. The Protocol seeks to facilitate easier movement of citizens across SADC Member States through measures that support travel, residence and establishment within the region. It is intended to strengthen regional integration, promote people-to-people connections, enhance trade and investment, and advance SADC's vision of a more integrated, prosperous and united Southern Africa. **SADC Protocol on Finance and Investments** i. Malawi signed and ratified the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investments. The implementation of the protocol is being coordinated by the Ministry of Finance. The country uses the protocol frame work to guide portions of its domestic financial services, and regulatory framework, while also developing complementary national legislation ii. In addition to the above, the country is geared towards operationalizing modern investment laws and is in the process finalizing and enforcing implementation of regulations under the Investment and Export Act of 2024 and the Special Economic Zones Act of 2024 using the Malawi investment Trade Centre one stop service centre to stream line business registration, licensing and investor aftercare

		iii. The country is also pursuing macroeconomic convergence targets, deepening domestic capital markets for long term financing, and ease foreign exchange liquidity constraints in order for investors to reliably remit capital and profits iv. Through the Malawi Revenue Authority, processes are underway to harmonize tax and incitive regimes thereby aligning tax policies and investment incentives with regional commitments to avoid harmful tax competition while supporting priority sectors such as agriculture, tourism, mining, manufacturing, and energy v. Through the Ministry of lands, efforts are being made to streamline land access procedures for investors, roll out designated special economic zones, and scale up public private partnerships in energy, roads, rail, and logistics to lower operating costs and boost regional trade competitiveness.
5.0	**Corruption, Peace and Security and Elections**	**SADC Protocol Against Corruption (2001)** i. Malawi ratified the SADC Procol Against Corruption, and some of the notable progress taken by Malawi in the implementation of SADC Protocol Against Corruption include the following: ii. Having has a full y operations anti-corruption agency, the Anti-Corruption Bureau mandated to prevent, investigate and prosecute corruption. The Bureau was established in 1998 under the Corrupt Practices Act (1995), iii. Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) since 2008. This is a tool for ensuring holistic approach in the fight against corruption and among others, it calls for

		establishment of Institutional Integrity Committees (IICs) in all government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, and government has committed 1% of Other recurrent Transactions (ORT) to be used by IICs in the fight against corruption. iv. Implementation of the Access to Information law which ensures that there is more transparency and accountability in public service delivery. v. Drafted the Whistleblower Legislation Bill which is pending Parliament debate. This will ensure that individuals who report corruption in good faith are protected. vi. developed and is implementing the Public Service Code of Conduct; vii. Initiated the process of introducing e-public procurement through the Malawi National Electronic Procurement System (MANEPS) and this will enhance transparency and accountability in public procurements. viii. Malawi has introduced the Electronic Invoicing System (EIS) at the Revenue Authority as one way of enhancing revenue collection system and as a control system for deterring fraud and corruption. ix. Developed a primary school source book and is also currently incorporating the corruption issues into schools' curriculums. x. Implementation of the Financial Crimes Law which among others has established the Confiscation Fund Accounts which allows Recovery of Assets suspected to have been obtained corruptly.

		The SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation Malawi signed the SADC protocol on Politics, Defence and Security in 2001. Malawi participates in the organ on politics, defence and security cooperation. For example, recently, Malawi hosted and chaired the 28th Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Committee. In terms of implementation, Malawi continues to align national security measures with organ initiatives, such as developing a national strategy to combat transactional organized crime **Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021)** Malawi adopted the SADC Principles and Guidelines Democratic Elections and, in an effort, to implement the same, the country embarked on a number reforms including constitutional amendment and review of some pieces of legislation with the aim of realigning with the principles and guidelines governing democratic elections.