



REPORT OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE 54TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER 2023 UNDER THE THEME: “AMPLIFYING CITIZENS’ VOICES IN REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: BRIDGING THE ENGAGEMENT GAP 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 Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources to the 54th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum laid on the table on 22nd November 2023

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1.0 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

At the time of the meeting, the Committee's Membership was as follows:

1.	Hon. Ishmael Ndaila Onani (Chairperson)	Malawi
2.	Hon. Hawa Subira Mwaifunga (Vice Chairperson)	Tanzania
3.	Hon. Domingos Mussokola	Angola
4.	Hon. Polson Majaga	Botswana
5.	Hon. Nadine Mangabu Luabeya	DRC
6.	Hon. Makatleho Motsoasele	Lesotho
7.	Hon. Lova Herizo Rajaobelina	Madagascar
8.	Hon. Marie Genevieve Stephanie Anquetil	Mauritius
9.	Hon. Carlos Manuel	Mozambique
10.	Hon. Phillipus Katamelo	Namibia
11.	Hon. Rocky Uranie	Seychelles
12.	Hon. Seiso Joel Moha	South Africa
13.	Hon Mutinta Mazoka	Zambia
14.	To be advised	Zimbabwe
15.	To be advised	Eswatini

2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

The SADC PF Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) draws its mandate from Article 15 of the Constitution of the SADC PF and Rule 42(c) of the Rules of Procedure of the SADC PF quoted as follows, "To deal with matters related to agriculture, fisheries, forestry and wildlife, water and environment, energy, transport, tourism, ICTs, meteorology, food security and natural resources."

3.0 MEETING DATE

The Standing Committee on FANR held a Virtual Public Hearing Session on Wednesday, 18th October 2023, under the theme "***Amplifying Citizens' Voices in Regional Integration in Southern Africa: Bridging the Engagement Gap by Bringing Parliament to the People.***"

4.0 BACKGROUND

The Southern Africa region continues to experience climate change-induced droughts and cyclones with severe impact on food and nutrition sufficiency. During the 2022/2023 rainfall season, many areas in the region experienced below-average precipitation. For example, Southern Angola, Northern Botswana, Northern Namibia, Southwestern Zambia, and Northeastern Madagascar, witnessed one of the driest seasons since 1981. Overall, most Member States encountered erratic rainfall patterns.

On the other hand, some Member States have experienced tropical storms and cyclones which brought heavy rains and flooding, causing extensive destruction of infrastructure, disruption of water and sanitation systems, which negatively impacted agricultural production and resulted in injuries and deaths. Simultaneously, some countries of the region have also

experienced outbreaks of African red migratory locust, which led to the destruction of thousands of hectares of grazing land and crop fields.

Southern Africa is endowed with natural resources and transitional resources (non-renewable) but the people of the region continue to live in abject poverty despite availability of these important minerals at the disposal of the Governments of the Member States. Raw minerals are being exported tax free to other parts of the world and foreign companies are reluctant to pay royalties and dividends.

In accordance with the new SADC PF policy, public hearing sessions have become a regular feature of the Standing Committees. This is a deliberate step taken to promote active engagement between Parliamentarians, as decision-makers and elected representatives, and citizens and stakeholders, on regional issues. Since the inaugural Public Hearing Session in November 2022, every second session will be dedicated to these public hearings until further notice.

In view of the above situation, the SADC Parliamentarians have a robust task to come up with strategies to enhance preparedness and responses to address the growing threat of climate change-induced droughts and flooding on food security and nutrition. In light of recent tropical cyclones, there is need for drastic measures to enhance resilience in communities in terms of infrastructure and protection of human life and livelihood through implementable strategies that can be employed to secure sustainable climate financing for adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Therefore, the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources convened to receive submissions from the citizens and deliberated on various agriculture and energy challenges facing the SADC region. The Committee therefore presents this Report to the 54th Plenary Assembly Session for deliberation and adoption.

5.0 BRIEFING BY THE SADC SECRETARIAT ON THE SECTORAL PERFORMANCE.

The Committee received two presentations which were delivered by officials from the SADC Secretariat, namely: Dr. Justify Shava, Head of SPGRC and Mr Duncan Samikwa, Senior Programme Officer- Food Security and Agriculture.

Dr. Shava highlighted the mandate of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate, in which he indicated that it has a mandate of coordinating and facilitating the development, promotion and harmonization of policies and programmes that are aimed at increasing agricultural and natural resources production and productivity, and ensuring food security and sustainable economic development, promotion of biodiversity, and the development and facilitation of harmonised and sound environmental management policies, including tourism.

The presenter informed the Members about the FANR Units, namely **Food Security and Agriculture**, which deals with Agricultural Information Management System, Crop Development Programme including Plant pests and others. Secondly, he talked about **Environment and Climate Change**, which deals with implementation of the Protocol on Environment for Sustainable Development, strategies of Biodiversity and others. Thirdly, he talked about **Natural Resources Management**, which deals with implementation of fisheries, forestry and wildlife and others. Further, he talked about **Tourism**, which deals with implementation of the Protocol on Tourism Development and others. Lastly, the speaker talked about the **SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC)**, which deals with appropriate technologies and standards.

Mr. Duncan Samikwa reflected on the ten (10) questions on thematic issues of focus that were given to the Directorate to answer. For each question, there were several answers provided which would serve as recommendations for Member States to implement. The Questions and Answers are attached as **Appendix 1**.

6.0 SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS MADE ON 18TH OCTOBER, 2023.

The Committee received nine (9) submissions on the following topics:

6.1 Addressing Food Insecurity In The SADC

The submission was made by Mutale Chambanenge whose research paper was titled: **“Effects Of A Country’s Geographical Positioning On National Food Security In The SADC Region”**. She informed the Committee that the SADC region generally struggles with food insecurity whereby in 2021, 48% of the people in the SADC region were food insecure, an increase of 5.5% from 2020. She further stated that the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic led to the decrease in international trade which is detrimental to the SADC countries that are more dependent on world trade than regional trade.

In her research, she compared African countries that are Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Transit Countries (TCs). The findings revealed that LLDCS are least dependent on cereal food imports and least equipped for irrigation while SIDS are most dependent on food imports and are most equipped for irrigation and they have the least food production variability and comparable food supply variability because they are vulnerable to floods.

The presenter encouraged both LLDCs and SIDS to intensify interventions to increase per capita food production and agricultural trade. Furthermore, she noted that these countries need to increase access to improved water sources and that there is need to intensify nutritional interventions aimed at reducing prevalence of stunting and overweight to under-five children in both LLDCs and SIDS.

6.2 The Role Of MPs In Ensuring Accountability Climate Finance

The Committee received a submission from Nciko Wa Nciko, a representative of Amnesty International, who talked about climate change challenges such as rising temperatures and poor crop production. He also highlighted that SADC Member states have failed to address climate change crises.

In the presentation, Nciko informed the Committee that the wealthy industrialized states have caused and continue to accelerate climate change due to the emissions they produce in their countries that affect the Ozone layer and result into climate change that has negative impacts not only on the lives of the people, but also food security and other socio-economic consequences. The speaker also was concerned about these countries' failure to provide climate financing to the African developing counties.

The speaker advised that SADC Member States should promote inclusivity and gender responsiveness towards climate change while at the same time implementing the Paris Agreement. He also advised Member State to secure resources for climate financing to repair damaged infrastructure and mitigate other climate change effects.

6.3 How should countries enhance their preparedness and response strategies to address the growing threat to climate change-induced droughts and flooding on food security and nutrition?

The Committee received the submission on this topic from Annie Namuuya Sikanwe who reminded the Committee that Freddy is the longest-lasting and highest producing cyclone ever recorded worldwide and it was the third-deadliest tropical cyclone recorded in the Southern Hemisphere, only behind 2019's Cyclone Idai and the 1973 Flores cyclone. She highlighted that the impacts were felt largely in Mozambique than in Madagascar and included heavy rainfalls in the southern half of the Country and widely damaged infrastructure that is estimated to cost \$655 million USD.

The presenter apprised the Committee that during the 2022/2023 farming season both droughts and floods were experienced across the southern region which included the cyclone Freddy and Idai. Therefore, the rural population and the marginalized groups have been the most affected due to the slow response rate from the governments owing to their inadequate investments for preparedness for disasters.

Annie Namuuya Sikawe further indicated that the losses and damage in the food system have led to poor nutrition in Southern African. This problem also led to issues of malnutrition and stunted growth. She indicated that according to the IMF report of 2022, most Southern African countries are ranked to have stunted growth due to poor nutrition and improper value addition. She cited an example of Malawi which has stunting stands of 37%.

In her concluding speech, she advised governments to invest in pro poor clean and renewable energy solutions and improve agricultural practices. Moreover, she talked about the importance of building early warning

systems to detect dangers in time and providing social safety nets in cases of emergencies. Annie also advised Members to advocate for the promotion of the use of local and indigenous seeds that can withstand harsh weather conditions. She finally encouraged investment in the nutrition sector by Member States.

6.4 Climate Change Position Statement

The submission was received from Mr. Edward Chidombe Msiska who indicated that Malawi is one of the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change due to its limited adaptive capacity, high dependence on ecosystem goods and services, exposure to climate risk and therefore it is prone to heavy storms, floods, heat waves, dry spells, water scarcity even mental illnesses.

In the presentation, the speaker informed the Committee that the young people and children are more vulnerable to climate crises and natural disasters while women suffer the most during climate crises. He gave statistics that during the time of Cyclone Freddy, at least 2,267,458 (1,110,639 Male, 1,156,819 Female) people were affected. In this assessment at least 56% of the affected were children and 7.2% were people living with disabilities. He continued to indicate that at most 78% of the affected population were youth, yet they are not engaged in the decision-making spaces where climate related interventions are designed as well as their issues are not recognised in the plans.

Edward cited lack of government-supported platforms for children and youth for climate change and environmental issues; lack of youth and Children engagement support on issues affecting them; limited engagement of young people in climate Program designing spaces including disaster risk management initiatives and decision-making processes; technical climate messages for rural youth and communities to fully understand issues of climate change and joint climate actions and cumbersome funding mechanisms for projects and innovations that are led by the youth.

To address the above challenges, the presenter urged SADC Member states to make deliberate efforts to engage the youth in decision making processes as well as create flexible funding mechanisms for the young people with Innovations in Climate and Green space. Secondly, Government Ministries responsible for climate change should work closely with academics to unpack climate communication messages since most terminologies are technical in nature and lastly, SADC Member States through responsible line ministries should financially and technically support platforms for children and youth tackling climate change and environmental issues.

6.5 Position Statement: Advancing Transparency and Accountability in Malawi's Energy Transition

The Committee received a submission from Rehema Patricks entitled **“Advancing Transparency and Accountability in Malawi’s Energy**

Transition". In the presentation, she mentioned that Malawi adheres to the global imperative to transition to clean and sustainable energy sources to combat climate change and promote economic development and that it is crucial to prioritize transparency and accountability in the extractive sector, including a thorough scrutiny on human rights implication arising from mining projects and management of revenue from the extractive sector.

The speaker highlighted some of the major human rights implications arising from mining projects and concerns about the management of revenue from the extractive sector in Malawi. She explained that mining operations in Malawi have led to substantial land displacement of which the scale of displacement has had severe social and economic consequences including forced relocation, loss of farmland, loss of livelihoods and access to resources. She also revealed that those citizens who have been displaced are faced with a challenge of compensation that is not commensurate with what the people have lost when they migrated. Sometimes, the payments are made in dodgy ways, thus making it difficult for people to get justice.

On the issue of environmental impact, the speaker noted that mining has led to extensive environmental degradation in Malawi, including water pollution and deforestation, affecting the right to a clean and healthy environment. She cited examples of illegal mining in Mangochi that has led to the destruction of Namizimu forest and has contaminated Unga, Lugwena and Lugola rivers, leaving both the water sources and land unusable by the community.

On the issue of tax transparency, she briefed the Committee about lack of transparency on tax and non-tax revenue derived from some companies in the extractive industries. She indicated that in 2020, Malawi's mining sector contributed only 1.7% to the country's GDP, reflecting the limited benefits derived.

At the end of the presentation, the speaker implored Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Natural Resources in Malawi to exercise its mandate to strengthen transparency and accountability and advised that there should be continuous capacity building of Members to be able to actively interrogate mining issues. The speaker urged the Government to open a Sovereign fund whereby the proceeds derived from mining sector could be utilised for the benefit of the citizens. Besides that, the Government should formulate legal frameworks that compel miners to consider environmental rehabilitation and regeneration and hold miners accountable for any damage. Further, he implored the Government to implement forced mandatory comprehensive human rights impact assessments for all mining projects involving critical minerals prior to granting mining licenses and that Member states must promote citizens consultations and engagements in decision-making on issues that affect their communities.

6.6 Climate change and human security issues in the SADC Region

The submission was received from Kgaugelo Mkumbeni who explained that Southern African is among the most susceptible regions in the world to climate change that is realized in the form of heavy rainfalls, floods, tropical cyclones and droughts that hinder the development of SADC countries. She further indicated that these weather conditions have threatened human security and food security.

She further cited the 2022 Global report on Food Crises which states that over 43 million people in the region were experiencing serious food security. The presentation further stated that women and girls are the most vulnerable people during these harsh weather conditions. The speaker also mentioned the connection between climate change in that these harsh weather conditions have resulted in various diseases that also affected health service delivery.

The presenter cited that Madagascar is currently facing its worst drought in over 40 years, and parts of Angola, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia have been severely affected by prolonged dry spells and droughts. Climate-related impacts are also disrupting critical infrastructure such as housing, schools, hospitals, and markets, and affecting hydropower generation, among others. Therefore, the impacts of climate change are not only affecting agriculture-related livelihoods but more broadly undermining development affecting critical sectors and exacerbating poverty and livelihood insecurity in the region.

She further informed the Members that climate change in the SADC region already contributes to rural-urban migration. With more crop failure associated with the recurrence of droughts, more and more people, especially subsistence farmers, abandon their land and migrate into towns and cities to seek alternative income-generating opportunities. Climate change is expected to exacerbate the environmentally induced migration patterns.

In light of the above challenges, she encouraged Member States to improve research on climate security and assessment of climate-related security risks in the region to mitigate the risks timely; to improve coordination at all levels between different participants; to have political commitment to enact legal frameworks, provide climate financing, have policies and use all available instruments to mitigate climate change consequences to the people and the environment. She further encouraged Member States to use all government structures to build consensus for climate action amidst the diverse interests in order to provide the necessary support to the affected groups and lastly Member States should integrate gender in climate programming.

6.7 What steps should SADC Member States take to maximise the sustainable exploitation of transitional minerals, ensuring economic benefits and environmental protection?

On this topic, the Committee received a submission from Prosper Chimbadzwa who highlighted the challenges of environmental degradation caused by climate change and infrastructure. He also informed the Members that raw minerals are being exported to overseas countries without being taxed and this translates into huge loss of revenue to the Member States. He insisted that there should be mitigating measures to protect the environment and minerals.

The speaker pointed out that there is lack of implementation and political will to protect the environment and the minerals. He also referred to the SADC Mining protocol of which he alleged that Governments are not willing to implement it. Chimbadzwa noted that there are steps that Member States should take to maximize the sustainable exploitation of transitional minerals and ensuring economic benefits and environmental protection.

In his concluding remarks, he urged Member States to review their Mining Policies and legislations to maximize benefits derived from the sale of their minerals; find mechanisms to track the implementation of mining polices and statutes; collaborate with one another and share experiences; strengthen institutional capacity of Members to interrogate mining policies effectively; promote transparency and accountability to ensure that mining companies pay their taxes and dividends faithfully; promote community engagement on mining issues that affect them; create a regional market where Member States can dictate prices of minerals and encourage miners to implement waste management practices.

6.8 Young people and women in Agriculture

The Committee received as submission from Michelle Makina whose presentation was on the young people and women in agriculture. She highlighted that Malawi relies on agriculture for economic growth as it contributes up to 30% of the GDP and 80% of earnings from exports. On the same note, the speaker indicated that 52% of the populations comprises women while 80% of the population comprises the youth.

However, she noted that the youth face a challenge of lack of access to agricultural resources and capacity building. As a result, the youth are facing a 15.2% of unemployment increase, food insecurity and low participation in agriculture activities. In the same way, the Government of Malawi is losing around \$100 million of revenue annually due to gender gaps.

Michelle pleaded with SADC Member States to ensure that policies that are meant to support women and youth in agriculture are being implemented with the involvement of both women and the youth. She further implored the Government to increase access to land and capital for women and youth to participate effectively in agricultural production. Therefore, the Government should facilitate capacity building for women and youth to promote active engagement in agriculture and provide climate smart agriculture services.

6.9 The Water-Energy-Food Nexus

The submission was received from Kornelia Lipenge who talked about improvement of livelihoods in SADC Member States through the adoption of Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) for productive use. The presenter gave an outline of the specific objectives of Distributed Renewable Energy Project by SADC CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY (SACREEE).

The objectives are summarized as follows:

- i. To increase access to clean and affordable Renewable Energy technologies for productive use;
- ii. To promote climate change mitigation measures in rural communities.
- iii. To create economic opportunities and empower women and youth in the selected SADC areas; and
- iv. To promote an integrated WEF nexus through RE powered and well managed DRE systems for productive use, leading to an environmentally sustainable framework.

The speaker outlined the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus activities that are carried out by SACREEE. She indicated that the project installs solar powered irrigation systems in Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia; engages in climate Smart Agriculture through Renewable Energy powered drip irrigation; installs solar powered water pumping systems in Angola, Botswana and Namibia for domestic use; they grow crops such as maize, rice and beans and supply clean water for communities. In addition, the speaker indicated that the project trains the communities and government extension officers from the 5 Member States on operations and maintenance of the Renewable Energy and Distributed Renewable Energy systems to ensure sustainability.

7.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to the submissions received during the public hearings, the Committee:

- a) **Noting** that in accordance with the new SADC PF policy, public hearing sessions have become a regular feature of the Standing Committee to promote active engagement between Parliamentarians, as decision-makers and elected representatives, and citizens and stakeholders, on regional issues,
- b) **Highly appreciative** of the insightful and thought-provoking submissions from organizations and individuals,
- c) **Recalling** the need for strategies to enhance the region's preparedness and responses to address the growing threat of droughts and flooding induced by climate change on food security and nutrition,

- d) **Cognisant** of the fact that Southern Africa is endowed with natural resources and transitional resources (non-renewable) but the people of the region continue to live in abject poverty,
- e) **Recognizing** that climate change is worsening the already critical hunger and poverty situation in the SADC region.
- f) **Noting** that there are cumbersome funding mechanisms for the projects and innovations led by the youth
- g) **Being Aware** that climate messages are too technical for typical rural youth and communities to fully understand issues of climate change and joint climate actions
- h) **Noting** the imperative need to transition to clean and sustainable energy sources to combat climate change and promote economic development
- i) **Being Convinced** that SADC Member States are losing a lot of revenue from the sale of raw minerals

NOW, THEREFORE, the Committee resolved to recommend to the 54th Plenary Assembly to:

- a) **Call upon** SADC Member States to promote inclusivity and gender responsiveness towards climate change while at the same time implementing the Paris Agreement;
- b) **Implore** SADC Member States to secure resources for climate financing to repair damaged infrastructure and mitigate other climate change effects;
- c) **Encourage** SADC Member States to invest in pro poor clean and renewable energy solutions;
- d) **Call upon** SADC Parliaments to strengthen their Parliamentary Committees on Natural Resources to adequately exercise their mandate particularly on climate change;
- e) **Encourage** Member States to open a Sovereign fund so that the proceeds derived from mining sector could be utilised for the benefit of the citizens;
- f) **Prompt** Member States to formulate legal frameworks that compel miners to consider environmental rehabilitation and regeneration and hold miners accountable for any damage;
- g) **Urge** Member States to promote citizens consultations and engagements in decision-making on issues that affect their communities;
- h) **Encourage** SADC Member States to improve research on climate security and assessment of climate- related security risks in the region to mitigate the risks timely;
- i) **Urge** SADC Parliaments show political commitment by enacting laws, policies, passing climate financing budgets, and use all available instruments to mitigate climate change consequences to the people and the environment;

- j) **Urge** SADC to create a regional market where Member States can dictate prices of their minerals;
- k) **Call on** the Member States to facilitate capacity building for women and youth to promote active engagement in agriculture; and
- l) **Further call on** the Member States to increase access to clean and affordable Renewable Energy technologies for productive use.

8.0 CONCLUSION

Climate change impacts can interact with political, social, and economic stresses to increase existing vulnerabilities which may increase the risk of instability and violent conflict. Some of the pathways in which climate change can increase the risk of instability and violent conflict include worsening livelihood conditions, increasing migration and changing mobility patterns, changing of armed groups tactics and strategic operations in response to climate-related impacts, and exploitation by local and national elites linked to natural resource governance in times of scarcity.

Women and girls are the most affected during climatic shocks. Throughout the region, the impact of climate change on women and girls is intrinsically linked to intersecting discrimination and violations of their human rights and dignity. Droughts and desertification can mean that women (and girls) must travel further each day searching for water and firewood (or other fuel), increasing their workload and exposing them to risks of violence. In view of the foregoing information, there is a clear need for SADC to step up its understanding and assessment of climate-related security risks, including coordination between different sectors, in order to mitigate and prevent them.

The Committee extends its gratitude to the Secretary General and staff of the SADC PF Secretariat for the incredible work and facilitation of the public hearings which caused the writing of this report.

Hon. Ishmael ONANI
CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Teboho HANDY
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

9.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX I – Questions and Answers on thematic issues of focus

APPENDIX 2 - List of SADC PF Officials

Ms. Boemo Mmandu Sekgoma	Secretary General
Mr. Joseph Manzi	Director of Programmes
Mr. Teboho Handy	Committee Secretary/Rapporteur
Ms. Paulina Kanguatjivi	Asst. Procedural Officer and Coordinator
Mr. Ronald Windwaai	ICT Officer
Debora Sanja	Moderator

APPENDIX III –Resource Persons from SADC Secretariat

Dr Justify Shava	Head of SPGRC
Mr Duncan Samikwa, Security and Agriculture.	Senior Programme Officer- Food