



**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY, FINANCE
AND INVESTMENT OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM TO THE 52ND
PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION**

***THEME: “CONSOLIDATING DEMOCRACY BY BRINGING PARLIAMENT TO
THE PEOPLE”***

Mr President, I beg to move that this Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report of the Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI) to the 52nd Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, laid on the table on 5th December 2022

Table of Contents

1.0	COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE	1
2.0	TERMS OF REFERENCE	1
3.0	NUMBER AND DATES OF MEETINGS	1
4.0	BACKGROUND	1
5.0	SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS	2
5.1	Presentation by Mr Levi Singh Regional Policy Officer from SRHR Africa Trust	2
5.2	Summary of the Presentation by Mr Jacob Makambwe, Secretary General of the Southern Africa Cross Border Traders’ Association	3
5.2.1	<i>Regional Framework</i>	4
6.0	OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	5
7.0	CONCLUSION	7
8.0	APPENDICES	8

1.0 COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of the following Members:

1.	Hon. Ruth Mendes	Angola
2.	Hon. Dithapelo Keorapetse (Vice Chairperson)	Botswana
3.	Hon. Leon Mukendi Tumba	DRC
4.	Hon Sen. Isaac Mmemo Magagula	Eswatini
5.	<i>To be advised</i>	Lesotho
6.	Hon. Denis Namachekecha	Malawi
7.	Hon Marie Joanne Sabrina Tour	Mauritius
8.	Hon Donovan Jimmy Getrude Johnny	Madagascar
9.	Hon Carlos Moreira Vasco	Mozambique
10.	Hon. Vipuakuje Muharukua	Namibia
9.	Hon Audrey Vidot	Seychelles
10.	Hon. Ntombovuyo Veronica Mente-Nkuna	South Africa
11.	Hon Dr Alfred James Kimea	Tanzania
12.	Hon Kalalwe Mukosa	Zambia
13.	Hon Anele Ndebele	Zimbabwe

2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference of the Standing Committee on TIFI, is set out in Rule 42(b) of the SADC PF Rules of Procedure.

3.0 NUMBER AND DATES OF MEETINGS

The Committee held one virtual meeting in form of a public hearing on Saturday, 26th November to consider the topic: “Consolidating Democracy by Bringing Parliament to the People.

4.0 BACKGROUND

Since its inception, the SADC Parliamentary Forum had been working to promote inter parliamentary cooperation and diplomacy across the Southern Africa. Collaboration at parliamentary level was essential as it tended to build on the existing similarities between national interests of individual countries and regional interests of the community and diminish any dissimilarities. At the fore of the Forum’s efforts were, at all times, the citizens of the region. In this vein, the Forum endeavoured earnestly to glean what the citizens of SADC wanted, and it was this that guided the direction that the Institution’s activities took. This was in line both with the foundational principles of a democracy which hinged on the will of the people expressed through a representative body such as Parliament. In this way, the Forum ensured that its work remained relevant and synchronised to the aspirations of the people of the region.

In line with the Forum's desire to deepen participatory democracy, it was expedient for the parliamentarians of the region to have a direct interaction with SADC citizens so as to have a clearer appreciation of issues of regional interest and to discuss these at Forum level. As the Forum was in the process of transforming into a consultative and deliberative SADC Regional Parliament, there was need for deeper and more impactful interaction with citizens to bolster their confidence in the benefits of parliamentary engagement at national and regional level. The Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment, therefore, convened a public hearing to give an opportunity for direct engagement to SADC citizens or citizens' representatives in the quest to capture current and emerging issues which were topical in the prevailing socioeconomic climate.

5.0 SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

The Committee received two submissions from SRHR Africa Trust (SAT) and the Southern Africa Cross Border Traders Association (SACBTA). A summary of each of the submissions is as outlined below.

5.1 Presentation by Mr Levi Singh Regional Policy Officer from SRHR Africa Trust

The presentation centred on the importance of visas and trade and why they matter to the citizens. The presenter began his presentation by sharing an experience of a group of young people he was part of was unsuccessful in obtaining visas to facilitate travel to a SADC member state which resulted in cancellation of the mission. Mr Singh expressed concern that if SADC citizens could not travel freely within SADC region and in East Africa, then there was no hope of free trade, especially movement of medicine and other essential commodities in the continent.

He highlighted that since the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, stark inequalities became blatantly clear to the whole world as Africa was pushed to the back of the queue for COVID test kits, vaccines, and as well as for COVID medicines. The disregard of the north and the wealthiest parts of the world for African lives was terrifying and immoral.

Mr Singh recalled that during the height of the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) pandemic, African activists, aligned with civil society worldwide, struggled to get Antiretrovirals (ARVs) to keep people alive. Most African countries struggled every year with the power of the pharmaceutical industry and its death grip on the intellectual property of medicines essential to keeping Africans alive and healthy.

Mr Singh explained that the lack of manufacturing capacity mostly became newsworthy during pandemics and crises. In stressing the point, he

demonstrated that condoms were a single tool with a triple protection benefit from HIV, STIs and unwanted pregnancies, yet the gap between total available condoms and the annual demand across sub-Saharan Africa was 3 billion condoms. A feasibility study undertaken in 2016 by the SADC secretariat revealed that the total SADC male condom market was estimated at 4 billion units worth in excess of US\$105 million. He added that nine out of ten condoms available in SADC were imported, and only five countries across the continent produced their own condoms, with three being in the SADC region namely; South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia. However, these five manufacturers produced and supplied less than 10 percent of the continent's condom demand. Regrettably, only few of the locally manufactured brands of condoms met pre-qualification standards set by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organisations (WHO).

With regard to trade, the presenter reiterated that goods could not be produced in Africa if they did not have free movement for import and export across the continent. The African Continental Free Trade Agreement now theoretically created a market of 1.3 billion people, and an estimated 2.2 billion people by 2050. With such a broad market, manufacturers could theoretically be able to compete through enjoying significant economies of scale and scope. However, to get there, there was need for deliberate, bold, and thoughtful action.

Mr Singh called for aid that worked collaboratively with Africans to keep people alive but in a framework that built sustainability for the continent's long-term health by supporting local manufacturing and not aid that implodes domestic markets.

In concluding, the presenter advocated for the inclusion of young people in both the development of regional legislative frameworks as well as in the emerging new health finance hub for the region where such decisions needed to be made.

5.2 Summary of the Presentation by Mr Jacob Makambwe, Secretary General of the Southern Africa Cross Border Traders' Association

At the public hearing, the Standing Committee on TIFI received and considered a presentation from Mr Jacob Makambwe, Secretary General of the Southern Africa Cross Border Traders Association. Mr Makambwe's presentation highlighted various key issues as summarised below.

Mr Makambwe G presented that over eighty percent of women were active participants in informal cross border trade in Southern Africa. He noted that the valuable contribution of women informal traders to trade in Sub-Saharan Africa remained largely unrecognised.

He explained that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Southern Africa Trade Hub project commissioned a study on women

informal cross border traders in Southern Africa. As part of the Trade Hub's gender integration strategy and the efforts in improving trade facilitation, the study examined the constraints, challenges, and opportunities experienced by women involved in informal cross border trade.

At present, the formal trade system in Africa was extremely cumbersome as it had the world's longest customs delays, averaging over twelve days, which was more than three times the Western Europe average. Unfortunately, much of Sub-Saharan trade involved intrepid informal cross border traders (ICBTs), who were mostly women. As recognized by the Trade Hub, women comprised an estimated 70 percent of informal cross border traders in the Southern African region. Therefore, reducing constraints and challenges facing women in informal cross border trade in the region, especially at border posts, would make a contribution not only to facilitating trade but also in promoting gender equality and reducing the marginalisation of Women.¹

5.2.1 Regional Framework

The presenter further informed the meeting that several policy instruments existed at regional level that contributed to progression of informal cross border trade in the Southern African region. Some of the instruments included those outlined below.

a) Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development

The Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development provided for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination and the promotion of gender equality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects. The protocol was revised in 2016 to align its objectives to various global targets and emerging issues.

Article 17 of the Protocol, which provided for Economic Empowerment, was one of its key provisions. The Article provided that state parties should adopt policies and enact laws which ensured equal access, benefit and opportunities for women and men in trade and entrepreneurship, taking into account the contribution of women in the formal and informal sectors.

b) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020–2030

The meeting was informed that the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030 was a ten-year strategic plan which represented an ambitious attempt to lay out how SADC could best move towards SADC Vision 2050 over the next 10 years. One of the key interventions, among others, of

¹ Women Cross Border Traders in Southern Africa; Contributions, Constraints and Opportunities in Malawi and Botswana. Dr Rae Lesser Blumberg, Joyce Malaba and Lis Meyers, 2016.

strategic objective four of the Plan was to develop strategic cross-border trade instruments to facilitate increased trade by MSMEs.

The Committee noted from the submission that despite the existence of policy frameworks at regional level, cross border traders, majority of whom were women, continued to face numerous challenges which included sexual harassment, lack of adequate information on customs procedures and information on new developments, including the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement, and many other non-tariff barriers. Cross border traders also faced challenges in accessing finance to re-capitalise their business ventures, among many other challenges.

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the presentations, the Committee:

- i. **NOTED** that Small scale cross border trade, which is often characterised by more women has broad poverty, employment, food security and other development ramifications.
- ii. **FURTHER NOTED** that while efficient and functional trade programmes are necessary to address various challenges faced by informal cross border traders, they were insufficient.
- iii. **RECALLED** that the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (2016) provided for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination and the promotion of gender equality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.
- iv. **COMMENDED** SADC for extensively deliberating on matters of value addition and industry promotion at its 42nd Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government held in August, 2022 under theme “Promoting industrialisation through, agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, and regional value chains for inclusive and resilient economic growth”.

Given the foregoing, therefore, the Committee recommends that the 52nd Plenary Assembly should:

- a) **CALL UPON** SADC countries to explore joint initiatives and research with other countries of the region in order to scale up production of condoms and close up the prevailing annual deficiency of 3 billion condoms in Sub-Saharan Africa and improve access to condoms.
- b) **URGE** SADC States to build competitive and resilient pharmaceutical value chains to guarantee commodity security given the current status of most SADC countries being net importers of medical and pharmaceutical products and the risk it places on the health of the regional population;

- c) **ENCOURAGE** SADC Parliamentary Forum in collaboration with SADC Secretariat and SADC Governments to aggressively advocate for operationalisation of the proposed health finance hub in order to accelerate efforts towards sustainable regional health commodity security and universal health coverage through sustainable health financing.
- d) In light of the growing population of young people, **CALL UPON** SADC Member states to ensure that there was full and meaningful engagement of young people in all discussions pertaining to the regionalisation and domestication of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.
- e) **IMPLORE** SADC governments to put in place concrete measures as well as a mix of interventions that directly address cross border trade challenges such as infrastructure, security and cumbersome trade requirements which have direct impact on the cost of trade.
- f) **ENCOURAGE** Member States to intensify the flow and exchange of information among traders in order to eliminate unnecessary delays at border posts. Further, **urge** SADC government to enhance elimination and reporting mechanisms for non-tariff barriers at regional level.
- g) **DIRECT** the SADC PF secretariat to collaborate with the SADC Secretariat and other regional partners in sensitising citizens and Parliamentarians regarding the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (2016) and related keys issues on gender-responsive legislation, policies and programmes, SADC Vision 2050SADC and Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030.
- h) **IMPLORE** SADC PF, in collaboration with national Parliaments and the civil society, to scale up monitoring mechanisms and ensure that respective SADC governments design and implement trade policies that promote inclusive development such as gender mainstreaming.
- i) **CALL UPON** SADC Member states to aggressively build capacities in value addition and mineral beneficiation to minimise economic costs as a result of exporting unfinished products and in turn capitalise on the intrinsic benefits such as employment opportunities, development of related industries among others.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee notes that the reality in the region is that the financial sector continues to provide non-inclusive financial services and products which do not adequately support growth of small and medium enterprises and cross border traders, most of whom are women and the youth. The Committee underscores the role that small-scale cross border trade plays, especially among women and young people, in generating household income, addressing food insecurity and poverty and its impact in reducing inequality. However, the need for value addition and export of products in their finished form cannot be overemphasised.

The Committee wishes to place on record its gratitude to the resource persons and the SADC citizens for the submissions at the public hearing as well as the National Parliaments, without whose support the work of the Committee would not have been successfully executed.

8.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX I – LIST OF OFFICIALS

SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM SECRETARIAT

Ms Boemo M Sekgoma, Secretary General
Ms Yapoka Mungandi, Director – Administration, Finance and Human Resources
Ms Clare Musonda, Director – Corporate Governance
Mr Sheuneni Kurasha, Programme Manager – Democracy, Governance and Human Rights
Ms Luziela Fernandes – Committee Secretary – Regional Women’s Parliamentary Caucus
Ms Agnes Lilungwe – Personal Assistant to the Secretary General
Ms Paulina Kanguatjivi, Assistant Procedural Officer and Coordinator
Mr Toivo Mwaala, Assistant Accountant

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

Ms Veronica Ribeiro – Angola
Mompoloki Mosheti – Botswana
Jabulile Malaza– Eswatini
Ms Liva N H Raharison– Madagascar
Mr Bao T Ratahirisoa– Madagascar
Jaime Numaio – Mozambique
Maria Moombola, Namibia
Akhona Dlomo – South Africa
Edna K Zgambo, Zambia
Ifoma I Mulewa, Zambia
Betty Zulu – Zambia
Mr Cleopas Gwankara – Zimbabwe

RAPPORTEUR

Mrs Edna K Zgambo, Committee Secretary – Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment

MODERATOR AND MEDIA PRACTITIONER

Ms Bibiche Muzeke, DRC

APPENDIX II - PRESENTERS

Mr Jacob Makambwe, Secretary General – Southern African Cross Boarder Traders Association
Levi Singh, Regional Policy Officer – SRHR Africa Trust