



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE 51<sup>ST</sup>  
PLENARY ASSEMBLY ON GENERAL SADC PF  
POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS  
TABLED ON TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022**

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report of the Executive Committee on General SADC PF Policy and Administrative Matters 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.

- 1. Preamble**
- 2. Membership of the Committee**
- 3. Hosting of the 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary Assembly**
- 4. Theme of the 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary Assembly**
- 5. Election of Office Bearers for 2022 to 2024**
- 6. Update on the Transformation of the Forum into a SADC Regional Parliament**
- 7. Co-operation with Africa CDC and G7 Global Initiative**
- 8. Continuous Dissemination of the Minimum Standards for Key Populations and Meeting Global Commitments to end HIV/AIDS**
- 9. Secondment of Staff to the Forum**

- 10. Participation in Election Observation Missions in SADC Member States**
- 11. Update on Implementation of the SRHR Project**
- 12. The Need for the Forum to Budget for a Legal Retainer**
- 13. Joining of the Union of Comoros to Complete the SADC Family**

## **1. PREAMBLE**

The Executive Committee (EXCO) of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) met virtually via the ZOOM video conferencing platform on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and again on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The EXCO now presents its Consolidated Report on Policy and Administrative Matters containing its recommendations and resolutions to the 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary Assembly for consideration, adoption and/or noting as the case may be.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee consisted of the following Members:

1. Hon. Speaker MBOSO N’Kodia Pwanga  
Christophe (President) DRC
2. Hon. Dr. Fiarovana Lovanirina Celestin (Vice-President) Madagascar
3. Hon. Darren Bergman (Treasurer) South Africa
4. Hon Speaker Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos, Angola
5. Hon. Polson Majaga, Botswana
6. Hon. Speaker Petros Mavimbela, Eswatini
7. Hon. Tsěpang Tšita-Mosena , Lesotho
8. Rt. Hon. Speaker Catherine Gotani Hara, Malawi
9. Hon. Speaker Sooroojdev Phokeer, Mauritius

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 10.Hon. Jeronimo Agostinho                      | Mozambique |
| 11.Hon. Speaker Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi        | Namibia    |
| 12.Hon. Anne Rosie Bistoquet                    | Seychelles |
| 13.Hon. Selemani Jumanne Zedi                   | Tanzania   |
| 14.Rt. Hon Speaker Nelly Mutti                  | Zambia     |
| 15.Hon. Dought Ndiweni                          | Zimbabwe   |
| 16.Hon. Regina Esparon, Seychelles (Ex-Officio) |            |
| RWPC Chairperson                                |            |

## **PROXIES**

The following Members represented their National Parliaments at some meetings of the Executive Committee as proxies for the substantive Members:

1. Hon. Ruth Adriano Mendes, Angola
2. Hon. Senator Isaac Mmemo Magagula; Eswatini

### **3.0. HOSTING OF THE 51<sup>ST</sup> PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION**

3.1.The Executive Committee invites the 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary Assembly to express its profound gratitude to the Parliament of Malawi, led by Rt. Hon. Speaker Catherine Gotani Hara, for graciously agreeing to host the first physical Plenary Assembly session since the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic as well as for the exquisite logistical arrangements put in place for the delegates. The Plenary Assembly may wish

to note that, indeed, Malawi continues to be a country of many firsts in relation to the SADC PF, specifically in relation to the following:

- (i) the idea of the creation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum itself was birthed in Malawi;
- (ii) the Transformation of the Forum into a SADC Regional Parliament was consummated in Malawi; and,
- (iii) the first physical Plenary Assembly since the outbreak of COVID-19 is befittingly being hosted by Malawi.

3.2. The Host Speaker, Rt. Hon. Catherine Gotani Hara, is further requested to convey the Plenary Assembly's gratitude to His Excellency, President Dr. Lazarus MacCarthy Chakwera, for officially opening the 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary Assembly session and to the Government and people of Malawi for the warm hospitality.

#### **4.0. THEME OF THE 51<sup>ST</sup> PLENARY ASSEMBLY**

4.1. The Executive Committee commends the office of the President and the Secretary General for proposing the theme, **“TOWARDS ENERGY EFFICIENCY, SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF SUFFICIENCY IN THE SADC REGION.”** The EXCO appreciates the relevance and timeliness of the theme in view of the growing concerns over

energy insecurity across the SADC region primarily due to the Russia-Ukraine war and the ensuing US and European Union bans on oil imports from Russia that have triggered an unprecedented rise in the price of oil and natural gas.

4.2. The EXCO invites the Plenary Assembly to note that the theme provides a strategic opportunity for the 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary Assembly to deliberate on the role and mandate of Parliaments in advancing energy efficiency and security in the region for the benefit of SADC citizens.

**4.3. The matter is presented to the Plenary Assembly for noting.**

**5.0. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2022 TO 2024**

5.1. The EXCO wishes to advise the Plenary Assembly that the RWPC and individual Standing Committees convened their statutory meetings in Johannesburg from 27<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and held elections for their respective Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons. The results of the elections are reflected in the table below:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Vice Chairperson</b>
. RWPC	Hon. Regina Esparon,	Hon. Ramarosoia Emiline Rakotobe,

	Seychelles (Female)	Madagascar (Female)
Human and Social Development and Special Programmes	Hon. Rosie Bistoquet, Seychelles (Female)	Hon. Kassim Hassan, Tanzania (Male)
Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development	Hon. Shally Joseph Raymond, Tanzania (female)	Hon. Paula Kooper, Namibia (Female)
Democratisation, Governance and Human Rights	Hon. Dought Ndiweni, Zimbabwe (Male)	Hon. Ntasalla P. Mafa, Lesotho (Female)
Trade, Industry and Investment	Hon. Tsepang Tsita-Mosena, Lesotho (Female),	Hon. Dumelang Saleshando, Botswana (Male)
Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources	Hon. Ishmael Ndaila Onani, Malawi (Male)	Hon. Hawa Subira Mwaifunga, Tanzania (Female)
Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee	Hon. Ishmael Ndaila Onani, Malawi (Male)	Hon. Shally Josepha Raymond, Tanzania (Female)

## 5.2. Decision

**The Plenary Assembly is invited to validate the results of the elections and congratulate**

**the Members on their election as Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the RWPC and Standing Committees for 2022 to 2024.**

## **6.0. UPDATE ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE FORUM INTO A SADC REGIONAL PARLIAMENT**

6.1 The EXCO invites the Plenary Assembly to note that the amendment to the SADC Treaty to establish the SADC Parliament as an institutional organ of SADC under Article 9(1), which was recommended by the SADC Meeting of Attorneys General on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022, will be presented to the 42<sup>nd</sup> SADC Summit for approval. It is also anticipated that, at the forthcoming Summit, an update will be given on the draft Protocol Establishing the SADC Parliament which is currently at drafting stage under the auspices of the SADC Secretariat. The Amendment to the SADC Treaty, as crafted, will lead to an early drafting of the Protocol, such that both legal documents may be operationalised to give birth to the SADC Parliament within the deadlines specified by the Transformation Road map.

6.2. In that regard, the EXCO approved that further lobbying initiatives be conducted by the Forum with Speakers/Presiding Officers of SADC national Parliaments in view of engaging SADC Heads of States and Government and other



stakeholders who are likely to participate in the decision-making process regarding the establishment of the regional Parliament.

6.3. The EXCO also encourages Speakers/Presiding Officers of Member Parliaments to maintain the momentum in interfacing with stakeholders at domestic level, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the President/Prime Minister to ensure that a 2/3 majority of countries is reached when the Amendment to the SADC Treaty is adopted by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Summit.

#### **6.4. Decision**

**The EXCO invites the Plenary Assembly to reaffirm the clarion call to Speakers/Presiding Officers of Member Parliaments to continue lobbying Heads of State and Ministers of Foreign Affairs to support the adoption of the amended SADC Treaty at the 42<sup>nd</sup> SADC Summit.**

#### **7.0. COOPERATION WITH AFRICA CDC AND THE G7 GLOBAL INITIATIVE**

7.1. The EXCO wishes to advise the Plenary Assembly that, following the successful collaboration between the G7 Global Initiative and the Forum in sensitising Parliamentarians on the production and transit of chemical waste and biohazards in Africa and the risks that they posed to the environment, to sustainable

development, and to other socio-economic human rights such as the right to health, the University of Colombia has invited the Forum to participate in another CDC collaborative event to take place in Namibia from the 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The event will focus on the development and adoption of a Communication and Political Framework to address the advance warning capabilities of AU Member States.

## **7.2. Decision**

**The Plenary Assembly is requested to approve the Forum's participation at the event.**

## **8.0. CONTINUOUS DISSEMINATION OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR KEY POPULATIONS AND MEETING GLOBAL COMMITMENTS TO END HIV/AIDS**

8.1. The Plenary Assembly is invited to note that dissemination of the Minimum Standards for Key Populations has commenced in earnest after the lull occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, a national dialogue with MPs was held in Kasame, Botswana, from the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 on advancing the sexual and reproductive health rights of populations left behind, and the Forum seized this opportunity to present the Minimum Standards for Key Populations to the multi-stakeholder audience. Accordingly, the EXCO approved that further dissemination sessions be conducted

with partners with regards to the Minimum Standards for Key Populations in view of ending HIV/AIDS by 2030.

## **8.2. The matter is presented to the Plenary Assembly for noting.**

## **9.0. SECONDMENT OF STAFF AT THE FORUM**

9.1. The EXCO invites the Plenary Assembly to note that the national Parliaments of Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe have submitted nominations for the secondment of staff to the Forum on a part-time basis to address the prevailing human resource gap, pursuant to the SADC PF Secondment Policy. The Plenary Assembly is, however, advised of the following challenges associated with the secondment programme:

- i It is sometimes very difficult for the seconded staff to share time with parallel parliamentary work at the national Parliament, especially during budget and other urgent sessions at domestic level. These lapses are then detrimental to Forum work;
- ii In between Committee sessions, there is a continuous need to engage stakeholders and conduct resource mobilisation. Often, seconded staff are unavailable to conduct

such activities and lack the training and insight which they would have had if they were based at the Forum headquarters. Consequently, the Forum is unable to raise funds for Projects and initiatives and relies heavily on the voluntary help of one or two officers to conduct this exercise every time it arises;

- iii During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and its related travel restrictions, secondment of officers through virtual means was generally accepted since Standing Committees were also hosted online. However, with the resumption of physical or hybrid meetings, it would be more practical to have an officer physically present at the Secretariat to be fully engaged in the the members who attend physically.

## **9.2. Decision**

**The Plenary Assembly is requested to consider that the Forum engages national Parliaments to second staff on a full-time basis to the Forum, while paying for all the necessary costs, including relocation costs, given the prevailing budgetary constraints. The matter is presented to the Plenary Assembly for consideration.**

## **10.0. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS IN SADC MEMBER STATES**

10.1. The EXCO wishes to remind the Plenary Assembly that it is imperative for the Forum to participate in upcoming election observation missions particularly in the SADC Region, to avoid losing observer status with some electoral commissions and also because elections provide a concrete platform for the Forum to apply the SADC Model Law on Elections and ensure better in-country processes for free and fair elections. In that regard, the EXCO encourages Member Parliaments to cover the expenses for the participation of their Members in the election observation missions to Lesotho and Angola in August 2022 and all subsequent election observation missions in SADC Member States.

**10.2. The matter is presented to the Plenary Assembly for noting.**

## **11.0 UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SRHR PROJECT (2019-2023)**

11.1. The EXCO invites the Plenary Assembly to note that the month of April 2022 marks the

first month of year 4 of the SRHR Project and SRHR Researchers have already been enjoined to prepare their work plans in a timely manner and submit the same to the Offices of the Clerks/Secretaries General for approval. At the regional level, one of the main achievements of the SRHR Project is the SADC Model Law on Public Finance Management which will be the first normative legislative instrument to ensure that PFM reflects commitments made at the regional level with regards to public health. It is anticipated that all regional and national activities earmarked under the Project will be completed ahead of time prior to closure of this Phase of the Project in 2023.

**11.2. The matter is presented to the Plenary Assembly for noting.**

**12.0 THE NEED FOR THE FORUM TO BUDGET FOR A LEGAL RETAINER**

12.1. The Plenary Assembly is invited to note that notwithstanding the number of legal issues that are often raised during the Forum's routine operations, there is no legal adviser competent to practise in Namibia who can give legal support and advice to the Secretariat. As a result, the Secretariat often resorts to the legal services of the Host Parliament and the Forum is indeed grateful for this special relationship and the support of the Host

Parliament in that respect. Nonetheless, with emerging issues such as creation of the Trust, transformation to a regional Parliament, and the generally expanding thematic mandate of the Forum, it is envisaged that legal services will continue to be required on a sustained basis.

## **12.2. Decision**

**To that end, the EXCO requests the Plenary Assembly to approve that the Forum budgets a yearly amount for consultancy in the form of legal services to enable the Forum to engage a lawyer practising in Namibia when there is potential for litigation against the organisation. The matter is presented to the Plenary Assembly for consideration and approval.**

## **13.0 JOINING OF THE UNION OF COMOROS TO COMPLETE THE SADC FAMILY**

**13.1** The EXCO invites the Plenary Assembly to note that the Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles, Hon. Roger Mancienne, is actively trying to secure an appointment for the High-Level Lobby Team to visit the Parliament of the Union of Comoros to entice them to join the Forum. A decision has also been made to utilize platforms such as the IPU Assemblies to engage the Parliament of the Union of Comoros. SADC PF

Members who attend such fora are thus encouraged to assist the Forum in engaging the Parliament of the Union of Comoros.

**13.2 The matter is presented to the Plenary Assembly for noting.**

**Mr. President, I beg to move.**