



**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN ADVANCEMENT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (GEWAYD) TO THE 54<sup>TH</sup> SADC PF PLENARY ASSEMBLY FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD VIRTUALLY ON 12<sup>TH</sup> 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 SADC Parliamentary Forum Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development laid on the table on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023.

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## 1.0 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

As at the date of the meeting, the Committee consisted of the following Members:

1.	Hon. Shally Josepha Raymond, ( <i>Chairperson</i> )	Tanzania
2.	Hon. Paula Kooper ( <i>Vice Chairperson</i> )	Namibia
3.	Hon. Teresa Neto	Angola
4.	Hon. Talita Monnakgotla	Botswana
5.	Hon. Anne-Marie Mbilambangu	DRC
6.	( <i>To be advised</i> )	Eswatini
7.	Hon. Senator Peete Peete	Lesotho
8.	Hon Marie Jeanne d’Arc MASY GOULAMALY	Madagascar
9.	Hon. Roseby Gama Gadama	Malawi
10.	Hon Marie Joanne Sabrina Tour	Mauritius
11.	Hon. Maria Marta Fernando	Mozambique
12.	Hon. Kelly Samynadin	Seychelles
13.	Hon. Nkhensani Kate Bilankulu	South Africa
14.	Hon. Princess Kasune	Zambia
15.	( <i>To be advised</i> )	Zimbabwe

## 2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development is stipulated in Rule 42(a) of the SADC PF Rules of Procedure, which are as follows:

- (i) To monitor gender and youth issues mainstreaming in the SADC Parliaments in general and SADC-PF Committees and Programmes in particular;
- (ii) To recommend development of new policies to relevant committees and sub-committees of the SADC-PF Committees and make an analysis of existing ones from gender and youth perspectives;
- (iii) To initiate tools and instruments that can assist the Standing Committee to implement its mandate properly, that is, monitoring gender and youth issues mainstreaming;
- (iv) To oversee the planning and implementation of gender equality, women advancement and youth development annual plans, give progress reports and consider the audited financial statements;
- (v) To network and collaborate with similar-minded bodies, other Parliaments, institutions and various universities in case of research and all that; and
- (vi) To make appropriate reports and recommendations to the Plenary Assembly in relation to the matters under its consideration.

## 3.0 NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD AND MEETING DATES

The Committee held its meeting on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 whose main agenda was to conduct the Public Hearing 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**

Prior to the 54<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly Session, the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development had the opportunity to directly interact with SADC citizens and the citizens' representatives in order to capture current and emerging issues which were topical. The SADC Parliamentary Forum had over the years endeavored to promote continuous engagement between Members of Parliament and citizens of the SADC region. This was because the Forum took cognisance that democracy took multiple forms with parliamentary democracy being at the core. The holding of Public Hearings is intended to enable citizens and civil society organisations to directly engage their elected representatives and raise concerns on various topics of interest. As such, the SADC Parliamentary Forum conducted its inaugural Public Hearing Session in November 2022 for all its Standing Committees including GEWAYD under the theme: "*Consolidating Democracy by Bringing Parliament to the People*" which proved to be very popular among citizens of the region as it offered them an opportunity to express their views on critical issues that are essential for addressing the daily challenges they face.

Building from the successes of the inaugural Public Hearing Session, the SADC PF organized the second Public Hearing Session for its Standing Committees under the theme: *Amplifying Citizens' Voices in Regional Integration in Southern Africa: Bridging the Engagement Gap by Bringing Parliament to the People* held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. This is in line with the SADC PF's policy decision that one of the two annual Statutory Committee Sessions should be a Public Hearing Session in order to give citizens a platform to voice their opinions on regional issues of interest and concern on a regular basis.

Against this background, the GEWAYD Committee conducted its public hearing session on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 mainly focusing on the following thematic areas, among others:

- i. domestication of the SADC Model Law on Gender-Based Violence;
- ii. how regional and continental economic policies including the AfCFTA, can be harnessed to promote women and youth's economic inclusion;
- iii. opportunities for youth development and empowerment;
- iv. strategies to increase youth political participation and representation in decision-making bodies, and what role can youth play in advocating for gender equity in politics;
- v. challenges in equitable access to quality healthcare, including SRH services;
- vi. the barriers to education and skills development for young girls and women; and

- vii. the mechanisms to ensure that national budgets are gender-responsive and the intersecting forms of discrimination and inequality faced by women and youth.

## **5. SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS**

The Committee received a total of fourteen (14) submissions as summarised below. A list of the submissions is attached to the report as **Appendix II**. During the meeting, the presentation of the submissions were preceded by a sector update by officials from the SADC Secretariat.

### **5.1 Sector update by Ms Antoinette Manana and Ms Kaeleboga Dambuzza from the SADC Secretariat**

The presentation indicated that that gender was recognised as one of the “integration and development enablers” and a “cross-sectoral intervention area” as enshrined in Article 4 and Article 5 of the SADC Treaty. The SADC Secretariat elaborated further, that the 2008 SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, revised in 2016, also commits to the integration and mainstreaming of gender issues as a development strategy, thus, placing gender firmly on the agenda of the SADC Program of Action and Community Building Initiative. The Secretariat indicated that it played a pivotal role in championing gender equality in the region, and that it supported this role through its internal politics “2008 SADC Secretariat Workplace Gender Policy”, and the revised SADC Gender Mainstreaming Sector Specific Resource Kit currently in print, amongst other measures.

### **5.2 Submission on Addressing Human Rights Economic challenges of Women in Informal Cross border trade by Amnesty International Eastern and Southern Africa regional Office**

The Committee heard that the submission was based on preliminary findings of research that Amnesty was conducting on the right to decent work and full economic participation for women in the informal economy, specifically women in informal cross border trade. It was submitted the right to decent work and full economic participation had profound implications for the lives of women in the region, which aligned with the objectives of the Committee focused on Gender Equality, Women Advancement, and Youth Development. The submitters stated that informal cross-border trade is a cornerstone of the informal economy in Southern Africa as a highly mobile region, thousands of people move across international land borders into neighbouring countries to conduct small-scale everyday trade, which, according to the African Development Bank accounts for around 30% - 40% of intra-regional trade.

However, this income often comes at a steep human cost, as women involved in informal cross-border trade face gender-specific challenges, including absence of social security vulnerability to physical violence, harassment, extortion, and other forms of violence. These women often share harrowing accounts of witnessing or experiencing armed robberies, harassment, physical violence, rape, molestation, and even abduction.

Amnesty International further contended that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents both opportunities and challenges for women engaged in informal cross-border trade. While it holds promise, its emphasis on formal trade poses challenges for informal traders, including women. Limited inclusion, lack of legal recognition, and restricted access to finance and resources are among these challenges. Compliance with specific regulations and standards can also be a daunting task for informal traders.

Policymakers and stakeholders must work collaboratively to create an enabling environment that supports and empowers these women. This includes developing tailored policies and initiatives, providing capacity-building support, facilitating access to finance and resources, and recognising the unique needs and circumstances of women engaged in informal cross-border trade.

### **5.3 Submission on what challenges exist in ensuring women and youth have equitable access to quality healthcare, including SRH services and what solutions can be explored by Lingalireni Mihowa, Oxfam South Africa**

The submission asserted that SADC region was challenged with S R HR matters especially in the area of accessing comprehensive safe abortion, low financing to services, high rates of gender-based violence and high maternal mortality rates, among others. In terms of adolescent and youth the main challenges facing SRH include situations of early pregnancy (48%), unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, STI/HIV/AIDS, inadequate nutrition, substance abuse (alcohol, drugs) and physical and sexual violence.

The Committee heard that in the region, despite making improvements in the legal and policy frameworks to ensure women empowerment and gender equality; deep rooted harmful cultural practices, high gender inequality and weak accountability systems affect access to justice and realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights. Young people's beliefs, attitudes and behavior on sexuality and reproduction were shaped by unquestioned social norms via the initiation rites. The submission indicated that the possible solutions were to harmonise the statutory and customary laws to protect women and youths and promote their rights to health. Although safe abortion services are provided for in a growing number of health facilities, there are gaps in the provision of quality, non-stigmatising services.

### **5.4 Submission on Child Trafficking & Children Right to Education- Shora Kauluka Malawi by Shora Kauluka, Executive Director of Fountain Of Hope (FOHOP)**

The Committee heard that there have been at least 750 migrant deaths in the Southern Africa region, of which 65 occurred in 2022. Due to the serious challenges of documenting migrant fatalities in the region, this is only a minimum estimate of the real number of lives lost and should be considered indicative.

The Southern Migratory Corridor is one of the most popular corridors frequently used by migrants from Eastern and Southern Africa and increasingly becoming a more dangerous route, claiming at least 700 migrants' lives since 2014.

The submitter stated that according to International Organization for Migration (IO M) Flow Monitoring data, around 1,460,587 movements were tracked from January 2021 till December 2022 in the Southern Africa region. Of these flows, the last stage of the Southern Migratory Corridor, the border region between South Africa and Zimbabwe through Beitbridge represents the highest mobility area, covering 50 per cent of the total movements tracked.

### **5.5 Submission on enhancing Youth Participation and Representation in Malawi: A Call to Action**

The Committee heard that youth constitute a significant demographic across the SADC region, thus their meaningful involvement in the socio-political landscape is vital for the development and stability of our nations. The submission shed light on the status of youth participation in Malawi, the magnitude of the problem, and provided recommendations to SADC for fostering greater youth inclusion. It was mentioned that Malawi's Youth Demography: like many countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), had a significant youth population. According to the National Statistical Office of Malawi, as of the most recent data available (2021), approximately 70% of Malawi's population was under the age of 30, with the median age being around 18 years old. This demographic fact underscored the pivotal role that youth play in the nation's development and governance. However, despite the youth's numerical strength, their participation and representation in Malawi's political processes and decision-making mechanisms remained significantly limited.

### **5.6 How can intersecting forms of discrimination and inequality faced by women and youth, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds be better recognised and addressed in policies and programmes? by Florence Mudzingwa, Disability Advocate and Founder Hope Resurrect Trust, Zimbabwe**

The Committee was informed through the submission that women living with disability faced intersectional challenges. As women living with disability they did not only face hardships due to being disabled but instead, they also faced other demeaning problems such as poverty and exclusion. The submitter highlighted that to address the situation it was cardinal to increase accessibility and inclusion of people with disability. It was indicated that the inclusion of sign language and involving people with disability would help to address some of the aspects of disability intersectionality.

### **5.7 A Call for Action Towards Climate Justice and Youth-SRHR: Case of the areas surrounding Lake Chirwa - Caroline Mkandawire**

The submission was based on a case study of the riverbank of lake Chilwa in Malawi post cyclone Freddy in March 2023. It was submitted that more than 1607 people were affected by Cyclone Freddy. Further, It was indicated that approximately 511 people died, 563 people were displaced and 533 people were missing with a good number yet to be traced. In addition, the mud slides also caused buildings to be demolished and the presenter emphasized infrastructures such as schools and health facilities.



### **5.8 Call for Youth Inclusive Approaches in line with the African Charter on Youth by Tumelo Moteuli, a Young Leader from Lesotho**

It was submitted that the world's population seemed to be increasing investment in quality wage and self-employment which fell short of the youth's goals and aspirations, leaving a growing pool of young jobseekers with an insufficient number of decent jobs. Many education systems were struggling to equip young people with the relevant skills to meet employer expectations and sustain self-employment towards solving the problems facing the youth of today.

### **5.9 Policy Frameworks for Youth in the SADC Region - Ms. Dolly Malunga from Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF)**

The Committee heard that SAYoF is a regional development Platform for youth in Southern Africa. The Forum is building leaders through the Youth Development Model which has four lenses Approach and the Ps which are: Participation, Partnerships, Primacy of Youth, Possibilities, Priorities, Policy, and Pan-Africanism. Further SAYoF is the official convener of the SADC Youth Parliament.

Young people constitute over 60% of the total population in SADC and in Africa in general. The demographic dividend must be harnessed in terms of Economic, social, cultural, political, environmental, and technological. Young people form the basis for every political economy to develop as such there is a work force, and they are the innovators. This demographic dividend must be harnessed to facilitate effective and sustainable participation of youth in decision making processes at national, regional and international level.

### **5.10 How can regional and continental economic policies, including the AfCFTA, be harnessed to promote women and youth's economic inclusion, entrepreneurship, access to financial resources and close the gender pay gap for marginalised women, young girls, and youth? – Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director, Trade Law Centre (TRALAC)**

The Committee was informed that there was lower utilisation of tariff preferences by women Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) because of not being aware of trade agreements, limited information available about the specific benefits, and custom authorities not willing to implement the terms of the agreement which is significantly prevalent with women led firms. To improve the situation there was a need to support required access to productive resources, financial inclusion, digital solutions to trade; gender-responsive trade and improving statistical information.

Further, the agreement establishing the African Continental free Trade Area (AFCFTA) is governed by the principal article 5. It has implications for trade and gender in the AFCFTA. This is driven by Member states of the African Union. The free trade Areas (FTAs) are building blocks for the AFCFTA. The agreement establishing the AFCFTA Preamble recognises the importance of

international security, democracy rights, gender equality and the rule of law, for the development of international trade and economic cooperation.

#### **5.11 Challenges faced by youth with albinism and possible solutions**

The Committee heard that persons with albinism are among the key and vulnerable populations in Zimbabwe with special needs which are far from being met. In view of the above the submissions which are categorised in social political and economic challenges and possible solutions. The submission indicated that socially there are still high levels of stigma and discrimination against youth with albinism in their diversity in Zimbabwe leading to their exclusion from a number of life changing gatherings and to those who were brave and participated end up feeling as outcasts. Some of these gatherings are family functions, church and political gatherings as well schools. To address this situation the submission proposed that there should be a concerted effort in challenging stigma and discrimination against this community in its gender, disability age and sexuality diversity as to increase community awareness and appreciation about the albinism community and albinism at large.

#### **5.12 Mechanisms for gender-responsive national budgets to address the needs and rights of women and youth - Tinotenda Chimbindi, Young Person from Zimbabwe**

The Committee was informed by the submission that national budgets must start catering for the women and the young by integrating mechanisms and initiations that are responsive to the needs of women and youth. In this regard, the submission proposed key aspects that make an effective gender responsive national budget.

#### **5.13 Youth Development Determines Continental Development by Raymond Mazhambe, Young Person**

The Committee heard that nations will only develop when Youth are involved in the national affairs that inform policy direction. It was indicated that the African Continent is the youngest with children and youth below 30 years making up 60 Percent. It was submitted that young people can make progressive investments, successfully engage in education, and be depended on to diligently undertake tasks. However, the observation is that youth were put in a worse situation because they could not find employment, there was an absence of quality jobs, they were unemployable in the current times, and they live in a system that has perpetuated social exclusion of the youth. After struggling to acquire some formal education very few can transition to formal employment due to demands for experience, lack of interest to train people as interns as well as the interest to make profit at all costs. This situation where young people are not empowered facilitates perpetuated poverty.

#### **5.14 Advancing Women and Youth Agenda: Leveraging On Economic Policies For Inclusion and Gender Equality By Miss Chelsea Marlen Mozambique**

The submission was based on the experiences of a project that was implemented in 2021 whose objective was to stop girls from having

unintended pregnancies as well as engaging in early marriages. The project addressing the situation, used the strategy of encouraging girls to stay in schools. The rationale was that when girls are educated, even the future generation benefits because the cycle of poverty is stopped.

### **5.15 Submissions by the General Public**

A submission was made by Nyashi from Zimbabwe who indicated that deaf women in Zimbabwe face challenges such as discrimination. A similar submission was made by Kundani Mutelo also from Zimbabwe who asserted that persons with disabilities were mostly not included during policy making and implementation.

## **6.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following the submissions received, the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development:

- i. **CONCERNED** that income from cross border trade often comes at a steep human cost, as women involved in informal cross-border trade face gender-specific challenges, including mobility constraints, limited access to education and formal employment, and the absence of social security and productive resources;
- ii. **NOTED** that decent work is a cornerstone of social justice and sustainable development. This is because the right to decent work is enshrined in international law as a fundamental human right. It reflects the belief that every individual should have the opportunity to engage in productive, safe, and fulfilling employment that provides fair wages and ensures dignity in the workplace;
- iii. **APPRECIATED** that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents both opportunities and challenges for women engaged in informal cross-border trade. While it holds promise, its emphasis on formal trade poses challenges for informal traders, including women. limited inclusion, lack of legal recognition, and restricted access to finance and resources are among the challenges that press them;
- iv. **NOTED WITH CONCERN** that SADC region is still challenged with SRHR matters especially in the area of accessing comprehensive safe abortion, low financing to services, high rates of gender based violence and high maternal mortality rates, among others;
- v. **RECOGNISED** that in the region, despite making improvements in the legal and policy frameworks to ensure women empowerment and gender equality; deep rooted harmful cultural practices, high gender inequality and weak accountability systems affect access to justice and realisation of SRHR;

- vi. **DEEPLY CONCERNED** that resources allocation to SRH is still a challenge which has compromised the quality SRHR services. This in turn has manifested in drug stockouts, poor infrastructure, in adequate transportation, and limited human resource among others;
- vii. **SUDDENED** that child marriages and forced marriages are catalysing the inability of women to make decisions which are mainly due to strong entrenched harmful social and cultural beliefs and practices;
- viii. **NOTED** that most countries in the region were still falling short of the 15% allocation to the health sector recommendation of the Abuja Declaration;
- ix. **ACKNOWLEDGED** the need to change informal and formal institutions that perpetuate gender inequality and subordinate position of women and girls such as patriarchy dictates, cultural norms and many other systemic behaviors among others;
- x. **RECOGNISED** the need to increase availability, accessibility, and utilisation of gender-based violence referral structures and services as well as influence Governments to domesticate the SADC Model Law on Gender Based Violence; and connect women and girls to SRHR services aimed at sensitizing women and girls about how and where to access SRHR and GBV services in their area;
- xi. **BEING CONVINCED** that Member Parliaments should pay attention to regional policies that are designed with an emphasis on understanding and addressing gender-specific challenges. For instance, recognizing the unique challenges imposed by unpaid care work, the gender pay-gap and women's reduced access to formal employment can lead to more tailored and effective interventions;
- xii. **BEING AWARE OF** the fact that the youth are put in a hard situation when they live in a system that perpetuates social exclusion of the youth;
- xiii. **ACKNOWLEDGED** that SADC region was challenged with SRHR matters especially in accessing comprehensive safe abortion, low financing to services, high rates of Gender based violence and high maternal mortality rates, among others; and
- xiv. **APPRECIATED** that in the region, despite making improvements in the legal and policy frameworks towards women empowerment and gender equality; deep rooted harmful cultural practices, high gender inequality and weak accountability systems still affected access to justice and realisation of SRHR.

The Committee now, therefore, resolved to recommend to the 54<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly to:

- i. **APPEAL** to Member States to change informal and formal institutions that perpetuate gender inequality and subordinate position of women and girls which emanant from patriarchy dictates;
- ii. **URGE** Member States to increase availability, accessibility, and utilisation of gender-based violence essential services such as referral structures for GBV and influence governments to domesticate the SADC Model Law on Gender Based Violence;
- iii. **CALL UP** on Member Parliaments to play a rightful oversight role in ensuring SADC countries fully domesticate the SADC model laws on violence against women and girls including child and forced marriages;
- iv. **ENCOURAGE** Member States to recognise and domestic regional policies that explicitly recognize the value and role of informal cross-border trade, and delineate pathways for integrating them within the broader economic framework and trade policies, ensuring that women's contributions are acknowledged and protected;
- v. **ENCOURAGE** Member States to embrace social security initiatives for the informal sector: Recognizing the vulnerabilities inherent within informal work. Hence, regional bodies, in collaboration with member states, should design tailored social security schemes for the informal sector in line with international human rights standards on the right to social security and the International Labour Organisation social security standards, in particular the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (Number 102); the Recommendation concerning National Floors of Social Protection Recommendation, 2012 (Number 202);
- vi. **ENCOURAGE** Member States to leverage on the AfCFTA, to enhance financial literacy programs tailored for the informal sector to facilitate for women in informal cross border trade to be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the financial landscape;
- vii. **APPEAL** to Member Parliaments to harmonise the statutory and customary laws that protect women and youths and promote their rights to health such as age of consent to access SRHR services; access to safe abortion services; and child marriages;
- viii. **APEAL** to regional bodies and Member States to invest in research to understand the dynamics of the informal sector, especially concerning the roles and challenges women face. Hence, data collected on informal cross border trade should be disaggregated by gender among other characteristics and regular statistical studies should be conducted. Such data can then inform the development of targeted policies and

initiatives;

- ix. **URGE** Member States to strengthen women and youth networks by promoting and supporting linkages and cooperatives for women involved in cross-border trade this will facilitate for them to collectively negotiate for better terms, access resources, and share knowledge;
- x. **CALL UPON** Member States to establish mechanisms for cooperation, coordination and data management with neighboring countries in order to prevent trafficking and ensuring that child victims of trafficking are compensated and provided with adequate resources for social and rehabilitation services for victims Further, **URGE** Member state countries to advocate for cross border collaboration and harmonisation of laws to address trafficking in Persons (TIP) within SADC;
- xi. **ENCOURAGE** Member States to work with non-state actors to identify common places where child trafficking destinations exist at both national and international level. This could also be strengthened. Further, facilitate for capacity building and training of community structures and civil society organisations (CSOs) to enhance the prevention of trafficking in persons (TIP);
- xii. **APPEAL** to Member States to escalate positive discrimination that facilitates for increase of resources going to the people with disability as well as remove physical barriers to people living with disability, such as simply providing opportunities to participate virtually; underwrites; active visual aids; and sign language. Further, to call upon both the public and corporate institutions to take deliberate actions of employing people with disability. When such actions are undertaken the must be viewed from the rights and social models' perspective not the charity model perspective;
- xiii. **APPEAL** to National Parliaments to pass laws that enhance the registration services and awareness raising to enable the tracking of young girls who may be forced into early marriages;
- xiv. **ENCOURAGE** Member States to make policies that uphold climate change resilience through improved early warning systems, promotion of risk reduction trainings as well as promoting community led disaster management systems;
- xv. **URGE** Parliaments to strengthen their oversight role on youth empowerment policies and the legislative implementation;
- xvi. **APPEAL** to National Parliaments to promote policy that positively discriminates the women or girls and youth to access vocational training. Parliaments can do this by asking oversight questions around the subject matter by asking questions such as how many students

were enrolled by gender if there is a significant disparity between the two genders;

- xvii. **URGE** Member Parliaments to legislate laws for the safety, health and education of youth and women so that cordial conversations are ignited on matters such as abortion, forced marriages and female genital mutilation among others;
- xviii. **URGE** Member Parliaments to strengthen domestic legislation and policy aligning it to SADC regional instruments to address GBV effectively;
- xix. **URGE** Member States to allocate resources specifically for GBV prevention, survival services and support programs including rehabilitation services;
- xx. **ENCOURAGE** National Parliaments to establish parliamentary committees or caucuses or task forces specifically on GBV to drive legislation action and oversight. Further, establish causes on women and youth entrepreneurship to shape policies and provide oversight on economic empowerment programmes;
- xxi. **CALL UPON** National Parliaments to advocate for budgetary allocation that prioritised women and youth economic empowerment programs to enhance economic inclusion and empowerment;
- xxii. **URGE** National Parliaments to legislate and pass policies that enhance the wellbeing of young people to access quality education and skills development so as to promote youth development and gender equality .Further **URGE** Parliaments to advocate for youth representation in Parliament structures such as committees to ensure their voices are heard;
- xxiii. **ENCOURAGE** Member States to increase youth political participation and gender equality by reforming legislation so that it eliminate barriers to youth political participation within SADC countries and promotes gender balance in parliamentary representation by implementing quota systems or affirmative measures. Further, **ENCOURAGE** SADC Parliaments to provide platforms that are focused on youth policy discussions and consultations;
- xxiv. **URGE** National Parliaments to eliminate barriers to skills development by making laws that eliminates gender-based discrimination and barriers to education. Further, **ENCOURAGE** Parliaments to allocate budgets that enhance education provisions specifically to marginalised areas. Furthermore, **ENCOURAGE** parliamentarians to support initiatives that address specific challenges such as early marriages, teenage pregnancies, and school dropout among girls. Finally, she

proposed the promotion of legislation approaches that enforce gender responsive budget within SADC Parliaments;

- xxv. **URGE** Parliaments to promote gender responsive national budgets by advocating for inclusive gender analysis and impact assessment in budget acquisition making processes as well as to create mechanisms for budget scrutiny proposals that ensure gender and youth considerations are prioritized; and
- xxvi. **URGE** Member States in the spirit of enhancing recognition of intersexual and nondiscrimination to advocate for the inclusion of marginalised groups in parliamentary structures such as committees and other key fora. Further, Member states should be **ENCOURAGED** to develop policies and programs tailored to meet the need of diverse marginalised communities. Furthermore, **APPEAL** to Parliaments to embrace and promote parliamentary debates and discussions specifically focused on international discrimination and social justice.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

The Committee is hopeful that the opportunity to interact directly with the citizens of the SADC region and general public will augment its oversight, budget function, legislation and representation on matters of youth empowerment and gender equality. Further, the parliamentary engagement will translate into practical ignite and benefit Member States on matters of Youth development and gender equality. Furthermore, the Committee is aware that there is need for more meaningful engagement with the citizens of the region, particularly now when the Forum is in the process of transforming itself into a SADC Regional Parliament.

The Committee wishes to express its gratitude to all the SADC citizens who participated in the Public Hearing Session and especially those who made submissions and interacted with the Members of the Committee on the key topical issues around gender equality and youth empowerment. To this effect, the Committee is indebted to the presenters for their submissions and testimonies on the various thematic issues of focus. The Committee would like also to thank the Secretary General and the SADC PF Secretariat for the technical support and guidance rendered to the Committee during the public hearing.

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Hon. Shally Josepha RAYMOND, MP,  
**CHAIRPERSON**

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Ms. Ifoma MULEWA  
**COMMITTEE SECRETARY**



## **8.0 APPENDICES**

### **APPENDIX 1: LIST OF OFFICIALS**

1. Ms Boemo Sekgoma, Secretary General
2. Mr Joseph Manzi, Director of Parliamentary Business and Programmes
3. Ms Ifoma Hamabele Mulewa, Committee Secretary – GEWAYD
4. Ms Paulina Kanguatjivi, Assistant Procedural Officer and Coordinator
5. Mr Ronald Windwaai, ICT Officer
- 5 Ms Agnes Lilungwe, Executive Assistant to the Secretary General

### **APPENDIX II – LIST OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED**

- i. What challenges exist in ensuring women and youth have equitable access to quality healthcare, including SRH services and what solutions can be explored by Ms Lingalireni Mihowa, Oxfam in Southern Africa;
- ii. How can regional and continental economic policies, including the AfCFTA, be harnessed to promote women and youth's economic inclusion, entrepreneurship, access to financial resources and close the gender pay gap for marginalised women, young girls, and youth by Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director, Trade Law Centre (TRALAC) ;
- iii. Addressing Human Rights Economic Challenges of Women in Informal Cross border trade by Amnesty International Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office ;
- iv. Enhancing Youth Participation and Representation in Malawi: A Call to Action by Mr Tawene Simbeye, Executive Director for Rise Together, a youth-led organization from Malawi;
- v. How can intersecting forms of discrimination and inequality faced by women and youth, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds be better recognised and addressed in policies and programmes by Ms Florence Mudzingwa, Disability Advocate and Founder Hope Resurrect Trust, Zimbabwe.;
- vi. A Call for Action Towards Climate Justice and Youth-SRHR: Case of the areas surrounding Lake Chirwa by Ms Caroline Mkandawire;
- vii. Mechanisms for gender-responsive national budgets to address the needs and rights of women and youth by Mr Tinotenda Chimbindi, Young Person from Zimbabwe Tinotenda Chimbindi, Young Person from Zimbabwe Tinotenda Chimbindi, Young Person from Zimbabwe;
- viii. How can intersecting forms of discrimination and inequality faced by women and youth, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds be better recognised and addressed in policies and programmes by Taurai Kadzviti, Epilepsy Support Foundation and The Federation of Organisations Of Disabled People.;
- ix. Youth Development Determines Continental Development by Mr Raymond Mazhambe, Young Person ; Advancing Women and Youth Agenda: Leveraging on Economic Policies for Inclusion and Gender Equality by Ms Chelsea Marlen, Gender Activist, MozambiquePolicy Frameworks for Youth in the SADC Region by Ms Dolly Malunga (SAYoF) Finance and Administration Expert, SAYoF Secretariat;

- x. Call for Youth Inclusive Approaches in line with the African Charter on Youth by Tumelo Moteuli, a Young Leader from Lesotho;
- xi. Challenges faced by youth with Albinism and possible Solutions by Mr. Bruce Nyoni Zimbabwe, Executive Director Abino Trust Zimbabwe
- xii. Child Trafficking & Children Right to Education by Shora Kauluka, Executive Director of Fountain of Hope (FOHOP); and
- xiii. What mechanisms can be put in place to ensure that national budgets are gender-responsive, addressing the specific needs and rights of women and youth in Africa counties by Francisca Makoi