



**RESOLUTIONS BY THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM 51ST PLENARY
ASSEMBLY SESSION HOSTED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF MALAWI FROM
7TH TO 16TH JULY 2022**

PREAMBLE

The SADC Parliamentary Forum 51st Plenary Assembly Session was held from 7th to 16th July 2022 in Lilongwe, Malawi under the theme “*Towards Energy Efficiency, Sustainability and Self Sufficiency in the SADC Region.*”

In accordance with its constitutive mandate, the 51st Plenary Assembly Session deliberated and made resolutions on various issues of regional importance and concern which were contained in various reports tabled by respective organs, namely the Executive Committee (EXCO), Standing Committees, Regional Women’s Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC) and the Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee (RPMLOC), as well as statements delivered during the Plenary Assembly.

During the 51st Plenary Assembly Session, the Forum considered and adopted reports from its five Standing Committees which focus on SADC sectoral areas and from the Regional Women’s Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC) as well as the Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee (RPMLOC). The Standing Committees of the Forum are listed below.

- i) Democratisation, Governance and Human Rights;
- ii) Human and Social Development and Special Programmes;
- iii) Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development;
- iv) Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment; and
- v) Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Pursuant to Rule 6(3) of the SADC PF Rules of Procedure, Plenary Assembly resolutions are to be “*submitted to the SADC Secretariat and to relevant National Ministries through National Parliaments.*” This document contains the consolidated resolutions of the 51st Plenary Assembly Session for submission to the National Parliaments in line with the requirements of Rule 6(3) aforestated.

STEPS TO MONITOR PROGRESSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF FORUM RESOLUTIONS

With the establishment of the RPMLOC as a new organ of the Forum, it is kindly expected that national Parliaments will request Line Ministries for progressive updates on whether executive action reflects the content of the Forum resolutions in view of assessing in which fields should further parliamentary efforts be weighed in. In addition, it would be appreciated if the Resolutions are shared with parliamentary committees within the national Parliament in order to seek thematic alignment of intervention areas and to ensure that domestic standing committees benefit fully from the work and research conducted to arrive at regional Resolutions.

Standing Committees at national level may also wish to develop an information sharing arrangement with Line Ministries to monitor progress and report same to the Forum.

In this regard, it would be appreciated if state reports on the implementation of the Forum resolutions for the 51st Plenary Assembly be compiled by the national Parliament after collecting information from Line Ministries (either through the parliamentary committee system or otherwise) and that same be transmitted to the SADC-PF Secretariat within 3 months of this correspondence.

The State reports will then be surfaced at the appropriate time at the level of the RPMLOC in line with the Committee's mandate to monitor the domestication of Model Laws and Forum resolutions by identifying the obstructive bottlenecks and making the relevant recommendations.

The State reports will also be utilised by the SADC-PF Secretariat to consolidate the new Strategic Plan of the Forum and to strengthen areas where parliamentary involvement will be most crucial in the next 5 years, whilst the Forum projects to transform to a Regional Parliament with a deliberative and consultative mandate.

The value and substance chipped in by each and every national Parliament in the SADC-PF Membership to contribute to this information collection process are thus most appreciated.

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RESOLUTIONS ON THE SYMPOSIUM ON THE THEME: “TOWARDS ENERGY EFFICIENCY, SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF SUFFICIENCY IN THE SADC REGION”

The SADC Parliamentary Forum,

COGNISANT of the fact that the SADC region is endowed with abundant and diverse energy sources, both renewable and non-renewable, such as hydro, wind, solar, oil, gas, geothermal, nuclear, coal.

NOTING that these resources are under exploited for power generation and that maximising the potential of regional renewable resources would lead to energy sustainability, security and self-sufficiency while decarbonising the energy sector.

CONCERNED that, despite the SADC region being endowed with abundant energy resources, access to electricity remains low in Member States, notably in Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Mozambique and Madagascar.

AWARE the disproportionate impact that energy challenges have on women and children.

NOTING that Research and Development, Science and Technology are key tools for SADC Member States to exploit energy resources.

RECOGNISING that conducive legal frameworks, policies and strategies are key to unlock the energy potential in the SADC Region.

NOTING that biomass, oil, gas and coal dominate the current energy sources for SADC, hence Member States are vulnerable to external shocks and climate change.

ACKNOWLEDGING that investment in energy infrastructure is crucial for both Member States and Regional energy security, sustainability and self-sufficient, but **CONCERNED** that economic sabotage in the form of vandalism of energy infrastructure such as transformers and copper wires, has a negative effect on energy security.

KNOWING that distributed renewable energy development in the form of micro and mini grids play an important role in energy security at community level in SADC Member States.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly, therefore:

- a) **URGED** SADC Member States to ensure the participation of women and youth in energy policy formation, implementation and decision making.

- b) **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** SADC Member States to endeavour to leverage opportunities in the renewable energy space for training, skills development and job creation for the youth.
- c) **IMPLORED** SADC Member States to domesticate technology and embrace new technologies such as hydrogen and pumped storage hydropower (PSH) in order for the region to be energy secure and self-sufficient as well as to ensure energy sustainability for the region.
- d) **CALLED UPON** SADC Member States to embrace renewable energy resources for their energy production.
- e) **URGED** SADC Member States to guard against vandalism of technology infrastructure and ensure that stolen equipment from other Member States is not sold in their countries.
- f) **IMPLORED** SADC Member States to consider the use of electric cars, that is to say, e-mobility powered by renewable energy.
- g) **CALLED UPON** SADC Member States to fast-track establishment of rural electrification authorities/agencies to implement rural electrification projects effectively and efficiently.
- h) **FURTHER IMPLORED** SADC Member States to adopt and implement energy efficiency strategies to maximise existing energy production assets.

REF: SADCPF51PA-Res 002/07/2022

RESOLUTION ON THE ADOPTION OF THE SADC MODEL LAW ON PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The SADC Parliamentary Forum,

RECOGNISING that Public Financial Management (PFM) affects all aspects of any nation's life and is the fulcrum upon which the implementation of all government programmes hinges.

ACKNOWLEDGING that PFM encompasses the administration and supervision of finances of the state and is an exercise in which the Executive and parliament complement each other through checks and balances in the quest to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and value for money while keeping public expenditure within the approved budget lines.

DEEPLY CONCERNED of the fact that there is a multiplicity of legal and regulatory gaps across SADC Member States which impede sound public financial management

NOTING that the gaps include, but are not limited to, inadequate regulation and oversight of public debt whereby the Executive is able to contract limitless amounts in public debt without the approval of the legislature; lack of a cap on the value of public contracts that can be entered into by the Executive without parliamentary approval; no requirement for national budgets to be performance-based and therefore, no performance indicators are articulated, which possess a challenge for monitoring and evaluation by the legislature; limitations in the scope of the mandates of parliaments in terms of oversight of public resources, in particular, the lack of scrutiny over the financial operations of parastatals and other public bodies; lack of clear linkage between national budgets and member states' international commitments; inordinately excessive utilisation of supplementary budgets to finance expenditures which should ordinarily have been foreseen and budgeted for, implying that such expenditures escape the legislative and public scrutiny that they should be subjected to through a normal democratic process; lack of corrective action on the recommendations of relevant Parliamentary Committees

REALISING that most SADC countries have such lacunae in their public financial management systems in one form or another.

ACUTELY AWARE of the pivotal role of legislatures in holding the Executive to account in the quest to ensure quality public service delivery

FURTHER AWARE of the critical need to strengthen parliamentary oversight over the PFM systems in the respective SADC Member States

The SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly therefore:

- a) **URGED** all Member States to adopt or adapt into their domestic legislation the SADC Model Law on Public Financial Management to ensure harmonised legal frameworks and an integrated approach public financial management in the interest of enhanced public service delivery in the SADC region.
- b) **CALLED** on Member States to enact provisions that will ensure enforcement of legislation that will promote enhanced public financial management.
- c) **FURTHER CALLED UPON** Member States to review their domestic legislation which has a bearing on public financial management systems with a view to identifying areas requiring reform in order to bring the legislation in line with the aspirations of the SADC Model Law on PFM.
- d) **APPEALED** to SADC Member States to enact and adopt specific legislative provisions to bring their legislative landscape in tandem with the gold standard set in the SADC Model Law on PFM.

RESOLUTION ON THE MOTION ON STRENGTHENING THE FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME IN THE SADC REGION

The SADC Parliamentary Forum,

NOTING that transnational organised crime such as, inter alia, human trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering, poaching and smuggling of stolen goods poses a serious threat to the SADC region's social, economic development, peace, security and stability, and continues to destabilise the social and economic standing as well as peace and security in the SADC region.

ACKNOWLEDGING the various measures by SADC to address the problem of transnational organised crimes in the region.

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING international efforts to address this scourge, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

REALISING that the lack of resources, expansive geographical areas, borders and coast lines as well as ongoing conflicts in parts of the region have made the fight against transnational organised crime a painstaking task.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly, therefore:

- a) **URGED** SADC Member States to continue waging a concerted war against transnational organised crime such as human trafficking and drug trafficking
- b) **IMPLORED** SADC member States to put into action strategies aimed at countering extremism and terrorism and continue strengthening cooperation in the establishment of regional frameworks, such as the implementation of law enforcement against poaching strategy and counter terrorism strategy
- c) **CALLED UPON** SADC Member States to enhance their collaboration and partnership with existing counterpart organisations such as the African Union Mechanism for Police Corporation (AFRIPOL), International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- d) **FURTHER IMPLORED** SADC Member States to enhance regional cooperation, joint operations and exchange of information on transnational organised crimes, especially human trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering, poaching and smuggling of stolen goods.

RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON PARTICIPATION OF PARLIAMENTS TOWARDS BUILDING RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS IN THE SADC REGION THROUGH ENHANCED PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT

ACKNOWLEDGING that the majority of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and that agriculture is both a source of food security and a core economic activity across all SADC Member States.

AWARE that the agriculture sector contributes between 4 percent and 27 per cent of Gross Domestic Product among the different SADC countries, approximately 13 percent of export earnings overall and that about 70 percent of the region's population depends on agriculture for food, income, and employment.

And, therefore, **NOTING** that developing countries' spending towards agriculture is one of the most important Government instruments for promoting economic growth and alleviating poverty in rural areas.

RECOGNISING that SADC countries have committed to several continental and regional aspirations on agriculture, some of which include the Maputo Declaration, which calls for Member States to increase agricultural budget allocations to 10 per cent and pursue agricultural growth of 6 per cent in addition to setting up the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

CONCERNED that despite various efforts, progress in the agriculture sector in the SADC region remains static, partly due to lack of accountability and transparency in the use of public resources in implementing agricultural programmes.

FURTHER CONCERNED that the situation in the agriculture sector is exacerbated by imprudent utilisation of the meagre resources, resulting in ill performing agriculture sectors and threatening the food security of the region.

HIGHLIGHTING that many countries in the world face challenges related to financial mismanagement such as poor financial reporting practice, weak internal control systems, weak financial administration, unethical relationships with vendors of agriculture supplies and uncoordinated spending at the end of the budget year. This, coupled with corruption in government contracts or licenses for agricultural supplies, makes it difficult to attain resilient agriculture systems

AWARE that resilient agriculture systems are, among others, a product of optimal utilisation of public resources and the principles inherent in Public

Financial Management systems if well utilised can immensely contribute to the growth of the sector and help boost food security for the region.

REAFFIRMING that Parliaments can become a powerful tool to heighten the strength and resilience of agricultural systems through interrogating Government measures relating to agriculture in the budget and demand explanations on the fulfillment of the commitments that countries have made both at regional and global level.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly, therefore:

- a) **ENCOURAGED** SADC Member States to create an enabling environment for Parliaments to meaningfully engage in the budget process by ensuring that adequate time and resources are provided to allow Honourable Members execute their oversight role without any impediments.
- b) **CALLED** on SADC Parliaments to build the capacity of Honourable Members of Parliaments with the necessary knowledge to effectively participate in the budget process, and notably, public spending in agriculture.
- c) **IMPLORED** SADC countries to recognise the important contribution that women and youths make towards agriculture in the region and set aside a specific quota in their national budgets to ensure food security in the region.
- d) **URGED** Member States to strengthen Parliaments' oversight role in order to effectively interrogate public finance spending, with a special focus on the procurement of agricultural inputs.
- e) **ENCOURAGED** Member States to sensitise their citizens to enable them identify fraudulent public spending in the agriculture value chain.
- f) **FURTHER ENCOURAGED** Member States to provide citizens with platforms that they can utilise to report incidences of financial malpractices in the agriculture sector, noting that smallholder farmers are the most affected by illicit financial flows in the agriculture sector.

RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT ON DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILISATION AS A SUSTAINABLE WAY TO MANAGE PUBLIC DEBT IN THE SADC REGION – WHAT ROLE CAN PARLIAMENT PLAY?

The SADC Parliamentary Forum,

RECOGNISING that the financing mechanisms for public expenditure are at the core of public finance management.

AWARE that countries around the world are confronted by the dilemma of how best to mobilise financing to meet the ever-increasing public expenditure, which is critical for effective service delivery.

CONCERNED that the expansionary expenditure patterns, coupled with a constrained fiscal space, have left governments with limited options other than to increase borrowing, resulting in an increase in debt which has sometimes left these states teetering on the brink of debt unsustainability.

In 2018, government debt in SADC as a percentage of GDP was the highest for the last ten years¹. The high level of external debt in most countries due to the fast pace of debt contraction raised questions on the adequacy of the legislation that governs public debt management in SADC countries.

NOTING that the rise in public debt in the recent past has been fueled by unforeseen expenditures occasioned by external shocks such as the Covid-19 and the recent distortion in oil market prices because of the war between Russia and Ukraine, which has amplified the dire need for SADC countries to look inwards in order to be able to better withstand adverse external shocks and reduce the economic costs associated with these crises, and concomitantly veer away from the temptation to borrow.

FURTHER NOTING that the increase in unforeseen expenditures has thus necessitated that SADC countries accelerate domestic resource mobilisation measures as one of the sustainable measures of tackling the debt debacle in the Region.

ACKNOWLEDGING that efforts of galvanising domestic resource mobilisation cannot yield positive results if it is not accompanied by enhanced public sector financial management, including mitigating financial leakages and curbing illicit financial flows.

¹International Monetary Fund, Regional Economic Outlook Database, September 2019, as reported at SADC
weblink <https://www.sadc.int/about-sadc/overview/sadc-facts-figures/#GovernmentDebt>

FURTHER, ACKNOWLEDGING that the call for strengthened parliamentary involvement in debt contraction and oversight on the subsequent utilisation of resources acquired through borrowing is strong and absolutely relevant.

AGREEING that there is need to strengthen the mandate of the Public Accounts Committee or other relevant parliamentary committees in analysing audit reports and that holding the government to account for its use of public funds and resources by examining the audited accounts cannot be over emphasised.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly, therefore:

- a) **CALLED ON** Member States to actualise the convergence goal set out in Annex 2 of the SADC Protocol of Finance and Investment of maintaining a public debt-to-GDP ratio of no greater than 60 per cent.
- b) **URGED** on national Parliaments to be fully involved in debt contraction and ensure that the approved borrowing plan is consistently being followed and debt servicing is undertaken as per the loan agreements.
- c) **URGED** SADC Governments to create a favourable and conducive environment for private sector investment in order to attract more enterprise setups, and ultimately increase revenue collection from these enterprises.
- d) **IMPLORED** National Parliaments and SADC governments to demonstrate political will in curbing corruption, plug resource leakages and capital flight through establishing stronger legal frameworks that could allow for tracking, stopping and recovering of illicit financial resource flows.
- e) **STRONGLY URGED** SADC countries to stiffen penalties for tax evaders in order to address tax evasion related to under-declaration of the volumes of exports, cheating on the costs of production and transfer pricing.
- f) **CALLED** on Member countries to desist from offering generous tax breaks that undermine DRM efforts but remain focused on increasing transparency in granting tax exemptions and curbing wasteful tax incentives.
- g) **FURTHER URGED** SADC Governments must embrace the African Mining Vision and strengthen national measures to maximise tax revenues in order to maximise returns from the mining sector.
- h) **CALLED UPON** Members countries to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area to increase intra-Africa trade and benefit from technology transfer and development of regional value chains.

- i) **ENCOURAGED** SADC PF to strengthen collaboration with civil society working on the anti-corruption agenda and facilitate capacity building of Parliamentarians in combating tax evasion, money laundering and corruption, in an effort to curb revenue leakages.
- j) **RESOLVED** that the SADC PF in collaboration with the civil society should support the oversight role of national Parliaments beyond scrutinising and ratifying loan agreements signed by the government, by developing monitoring mechanism to enhance oversight on the implementation of investment projects financed by loan agreements.

SADCPF51PA-Res 006/07/2022

RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES ON THE THEME “THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES AND SYSTEMS IN ACCELERATING HEALTH FINANCING FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC) IN THE SADC REGION.”

NOTING that health financing is the function of a health system concerned with mobilisation, accumulation and allocation of money to cover the health needs of the people, individually and collectively, and that its purpose is to make funding available, as well as set the right financial incentives to providers, to ensure that all individuals have access to effective public health and personal health care.

NOTING FURTHER that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means that all people have access to the full range of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care without financial hardship.

Access to quality health services, whether preventative or curative, remains a prerequisite for a population to attain health and achieve healthy lifestyles. The implementation of appropriate health financing strategies that safeguard financial risk protection underpin sustainable health services and the attainment of UHC. It is in this context that innovative health financing strategies in Sub-Saharan Africa are needed.

DEEPLY CONCERNED that empirical evidence shows that more than eight hundred million people spend at least 10 per cent of their income on health care through out-of-pocket spending (OOPs), which pushes millions of individuals further into poverty each year.

FURTHER CONCERNED that in Sub-Saharan Africa, twenty-seven out of forty-eight countries were affected by direct out-of-pocket spending for healthcare services that was greater than 30 per cent.

REALISING the need to strengthen domestic financing to avoid out of pocket spending, and that Sub-Saharan countries ought to increase their allocated

spending on primary health care by at least 1 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) in order to meet the health targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

RECOGNISING that the unprecedented emergence of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and the occurrence of natural disasters like cyclones, has exacerbated the need to put in place programmes and systems aimed at moving towards UHC.

MINDFUL that parliamentarians play a key role in promoting health financing through their representative, legislative and oversight roles, including budget oversight and ensuring that ratified international treaties that promote health are implemented through domestication into the national laws.

Further cognisant that parliamentarians have a duty to protect or advance equity oriented public policy, promote health systems reforms and prioritise allocations to specific areas of health systems.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly, therefore:

- a) **URGED** SADC countries to design and implement efficiency improvement initiatives across all health system levels and functions in order to enhance health financing in the region;
- b) **IMPLORED** countries in the region, especially those with low GDP per capita, to explore options on potential participation of communities in financing of public health services and establish optional payment arrangements at public hospitals;
- c) **RECOMMENDED** that countries in the region should build capacity of health system actors in order to promote leadership, governance, and accountability for effective harmonisation of health financing decision-making across all levels;
- d) **RECOMMENDED** the need to facilitate revision and effective execution of resource allocation frameworks including public finance management systems across the healthcare delivery system;
- e) **ENCOURAGED** countries in the region to promote the use of evidence in health financing decision making at all levels and enhance lobbying and advocacy mechanisms for the effective implementation of the strategic or innovative health financing options;
- f) **REITERATED** the need for countries in the region to put in place mechanisms for effective donor coordination, including strengthening health sector-wide approaches and platforms for multi-donor joint funding of health sector strategic plans;

- g) **FURTHER REITERATED** the need for political commitment to fast-track economic transformation for purposes of expanding the fiscal space that the health sector urgently needs;
- h) **RECOMMENDED** to the countries in the region to fast-track direct facility financing for purposes of catalysing community resource mobilisation;
- i) **APPEALED** to countries in the region to take steps to strengthen community engagement and dialogue with policy makers on sustainable health financing options with the intention of minimising out of pocket spending which impedes accessibility to health services;
- j) **RECOMMENDED** that countries should fast track the implementation of appropriate health financing strategies that safeguard financial risk protection in order to enhance access to health services by vulnerable groups including women, adolescents and young people.

REF: SADCPF51PA-Res 007/07/2022

RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE THEME “TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN CURBING CORRUPTION AND PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE SADC REGION: ENGAGING PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HOW TO USE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT TO EXECUTE MEASURES TO FIGHT CORRUPTION.”

Resolutions on the SADC PF Diplomatic and Study Mission to the 2021 Regional and Municipal Elections of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

The 51st Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum,

NOTING the progressive electoral practices observed by its delegation during the SADC PF Diplomatic and Study Mission to the 2021 Regional and Municipal Elections of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,

ALARMED by the rise in political corruption, manifesting *inter alia*, in state capture by private interests which undermined law and policy making through illicit payments and ultimately eroded public trust in public institutions.

CONCERNED by the prevalence and cost of corruption in the SADC region which was largely linked to illicit financial flows (IFFs), weak systems of control on government hiring and procurement of services, weak government revenue collection and control systems, lack of mechanisms for whistleblower protection, money laundering, trafficking in persons (TIP), and weak asset recovery mechanisms;

AWARE of the need for enhanced inter-agency cooperation domestically and regionally in critical areas of fighting corruption such as IFFs, TIP, extradition and asset recovery;

The SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly, therefore:

- a) **URGED** SADC Member States to draw lessons from the provision in the Venezuela electoral legal framework requiring a mandatory pre-voting and immediate post-voting auditing of **at least 30% of AVMs** and elections results in order to ensure transparency in the voting process and election results.
- b) **ENCOURAGED** SADC Member States to engage Venezuela to learn more **about AVMs with VVPT** capabilities in view of harnessing the numerous advantages of using such technology in election management, including the ability to instantly verify, count and declare election results.
- c) **REAFFIRMED** the central role of Parliament in curbing corruption and promoting accountability in the SADC region at national and regional level;
- d) **REITERATED** that the rule of law and constitutionalism were central pillars in curbing corruption by among other things, ensuring separation of powers and the attendant transparency and accountability between and among the organs of state;
- e) **IMPLORED** state institutions, including Parliaments to resist capture by being transparent and accountable and setting an example of incorruptibility to society as a whole through implementing and enforcing their own codes of conduct so as to be able to withstand corruption and permit the rapid exposure of corruption.
- f) **URGED** SADC Member States to ensure the development of a robust, clear and fair legal framework to promote transparency and accountability, deter corruption, prevent undue influence of money in politics (state capture) and curb the misuse of public resources including through:
 - (i) regular and public disclosure of financial assets and business interests of Parliamentarians and public officials;
 - (ii) regulation of political financing including disclosure of sources of funding and expenditure and effective enforcement of the regulations in order to deter vote buying, and other forms of electoral fraud, ensure equity and fairness in the financial resources available to candidates and parties, promote fair competition between parties and candidates, limit overall spending on election campaigns and political activity, and

- encourage transparency and public access to information about campaign financing by setting financial reporting requirements;
- (iii) developing and implementing integrity laws, codes of ethics, regulations on conflicts of interest and asset declarations rules for Members of Parliament in a consultative manner;
 - (iv) effective enforcement and monitoring of integrity laws, codes of ethics, regulations on conflicts of interest and asset declarations rules with clear sanctions for violations with Parliament;
 - (v) enhanced inter-agency cooperation domestically and regionally critical areas such as IFFs, TIP, extradition and asset recovery;
 - (vi) training to raise awareness and build MPs' ethical skills;
 - (vii) prioritising safeguarding and protection of whistle-blowers; and
 - (viii) simplifying regulations, permits and administrative procedures.
- g) **CALLED** on SADC member States to promote and protect the independence of judiciary and media as key players in ensuring accountability and combating of corruption.
 - h) **URGED** SADC national Parliaments to make use of their law making and financial appropriation roles to enhance the mandate and independence of oversight bodies.
 - i) **ENCOURAGED** civil society and media to partner with Parliaments in curbing corruption through provision of research and evidence for effective policy and legislation making by MPs and in disseminating information to the citizens and communities.
 - j) **CALLED** on Parliaments to advocate for economic models and policies that address inequalities and vulnerabilities especially among women, young people and those in the informal and rural economies.
 - k) **URGED** Member States to maximise opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution to fight corruption, including embracing revolutionised methods of corruption detection, prevention and analysis.
 - l) **CALLED** on Parliaments to foster active citizenship and enhance people agency in governance which heightens the checks and balances and accountability necessary in curbing corruption.

RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE REGIONAL WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON THE THEME "SECURING EFFECTIVE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT THROUGH GENDER SENSITIVE NATIONAL BUDGETS."

The SADC Parliamentary Forum,

AWARE of the deficiencies which exist in public finance regimes of SADC Member States which are grappling with issues of corruption, fraud, nepotism and cronyism, all of which are rooted in the management of public finances.

COGNISANT of the fact that women's experience of the mismanagement of public funds is more acute than that of men and that they have limited avenues to respond to the deleterious effects of mismanagement of public funds.

ACKNOWLEDGING that there is a considerable gap and disconnect between budgeting and international commitments that aims to improve women's standards of living.

REITERATING the need to improve women's participation in decision-making and particularly in the budget process.

FULLY ALIVE to the need to mainstream gender at every stage of the policy process, including the budget process through implementation of gender-based budgeting

NOTING the need for reforms in Public Finance Management in the SADC Region.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly, therefore:

- a) **URGED** Member states to consider the implementation of programmes to strengthen the technical and functional capacities of the Supreme Audit Institutions, National Parliaments and civil society who work in public finance control.
- b) **FURTHER URGED** SADC parliamentarians to advocate for gender responsive policies, in order to ensure that public policies in the SADC Member States take the different needs, interests and realities that men and women have into account at all times.
- c) **ENCOURAGED** SADC Member States to implement gender responsive budgetary processes so as to address the different needs of men and women, boys and girls appropriately in the interest of enhancing equitable poverty reduction and development.

RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN ADVANCEMENT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ON 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

The 51st Plenary Assembly of the SADC parliamentary Forum,

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

Further **ACKNOWLEDGING** that Gender Responsive Budgeting is a critical aspect in Public Finance Management;

RECOGNISING that where there are budget cuts, social sectors such as health, education, social protection and agriculture, among others, suffer the most;

NOTING that Gender Responsive Budgeting is complementary to women's empowerment.

OBSERVING that there can be no better intervention than Gender Responsive Budgeting for enhancing women's empowerment.

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;

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;

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;

RECOGNISING that access to information is a fundamental human right;

ACKNOWLEDGING that unemployment is the main contributor to the worsening levels of poverty among the youth;

NOTING that there is need for youth friendly spaces to facilitate interaction between young people and policy and law makers;

ACCEPTING that the majority of the youth have challenges to elect or be elected in electoral processes due to social, economic and institutional barriers;

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;

SUPPORTING that there is need to enhance enabling legislation such as the SADC Youth Protocol for the youth in Member States;

AGREEING that there is need to build a culture of inter-generational leadership;

REALISING that there are numerous infrastructural, agricultural, economical differences that young people face;

REGRETTABLY AWARE that intra-African trade is only about 16 or 17 per cent, meaning that the continent trades more with countries outside than it does within at the expense of employment for young people;

ACCEPTING that being responsive to the issues affecting the youth is not only a moral but also political and social imperative;

The SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly, therefore:

- a) **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** 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.
- b) **URGED** 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.
- c) **APPEALED** 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.
- d) **URGED** Member States to formulate Budget Codes and Annual Gender Responsive Budget statements to show political commitment to gender equality.

- e) Further **URGED** 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.
- f) **ENCOURAGED** SADC Member States to put mechanisms in place to ensure representation of the youth in Parliament.
- g) **BESEECHED** national Parliaments to enact enabling legislation for young people. The starting point would be the domestication of the SADC Youth Protocol. Measures could 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.
- h) **IMPLORED** 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.
- i) **URGED** 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.
- j) **URGED** SADC 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. Further, 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 URGED** SADC National Member States to incentivise the private sector to employ more young people through tax incentives.
- k) **APPEALED** 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.

- l) **URGED** 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 80 percent was within Africa. Parliaments must drive targeted interventions in legislative policy towards the agriculture sector to ensure that Africa made use of its natural resources to boost production.
- m) **RECOMMENDED** 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 would ultimately address the issue of strengthening youth participation in governance processes and other spheres.

REF: SADCPF51PA-Res 010/07/2022

RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY MODEL LAWS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON THE THEME “TRACKING PROGRESS ON THE DOMESTICATION OF SADC MODEL LAWS BY MEMBER PARLIAMENTS UNDER THE THEME “IMPROVING PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN SADC: MAPPING THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS”

CONCERNED over the lack of documented evidence on the effectiveness of interventions to end gender based violence and child marriage

FURTHER CONCERNED over the lack of comprehensive data bases on gender based violence and child marriage in SADC member States and at regional level

REALISING that there was an urgent need to develop a monitoring and evaluation tool in relation to the adequacy of strategies aimed at ending child marriage and gender based violence

ALARMED that the financial constraints facing most SADC Member States, especially in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, could result in a roll back of the gains so far recorded on child marriage and gender based violence in the SADC region.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly, therefore:

- a) **URGED** SADC Member States to work with civil society organisations and law enforcement agencies that had a readily available database in place with regard to both gender-based violence and child marriage.

- b) **ENCOURAGED** SADC Member States to set up data bases of their own regarding child marriage and gender based violence so that critical data can be easily accessible and retrievable.

~The End~