SECONDER'S SPEECH ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY MODEL LAWS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RPMLOC) TO THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Mr President,

I rise with great pleasure to second the motion so ably moved by the Mover and to commend the Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee for a Report that speaks to the very essence of our mandate as a regional parliamentary body.

The significance of this Report lies in its powerful reminder that the true measure of our Model Laws is not merely their adoption, but the difference they make in the lives of our citizens. Regional commitments must be expressed in national legislation, effective policies, adequate resource allocation, and sustained parliamentary oversight. The Committee's benchmarking mission to Angola demonstrates precisely why we must move decisively from legislative commitments to practical implementation.

Mr President,

The Report highlights commendable progress by Angola in domesticating the SADC Model Laws on HIV and AIDS, Child Marriage and Gender-Based Violence. The parliamentary leadership, demonstrated through the SADC National Group and supported by collaboration among government institutions, civil society and development partners, offers valuable lessons for strengthening national ownership and accountability throughout our region.

Equally important, the Report does not shy away from identifying areas requiring urgent attention. These include legislative exceptions that permit marriage below the age of 18, gaps in protection against emerging forms of gender-based violence, and the need to strengthen HIV-related safeguards, institutional coordination, and implementation monitoring.

Of particular significance to this Plenary Assembly, which marks ten years since the adoption of the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage, is the unequivocal message that childhood must never be compromised by legislative exceptions, inadequate protection or enforcement failures. The call to eliminate all exceptions permitting marriage below 18, to strengthen enforcement and to provide meaningful support to affected children is both timely and compelling.

Mr President,

What makes this Report particularly valuable is its insistence on moving from commitments to compliance, from legislation to implementation, and from promises to measurable results. Its recommendations on parliamentary tracking mechanisms, reliable disaggregated data, adequate financing, and regular government reporting provide a practical pathway towards stronger accountability.

The proposed common regional indicators, continued benchmarking missions and structured peer learning are equally important. They will enable Member Parliaments not only to learn from one another but also to measure progress, identify gaps and ensure that regional legislative standards deliver tangible results.

As we advance the transformation of the Forum into a SADC Parliament, the work of the RPMLOC demonstrates the importance of strengthening our collective capacity to monitor the domestication and implementation of regional commitments.

Mr President,

The message of this Report is clear: our responsibility does not end when a Model Law is adopted; it is fulfilled when its principles are translated into protected rights, delivered services, and transformed lives.

I therefore urge Honourable Members to lend their full support to the recommendations contained in this Report and to champion

their effective implementation in our respective Member Parliaments.

It is with this conviction, Mr President, that I wholeheartedly second the motion for the adoption of this important Report.
I thank you.