SECONDER'S SPEECH ON THE MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE ACTION (FANRCA) TO THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Mr President, I second the motion on the report of the Standing Committee on Food Agriculture Natural Resources and Climate Action (FANRCA) to the 59th Plenary Assembly as moved by the Chairperson.

In seconding the motion, I want to mention that I wholeheartedly endorse the report presented by our esteemed Chairperson. The recommendations within the report hold significant weight; they are not mere suggestions but rather a reflection of the collective stance of our Committee. These recommendations mirror the concerns and aspirations voiced by the people of the SADC region during the committee meetings, making them all the more valuable and pertinent.

As indicated in the report, during the first meeting, the Committee deliberated on several issues, including the SADC Energy Protocol (1996) which established a framework for harmonising energy policy, ensuring energy security, and promoting regional

integration. During the deliberations, the Committee noted with concern that the implementation of the Protocol remains uneven across the region. The implementation process is constrained by factors such as uneven infrastructure development, limited financing, inconsistent policies, dependence on fossil fuels, institutional capacity gaps and electricity shortages. It is against this background that Parliamentarians are urged to scrutinise government action towards signature, ratification or accession, as applicable, to the 2021 amendment to the SADC Protocol on Energy and to oversee its implementation.

My President, further to the above, the Committee learned that there is a growing demand for critical minerals and the interdependence of water, energy and food systems and these issues were identified as matters requiring greater attention within the regional energy framework. Therefore, the meeting noted that there is need for Member states to complete the applicable procedures under the amended Protocol, stronger implementation of existing instruments, regional transition planning, increased financing for renewable energy and greater local beneficiation of minerals.

Mr President, I wish also to agree with mover of the motion that during the second meeting, the Committee received a presentation on climatic shocks which highlighted several issues, including the outlook for the 2026/27 season, which indicated increased risks of below-normal rainfall, above-average temperatures, and prolonged dry spells in parts of southern and central Southern

Africa. It was also mentioned that the region may experience localised flooding which may require preparedness for multiple hazards. Countries identified as facing elevated rainfall risks include Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini. Potential food shortages and reduced dietary diversity could disproportionately affect children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

Mr President, in addition, the meeting noted that the growing frequency and severity of climate shocks require stronger risk management, parliamentary oversight, sustainable financing and regional coordination to address cross-border impacts. Preparedness should include contingency arrangements for transport, storage and distribution, developed in collaboration with public agencies, humanitarian organisations and private operators, to enable the timely movement of food and other essential supplies. Conflict, displacement and drought can compound food insecurity and humanitarian needs. Responses should protect food systems and ensure affected communities can access food, nutrition support and essential services.

As I conclude, I want to echo the mover's call for Parliamentarians to take further action in ensuring that the SADC Energy Protocol (1996) is ratified and its related policy frameworks are developed for implementation by all Member states as one way of promoting regional integration in the energy sector in the region. I would like also to reiterate that there is need for Member states to adequately prepare for the occurrence of disasters such as EL Nino by

appropriating enough budgetary resources for implementing interventions that will address and mitigate the impacts of climatic the shocks.

I second the Report Mr President.

Thank you.