



**REPORT OF THE SADC PF STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN ADVANCEMENT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TO THE 51<sup>ST</sup> PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION HOSTED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF MALAWI FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2022**

**THEME: ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT AND ISSUES AFFECTING THE YOUTH IN THE SADC REGION AND MECHANISMS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS TO DIRECTLY ENGAGE WITH THE YOUTH**

Mr President, I beg to move that this Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report of the SADC PF Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development to the 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, laid on the table on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

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## **1.0 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee consisted of the following Members:

1. Hon. Peete Ramoqai Peete, MP (*Chairperson*), Lesotho;
2. Hon. Marie Jeanne d'Arc MASY GOULAMALY, MP, (*Vice Chairperson*), Madagascar;
3. Hon. Maria do Carmo do Nascimento, MP, Angola;
4. Hon. Talita Monnakgotla, MP, Botswana;
5. Hon. Anne-Marie Mbilambangu, MP, Democratic Republic of Congo;
6. Sen. Busisiwe Dlamini, MP, Eswatini;
7. Hon Marie Joanne Sabrina Tour, MP, Mauritius;
8. Hon. Roseby Gama Gadam, MP, Malawi;
9. Hon. Maria Marta Fernando, MP, Mozambique;
10. Hon. Paula Kooper, MP, Namibia;
11. Hon. Kelly Samynadin, MP, Seychelles;
12. Hon. Nkhensani Kate Bilankulu, MP, South Africa;
13. Hon. Shally Joseph Raymond, MP, Tanzania;
14. Hon. Jeffery Mulebwa, MP, Zambia; and
15. Hon. Goodlucky Kwaramba, MP, Zimbabwe.

## **2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development is guided by its mandate in terms of Rule 42(a) of the SADC PF Rules of Procedure.

## **3.0 NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD AND MEETING DATES**

The Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development held one meeting on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 to considered two topics, namely;

- (i) *“Enhancing the Role of Parliament in the Construction and Implementation of Gender Responsive Budgeting within the Framework of Public Finance Management” and*
- (ii) *“Issues Affecting the Youth in the SADC Region and Mechanisms for Parliamentarians to directly Engage with the Youth.”*

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

The Southern African Development Community considered gender equality and women’s empowerment as a fundamental human right and an important factor in regional development. However, there was growing recognition that public budgeting decisions and the public financial management (PFM) systems that underpinned gender equality and women’s empowerment were not yet mainstreamed in many Member States.

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) offered a means to systematically address gender equality and women's empowerment through Government budgets and financial management. Gender Responsive Budgeting was the process of constructing and implementing public budgets that considered the different needs of women and men and the prevailing gender inequality. It required a gender-based assessment of budgets and related decision-making processes, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process, and restructuring revenues and expenditures to promote gender equality (Council of Europe, 2009).

Gender Responsive Budgeting established equity and fairness for all citizens, which was one of most crucial functions in Public Finance Management (UN Women 2017). Gender Responsive Budgeting was, therefore, a pertinent political-economic process because it referred to decision-making that prioritised the allocation of available, and typically scarce, financial resources. The objective of Gender Responsive Budgeting was to ensure equitable socio-economic outcomes for women and marginalised groups. By ensuring inclusive public expenditure decisions, such an approach contributed to effective governance processes for all citizens. When budgets were gender-blind and did not take social exclusion patterns into account, public spending was unlikely to meet the needs and improve the condition and position of those marginalised in society. Gender-blind public spending was likely to reinforce structural inequalities between different social groups.

The theme for the meeting of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development was selected in a quest to define the position of Gender Responsive Budgeting within the Public Financial Management Framework; investigate the impact of Gender Responsive Public Financial Management on the gender gap; outline required enabling framework conditions for Gender Responsive Budgeting to have an impact; as well as recommend minimum standards in Gender Responsive Budgeting and public spending that could reduce gender inequalities in SADC Members States.

The Committee also considered issues that affected the youth in the SADC region. Almost three-quarters of the population of 274 million in the SADC region were below thirty-five years of age, translating to approximately 200 million. Despite their potential to drive socio-economic progress, the youth remained highly marginalised from decision-making processes and were inflicted with high levels of unemployment and poverty. Their vulnerability exposed them to social ills such as drug abuse, organised crime and politically-motivated violence.

While the economy of the region was said to have grown steadily in the past decade, at an average of 2.5 percent per annum, the sad reality was that the growth had not been equitably shared. Wealth and income inequality and

poverty had grown, especially among the youth. The acute inequalities and a sense of exclusion among the youth had triggered new challenges in some Member States, including social protests and xenophobia, which were characterised by violence and destruction.

Although Member States had introduced a number of measures to arrest the situation and address the challenges the youth faced, including the establishment of dedicated ministries, national youth councils, youth programmes and projects, school bursaries and other related programmes for the well-being of the youth, these efforts seemed to fall short of resolving the challenges that the youth in the region faced.

Against this background, the Committee held a one day Seminar focusing on the various issues affecting the youth in the SADC region. The main objective of the seminar was to create a platform for young people to directly engage with parliamentarians on issues affecting the youth in order to identify and discuss the issues affecting the youth; assess the measures that were being taken by Governments and other actors in addressing these issues; make recommendations on the role of Parliaments in addressing those issues; and explore ways of strengthening cooperation between Parliaments and youth organisations at national and regional level towards greater promotion of meaningful engagement and collaboration.

## **5.0 SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS**

### **5.1 Presentation on Enhancing the Role of Parliament in the Construction and Implementation of Gender Responsive Budgeting within the Framework of Public Finance Management**

Based on the presentation made before it, the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development took note of the following:

- 5.1.1 Public Finance Management (PFM) simply meant gathering, managing and expending of public finances to improve citizens' lives. In that regard, one of the key aspects of PFM was economic growth rate and its push factors in the region.
- 5.1.2 When there were budget cuts, areas which suffered the most were social sectors such as health, education, social protection and agriculture, among others. For example, most resources in Ukraine have had to be channeled towards the war with Russia, thereby impacting the lives of the people adversely. In this regard, most of the resources that were supposed to enhance people's livelihoods within the social sectors got impacted. When social sectors were impacted, women and children bore the brunt of the impact.

- 5.1.3 The status of domestic resource mobilisation and its impact on both the formal and informal sectors needed to be analysed in terms of the comparisons between individual and corporate tax mechanisms. For the SADC region to get to levels of debt sustainability it needed to enhance domestic resource mobilisation. It was the role of Parliament to critically analyse how Member States were doing with regard to domestic resource mobilisation. In many Member States, the majority of the people were in the informal sector and only about 20 – 25 percent of the people in the formal sector. Hence, domestic resource mobilisation in the informal sector was a very difficult undertaking.
- 5.1.4 In Zambia, like most SADC Member States, poverty still bore a female face, and women continued to bear the brunt of poverty. In order to talk about Gender Responsive Budgeting, there was need, therefore, to ensure that women, the youth and the vulnerable were included in the budgeting process to enhance their livelihoods. In that regard, living conditions monitoring surveys were a very critical tool for Parliaments.
- 5.1.5 Gender Responsive Budgeting included identifying priority areas whether it was women in politics and decision making, gender-based violence and its impact on women and girls, gender mainstreaming, women economic empowerment, health, education, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), gender mainstreaming or women's economic empowerment. Priority areas must, therefore, inform how budgeting cycles were being handled at national level.
- 5.1.6 Public budgets were economic tools that summarised policies in monetary terms and expressed political priorities. Due to the fact that Parliaments had the role of ensuring that the priorities of Member States were translated into monetary terms through the budget, it was the role of parliamentarians to ensure that any budget presented to Parliament reflected the political commitments and priorities of the nation. It was also critical to understand the lifecycle of public finance which entailed where the money was coming from, how it would be used, and what policy guidance was available.
- 5.1.7 Governments' finance management was through macroeconomic and trade policies. Policy and public finance depended on national development priorities and the nature of the economy. National Parliaments should ensure that they provided the necessary checks and balances on the Executive and relooked at policies, trade policies, Government spending and ensure that they were abreast with the macroeconomic actions.

5.1.8 There were four dimensions of Public Finance Management, namely;

- (a) Budget Formulation, which involved resource projections (Ministry of Finance), budget guidelines and expenditure limits (Ministry of Finance) and expenditure proposals prepared and negotiated;
- (b) Budget Execution, which involved national budget consolidation, budget approval, budget appropriations by Parliament and budget execution by line agencies;
- (c) Accounting and Reporting, which involved preparation of national budget accounts and preparation of various reports and consolidation of budget performance; and
- (d) External Security/Audit, which involved preparation of audits, submission of audited accounts to Parliament and deliberation and approval of audited accounts by Parliament.

5.1.9 Gender referred to the socially learned behaviours and expectations that were associated with females and males. Therefore, gender was a social category which focused consciously on the roles and responsibilities of women, men and youth and the way they related to each other. Therefore, as budgets were being formulated for approval in Parliament, Governments should take into consideration the social relations among women, men and the youth, and how they interacted with each other.

5.1.10 A budget was an annual plan of what Governments expected to receive in incomes and what they expected to expend over a specified period of time. The budget reflected the choices that the Governments had to make and the tools to be used to achieve economic and development goals. Gender budgeting was, therefore, a means of understanding how public resources were utilised and how they benefited categories of women and men, girls and boys and other marginalised groups.

5.1.11 Gender Responsive Budgeting was about integrating a clear gender perspective within the overall context of the budgetary process through special processes and analytical tools (Gender Budget Conceptual framework) with a view to promote gender responsive policies (OECD, 2016) and contribute to reaching gender equality and more effective budget allocations.

5.1.12 A gender responsive budget ensured that general development goals did not work against social and economic equity and did not work to reinforce development disparities among regions, women and men, ethnic groups, among others. Gender budgeting, therefore, sought to

make the gender impact of budgets visible and to transform them into an instrument for increasing gender equality.

- 5.1.13 Financing for gender responsive budgeting within the PFM system included situational analysis by looking at needs or problems of women and men; policy analysis by assessing whether the needs of women and men and the steps to be taken to address them were reflected in policy documents; budget analysis by understanding whether Government policies were translated into commitments through expenditure; and budget monitoring through knowing whether what was budgeted for had been implemented.
- 5.1.14 Gender Responsive Budgeting mainstreaming consisted of dominant or commonly held ideas and directions of development which influenced decisions or actions. The unwritten moral norms and codes found expression in unequal gender relations and roles present in every society. If, therefore, the aspect of gender was not brought into the decisions or actions taken of analysing the relations, they would be influenced from a patriarchal perspective.
- 5.1.15 Member States should have a standard of ensuring gender responsiveness. The study undertaken in Zambia by the Non-governmental Gender Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC), indicated that that out of fifty-six health centres, only ten had youth-friendly corners. How then could the challenges and aspirations of the youth and adolescents be addressed within the health system, especially with regard to SRHR?
- 5.1.16 A budget that failed to address the needs of the poor, vulnerable and marginalised had high human and economic costs, lowered productivity, lowered capacities and ultimately lowered levels of well-being. Conversely, systematic discrimination against women and girls, would make it impossible for many countries to meet the poverty and gender equality targets in the SDGs 1, 5, 10 and 16.
- 5.1.17 Public finance remained the most significant source of funding for gender equality and hence Parliament needed to actively engage with macroeconomic policies and national development plans from a gender perspective and stress more inclusive economic growth and financial stability. Beyond financing for gender equality, gender responsive budgeting also entailed the design and implementation of economic policies that gave women, men and youth access to decent work, food security and more comprehensive and integrated social protection to achieve transformative shifts towards an equitable economy.



- 5.1.18 There was no single picture or style of Gender Responsive Budgeting. Budgets must mention the intended beneficiaries by gender. Further, they must be participatory and inclusive as well as pro-poor with specific focus on service delivery. For example, the Ministry of Finance or Parliament should not devise a budget on their own. Gender Responsive Budgets should unlock access to services like health, water; address women's and men's priorities; remove barriers to women's participation and address women's unpaid care work.
- 5.1.19 Challenges in adopting GRB included difficulties in accessing information from government departments and spending agencies, including the absence of gender disaggregated data; inadequate skill sets within Government planning departments to design gender specific interventions; slow implementation of policies and proposed reforms aimed at ensuring adherence to expenditure plans and minimising financial losses. Other challenges were the limited involvement of communities in budget planning and execution, budgets are often viewed as technical exercises when they were in fact part of the broader political and social picture; and the telling effect of the Covid 19 on women and girls by virtue of them having stepped into the crisis from a position of vulnerability.
- 5.1.20 There was need to strengthen capacities and mandates of institutional frameworks in gender mainstreaming, including costing and adequately resourcing national policies, programmes, strategies and plans for gender equality and women's empowerment. There was also need for Member States to formulate Budget Codes and Annual Gender Responsive Budget statements to show political commitment to gender equality as well as promote adoption of access to information laws in the SADC region in order to facilitate research and enable data generation and information flow throughout the budgeting process.
- 5.1.21 Gender Responsive Budgeting was a critical aspect in Public Finance Management because it ensured that expenditure benefitted those who needed it the most and facilitated the improvement of skills necessary to scrutinise policymaking processes in order to ensure that the needs of the poor were met. The Committee was informed that Gender Responsive Budgeting could be used to report on progress towards Government commitments to democracy, equitable economic development and women's rights and equality and strengthen monitoring initiatives by citizens, thereby promoting accountability, transparency and participation in decision making.
- 5.1.22 Gender Responsive Budgeting provided information and viable policy alternatives to challenge discrimination, inefficiencies and informed

policy adjustments to achieve human development; ensured that public service delivery was in sync with related policy statements so as to move away from theory to practice; enhanced gender awareness, disaggregation and analysis of policies and budgets at appraisal, assessment, implementation and evaluation stages; and provides space for Governments to work with many other stakeholders.

## **5.2 Presentation on Issues Affecting the Youth in the SADC Region and Mechanisms for Parliamentarians to directly engage with the Youth**

- 5.2.1 Democracy and democratic processes such as decision-making within Parliaments were increasingly threatened by insurgencies and military coups. A case in point was the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its consequences, which were being felt globally.
- 5.2.2 Southern Africa had mostly remained exempt from the plague that was terrorist-insurgency, which had been vivid in the Middle-East, North and West Africa for decades. However, it would be remiss to sideline the developments in Mozambique's northern region of Cabo Delgado, which had claimed more than 1,500 lives towards the end of 2020 and displaced millions of people.
- 5.2.3 Research by the Institute for Security Studies showed that violent extremism had become a leading threat to peace and security in the region, with young people playing the role of both victims and perpetrators of the insurgency in Mozambique. The youth's vulnerability exposed them to social ills such as drugs, drug abuse, organised crime and politically motivated violence.
- 5.2.4 Mozambique was sadly not the only country in the region affected by this challenge. The effort to mitigate the hazard of violent extremism depended on policy and decision-makers leveraging the youth demographic in conflict resolution and peace building. Within the perspective of youth participation, demographics were quoted across the continent, as well as the SADC region, where approximately 200 million people were argued to be below 35 years. In countries such as Niger, 50 percent of the population was below the age of fifteen years while Africa, at large, was the youngest continent. The Committee was informed that age alone should not be used as a premise for engaging the youth in political processes and decision-making.
- 5.2.5 The youth should be concise about the way they should be included because young people were innovative. Responses to the Covid 19 pandemic had showcased the growth of entrepreneurship to cushion the economic impacts of pandemic. This could also be said about the nexus

between technology and security, which had been pioneered by young people as the result thereof.

- 5.2.6 Young people were resilient, and the African youth had always been formally and informally part of the continent's vanguard for democracy. Efforts should be aimed towards channeling youth participation in formal and informal invited spaces, adding that young people had lived experience, and their circumstances and stories held value.
- 5.2.7 The greatest desire for the young people was that the next time a case for young people was made; it should be done in light of the value addition that young people could bring as evidenced by innumerable events across the continent.
- 5.2.8 Poverty was pervasive in the SADC region. More than 45 percent of the total population of 360 million (SADC, 2018) lived in absolute poverty (1.9 USD/day). As the population increased, the absolute number of people in absolute poverty was estimated to rise from 88 million to 130 million by 2040 (Porter, 2017).
- 5.2.9 Unemployment was the main contributor to the worsening levels of poverty among the youth of the region. In the Report of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation of 2017 entitled "Africa at a tipping point," six SADC countries among the top twelve were listed as having the highest youth unemployment rate, namely; Eswatini (54.8 percent), South Africa (57.4 percent), Namibia (45.4 percent), Mozambique (42.7 percent), Lesotho (38.5 percent and Mauritius (23.3 percent).
- 5.2.10 During the Covid 19 pandemic, the Gross Domestic Growth (GDP) of the region had declined by 4.5 percent. Countries that were severely affected were Zimbabwe (-7.4 percent), Mauritius (-6.8 percent), South Africa (-5.8 percent), Botswana (-5.4 percent), Lesotho (-5.2 percent). Translated into GDP per capita, the region was to expect a decline by 6.3 percent in 2020 alone.
- 5.2.11 According to the SADC Report on the Impact of Covid 19 on the SADC economy, Members States had taken fiscal policy measures, including Government-funded paid sick and family leave, transfers, unemployment benefits, wage subsidies and deferral of tax payments. Despite their temporary mitigation effects, the measures increased public expenditure, the pressure on the fiscus and the increased level of debt, compounded by declined revenues.
- 5.2.12 Due to the Covid 19, home schooling without adequate facilities and support had exacerbated the poor quality of education. Young girls had

to carry the responsibilities of household chores. According to the UNECA (2020) millions of children and youth had missed learning for a protracted period, in some cases, a year.

- 5.2.13 A fraction of the youth completed high school. A fraction of them joined universities and tertiary institutions but not all of them graduated. A huge number quit school in addition to the unaccounted youth who did not enter high school at all. Those who graduated from universities and tertiary institutions had challenges finding employment. The issue of misalignment of education to the demand of the labour market was given as an explanation.
- 5.2.14 The majority of the youth had challenges to elect or be elected in the electoral processes due social, economic and institutional barriers. Firstly, there was the negative societal attitude towards young people. Secondly, there was income inequality which restricted participation. Thirdly, employees of public institutions often lacked the will or the knowledge to involve young people in processes effectively. Further, most youth did not have a positive image about politics and politicians.
- 5.2.15 Quite a few youth were appointed to ministerial positions. For example, Emma Theoflus, 23 years old, was appointed as Namibian ICT Deputy Minister in 2018. Kirsty Coventry, 35 years old, was appointed Minister of Sport in Zimbabwe in 2018. Bogolo Kenewendo, 31 years old, was appointed Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry of Botswana.
- 5.2.16 Youth engagement in policymaking processes was an action-oriented process involving young people in institutions, initiatives and decisions, and affording them control over resources that affected their lives (World Bank, 1994). Youth engagement included efforts by young people to organise around issues of their choice. Youth participation fostered transferrable non-cognitive skills and competences. Civic participation promoted young people's personal development and provided them with substantive knowledge and practical skills (Checkoway, 2011).
- 5.2.17 When young people felt that their views and needs were being included and respected, they developed a positive sense of self-awareness and identity, which increased resilience and well-being (UNESCO, 2012). Through participation, young people learned to process information and build decision-making abilities. Such an environment allowed young people to understand better how Government bodies worked and increased public transparency and accountability.
- 5.2.18 Representation of the youth in Parliament - There was need for youth friendly spaces to interact with policy and law makers.

- 5.2.19 There was need to enhance enabling legislation through domestication of regional initiatives such as the SADC Youth Protocol in SADC Members States.
- 5.2.20 There was need to build a culture of youth inter-generational leadership and highlight that it was not about the youth versus the elders but the youth working with the elders.
- 5.2.21 Internship and mentorship programmes – The SADC Youth Parliament of eighty young parliamentarians was in serious need of mentorship from senior parliamentarians.
- 5.2.22 Some insecurities and vulnerabilities included gender-based and sexual violence, drug abuse, crime, including organised crime; political manipulation, radicalisation and collective violence; exposure to serious health problems, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, STIs, life changing injuries, among others; human trafficking, exploitation and inhuman treatment.
- 5.2.23 Measures that could be taken included undertaking a scoping study on existing regional and national policies and programmes to identify the strengths and gaps; advocating for SADC Youth Protocol for ease of alignment, implementation, coordination and monitoring of policies; strengthening the oversight role of Parliaments on the youth empowerment policies implementation – legislative tools or guidelines for reference; establishing formal platforms for the engagement with youth organisations on a regular basis – regular parliamentary hearings on youth; ensuring depoliticisation of national youth agencies and equitable access to national youth development funds; and developing a regional internship and mentoring programme for youth in national Parliaments.
- 5.2.24 Synthesising and collecting data was vital to be able to improve the responsiveness to the issues affecting young people. This was because there were different layers of youth. Parliament’s responsiveness to youth issues and youth participatory matters could never be a “one-size-fits-all” because there were a lot of intersectional challenges that young people faced.
- 5.2.25 There were numerous regional infrastructural, agricultural, economical differences that young people faced. Therefore, Parliaments, in their responsiveness, needed to take these differences into consideration because what may work for a young person in urban Namibia may not work for a young person in peri urban or rural Namibia. Therefore, Parliaments needed to move away from responding to youth issues in a

generic manner but really pay attention to the intersectional differences and intricacies that plagued young people because they were not homogenous.

- 5.2.26 It was very important that young people were inside the room when issues that affected them were being addressed. Further, the few young parliamentarians who were present in the room needed to be adequately capacitated otherwise the opportunities would be taken away from them. It was simply not about being young in the spaces, but about being young and bringing value and the weight of the young people being represented.
- 5.2.27 Being responsive to the issues affecting the youth had not only become a moral imperative but also a political and social imperative. All laws that Parliaments passed, regardless of how good or bad, disproportionately affected young people. For example, at the onset of Covid 19, the industries that were hit the hardest included tourism, arts, culture and sports, which industries were carried mainly by the young people. Therefore, Parliament's responsiveness should also favour the young people because in times of crises, they were the most disproportionately affected simply because of the demographics available.
- 5.2.28 A four-point policy on addressing youth unemployment, which was the theme across Africa, was shared, namely; using Legislation to Create Fiscal Incentives for Youth-Driven Entrepreneurship; Fiscal Incentives for Youth Employment under the Post Covid 19 Climate; Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Education; and Optimisation of the Agriculture and Food Production Sector.
- 5.2.29 With the requisite structural support from Governments, it was possible to increase production in order to create sustainable agriculture industries that were labour intensive. Members of Parliament could take these deliberate measures to create the policy to address youth unemployment which would ultimately address the issue of strengthening youth participation in governance processes.

## **6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Against this background of the presentations received, the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development makes the following observations:

1. **ACKNOWLEDGING** that Public Finance Management is a key aspect of economic growth and its push factors;

2. Further **ACKNOWLEDGING** that Gender Responsive Budgeting is a critical aspect in Public Finance Management;
3. **RECOGNISING** that where there are budget cuts, social sectors such as health, education, social protection and agriculture, among others, suffer the most;
4. **NOTING** that Gender Responsive Budgeting is complementary to women's empowerment.
5. **OBSERVING** that there can be no better intervention than Gender Responsive Budgeting for enhancing women's empowerment.
6. **ACCEPTING** that Gender Responsive Budgeting is about targeting a clear gender perspective within the overall context of the budgeting process and bringing to the table spending on priority areas;
7. **REALISING** that Gender Responsive Budgeting ensures that general development goals do not work against social and economic equity and do not work to reinforce development disparities among men, women and the marginalised;
8. Further **REALISING** that financing for Gender Responsive Budgeting within the Public Finance Management means looking at the needs and problems of men and women, and whether those needs have been reflected in policy documents;
9. **RECOGNISING** that access to information is a fundamental human right;
10. **ACKNOWLEDGING** that unemployment is the main contributor to the worsening levels of poverty among the youth;
11. **NOTING** that there is need for youth friendly spaces to facilitate interaction between young people and policy and law makers;
12. **ACCEPTING** that the majority of the youth have challenges to elect or be elected in electoral processes due to social, economic and institutional barriers;
13. **COGNISANT** that youth engagement in policymaking processes is an action-oriented process involving young people in institutions, initiatives and decisions and affording them control over resources that affect their lives;
14. **SUPPORTING** that there is need to enhance enabling legislation such as the SADC Youth Protocol for the youth in Member States;
15. **ACCEPTING** that there is need to build a culture of inter-generational leadership;
16. **REALISING** that there are numerous regional infrastructural, agricultural, economical differences that young people face;
17. **REGRETTABLY AWARE** that intra-African trade is only about 16 or 17 percent. Meaning that the continent trades more with countries outside than it does within at the expense of employment for young people;
18. **ACCEPTING** that being responsive to the issues affecting the youth is not only a moral but also political and social imperative;

The Committee now, therefore, recommends to the 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary Assembly to:

1. **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** SADC National Parliaments to apprise themselves with average debt stocks and debt repayments within their respective States because this is key in understanding the implications of national debt on the social sector, which should be ring-fenced to protect people's lives.
2. **URGE** SADC Member States to ensure personnel in Government planning department are capacitated to design gender specific interventions in national budgets such as the economic and social value of women's unpaid care work.
3. **APPEAL** to SADC Member States to enhance the participation and/or involvement of communities in the budget planning and execution because people in communities are a part of the broader political and social picture.
4. **URGE** Member States to formulate Budget Codes and Annual Gender Responsive Budget statements to show political commitment to gender equality.
5. Further **URGE** Member States to enhance access to information laws because difficulties in accessing information from Government departments and spending agencies, including absence of gender disaggregated data is a huge challenge in the development and implementation of Gender Responsive Budgeting. Enacting access to information laws will promote research and enable data generation and information flow throughout the budgeting process.
6. **ENCOURAGE** SADC Member States to put mechanisms in place to ensure representation of the youth in Parliament.
7. **BESEECH** national Parliaments to enact enabling legislation for young people. The starting point would be the domestication of the SADC Youth Protocol. Measures can be taken to undertake scoping study to identify the strengths and gaps in existing regional and national policies and programmes; advocate for the domestication of the SADC Youth Protocol for ease of alignment, implementation, coordination and monitoring of policies and to strengthen the oversight role of Parliaments on the youth empowerment policies implementation.
8. **IMPLORE** Members States to build a culture of inter-generational leadership, which is defined by conscious generational awareness of leaders from different generations. There is need for proactive and meaningful engagement between leaders across generations through mutual respect.
9. **URGE** SADC Member States to put in place internship and mentorship programmes and initiatives through which knowledge and skills can be transferred from the more experienced and highly regarded persons such as Members of Parliament to the young people for them to learn and



- develop as this will result in considerable hastening of personal and professional growth.
10. **URGE** SDAC National Parliaments to develop legislation that gives direction to Government departments, agencies, ministries as well as the private sector to implement policies that target young people. Legislators should ensure that they create an environment that compels institutions to ensure that young people take part in businesses, for example, to enhance their lives. **Further URGE** SADC National Parliaments to incentivise the private sector to employ more young people through tax incentives.
  11. **APPEAL** to Member States to ensure that their education systems are responsive to the issues affecting the young people by encouraging Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) education. The misconception and/or stigma about TVET education should be addressed and redressed.
  12. **URGE** Member States to ensure that trade laws within their countries encourage local production. Parliament should look at how to tilt that scale so that 15 percent of trade was with the outside world and the remaining north of 80 percent was within Africa. Parliaments must drive targeted interventions in legislative policy towards the agriculture sector to ensure that Africa make use of its natural resources to boost production.
  13. **RECOMMEND** that SADC Member States provide the requisite structural support to increase production in order to create sustainable agriculture industries that are labour intensive for the employment of the youth. Members of Parliament should take deliberate measures to advocate for appropriate policy to address youth unemployment, which will ultimately address the issue of strengthening youth participation in governance processes and other spheres.

## 7.0 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

In light of the fact that the term of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson was coming to an end during that Session, the Committee elected new office bearers to hold office for the period 2022 to 2024 as follows:

- i. Chairperson – Hon Shally Josepha Raymond, MP (Tanzania)
- ii. Vice Chairperson – Hon Paula Kooper, MP (Namibia)

The Committee paid tribute to the outgoing Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for having steered the Committee successfully during their tenure and pledged their continuing support to the incoming leadership.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the Committee reiterates that Gender Responsive Budgeting, along with legislation and other practical policy measures can address gender bias and inequality. It is, therefore, a step only towards accountability to rights of men, women and the marginalised in society but also towards greater public transparency resulting in gains across societies. Further, the Committee is of the view that actively engaging the youth in sustainable development efforts is central to achieving sustainable, inclusive and stable societies.

The Committee wishes to express its gratitude to the Secretary General and the Secretariat for the support and guidance rendered to it. The Committee is also indebted to the resource persons for their expert presentations on the theme under consideration.

**Appendix I – List of Officials**

Ms Boemo Sekgoma, Secretary General  
Ms Clare Musonda, Director – Corporate Governance  
Ms Yapoka Mungandi, Director – Finance and Corporate Services  
Mr Sheuneni Kurasha, Programme Manager – DGHR  
Ms Betty Zulu, Committee Secretary – GEWAYD  
Mrs Edna Kanguya Zgambo, Committee Secretary – TIFI  
Mrs Sharon Muteto Nyirongo, Committee Secretary – FANR  
Mr Dennis Gondwe, Committee Secretary – HSDSP  
Ms Luziela Fernandes, Committee Secretary – RWPC  
Ms Thoko Gumedze, Committee Secretary - RPMLOC  
Mr Ronald Windwaai, Webmaster  
Ms Paulina Kanguatjivi, Programmes Coordinator  
Mr Wilfried Kongolo, ICT Intern  
Ms Agnes Lilungwe, Personal Assistant to the Secretary General

**Appendix II – Observers**

Ms Yande Kalengo, Action Aid, Zambia

Ms Chama Nshindano Mwandalesa, Oxfam, Zambia

Mr Hachangu Hachangu, MEL Office, Zambia

Ms Angela Machonesa, Plan International, Zimbabwe

Ms Molline Marume, UN Women, South Africa

Mr Adolf Mavheneke, Zimbabwe, SAfAIDS, Zimbabwe

Ms Faith Shange, Groutville Youth Organisation, South Africa

Ms Marie-Nella AZEMIA, Citizens' Engagement Platform (CEP), Seychelles

Mr Johannes Chiminya, Action Aid, Mozambique

Mrs Monica Kanjimana-Hayward, Non-governmental Gender Organisations  
Coordinating Council, Zambia

Mr Banana Hatahata, Lesotho National Broadcasting Service (LNBS), Lesotho

**Appendix III – Resource Persons**

1. Mrs Engwase Mwale, Immediate Past Executive Director for the Non-governmental Gender Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC), and Executive Director for the Financial Sector Deepening;
2. Mr Leonard Dikobe, Independent Consultant;
3. The African Union (AU) Youth Ambassador for Peace for Southern Africa;
4. Dr. Adane Ghebremeskel, GIZ;
5. Mr Mishek Gondo, SAYoF Representative;
6. Hon. Patience Masua, MP - Namibia.