



REPORT OF THE SADC PF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (FANR) TO THE 55TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY HOSTED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA FROM 1ST TO 7TH JULY 2024

THEME: “PROMOTING CLIMATE ACTION IN PARLIAMENTS TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE; ENHANCE SRHR OUTCOMES; AND GOVERN NATURAL RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY”

Mr. President, I beg to move that the 55th Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) laid on the Table on 3rd July 2024.

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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. Ishmael Ndaila Onani (Malawi) (Chairperson)
2. Hon. Hawa Subira Mwaifunga (Tanzania (Vice Chairperson)
3. Hon. Domingos Mussokola (Angola)
4. Hon. Polson Majaga (Botswana)
5. DRC (had not yet constituted committee Members after the general elections)
6. Hon. Sicelo Jele (Eswatini)
7. Hon. Makatleho Motsoasele (Lesotho)
8. Hon. Lova Herizo Rajaobelina (Madagascar)
9. Hon. Marie Genevieve Stephanie Anquetil MP (Mauritius)
10. Hon. Carlos Manuel (Mozambique)
11. Hon. Phillipus Katamelo (Namibia)
12. Hon. Rocky Uranie (Seychelles)
13. Hon. Mr Seiso Joel Mohai (South Africa)
14. Hon. Mutinta Mazoka (Zambia)
14. Hon. Chinhenza Chigwadzara (Zimbabwe)

2.0 COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

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 NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD AND MEETING DATES

The FANR Standing Committee convened its hybrid statutory meeting from the 19th to the 21st of May 2024 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting addressed a range of issues within the Committee's mandate, highlighting the SADC PF's vital role in promoting regional issues and underscoring the critical omission of climate change from its mandate despite its significant threat.

The Committee emphasised findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which underscore that escalating extreme weather and climate events have left millions vulnerable to acute food shortages and diminished water security. These impacts are particularly severe across various regions and communities in Africa, including Southern Africa. The IPCC report predicts an increase in both the frequency and severity of agricultural and ecological droughts in Southern Africa. With a projected 2°C rise in temperature, climate-induced changes in food availability and nutritional quality are expected to increase the prevalence of vector-borne diseases and nutrition-related illnesses, significantly raising the number of undernourished individuals and affecting tens to hundreds of millions in sub-Saharan Africa.

Accordingly, the Standing Committee reiterated the importance of effectively managing the region's abundant natural resources and shaping the region's agenda on the strategic use of its critical/transitional minerals. It also emphasised managing the impacts of climate change on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and bridging the gaps at their intersection, addressing food security challenges, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. These issues were discussed under the theme: *"Promoting Climate Action in Parliaments to Strengthen Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture; Enhance SRHR Outcomes; and Govern Natural Resources Effectively."*

4.0 BACKGROUND

Climate change poses an existential crisis for planet earth as we know it. In Southern Africa, the El Niño phenomenon has played a significant role in exacerbating drought conditions, a trend further compounded by the effects of climate change. The El Niño weather pattern has cast a shadow of adversity across the SADC region, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. Statistics paint a stark picture of its toll on communities in the region, with millions grappling with food insecurity, water scarcity, the displacement of populations and economic instability.

The Committee calls for integrated climate action within parliamentary agendas to mitigate severe impacts on food security, health, and natural resources. It also advocates for developing policies for the sustainable and strategic use of critical and transitional minerals, addressing the interplay between climate change and SRHR to ensure comprehensive health outcomes, and promoting agricultural practices that enhance food security and sustainability in the face of climate change.

Parliamentarians hold the requisite political capital to influence decisions that secure the best socio-economic outcomes for those they represent. Against this background the Committee heeded the call to reflect on the intersection of climate and SRHR, the imperative to ensure food security and the strengthening of agricultural outputs as well as the imperative to ensure the optimisation of natural resources in the region to ensure value addition and beneficiation for all.

5.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE CRITICAL MATTERS UNDER THE COMMITTEE'S AMBIT

The Committee considered some critical matters before moving to the training session.

5.1 Resolution for SADC Parliaments to strengthen their Parliamentary Committees on Natural Resources to adequately exercise their mandate, particularly on climate change and to ensure that the Secretariat of the SADC Parliamentary Forum ensures that climate governance including disaster preparedness is consistently addressed through its relevant Standing Committee

The Committee was informed that following the Plenary Assembly's resolutions urging National Parliaments to strengthen their Parliamentary Committees on Natural Resources to adequately exercise their mandate, particularly on climate change and to ensure that the Secretariat of the SADC Parliamentary Forum ensures that climate governance including disaster preparedness is consistently addressed through its relevant Standing Committee. In ensuring that the FANR Committee is reflective of the global goal to address the climate change emergency, it is necessary and expedient for this Committee to reflect climate action as part of its nomenclature and core priorities.

5.2 Resolution to encourage Member States to open a sovereign fund so that the proceeds delivered from mining sector could be utilised for the benefit of the citizens; Prompt SADC Member States to formulate legal frameworks that compel miners to consider environmental rehabilitation and regeneration and hold miners accountable for any damage and Urge SADC Member States to create a regional market where Member States can dictate prices of their minerals.

The Committee was updated that the Secretariat was actively engaging thought leaders on the extractive industries to ensure that the Committee is well placed to respond to the value addition and beneficiation of critical and strategic minerals in the region. To this end the Secretariat has facilitated capacity building initiatives including the Energy, Trade and Climate Dialogue organised by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Mozambique. Chairpersons of national committees in whose remit energy, trade and climate fall attended the capacity building session.

In addition, the Secretariat will facilitate another capacity building session on conservation and value addition to the region's critical minerals for a just energy transition in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF).

5.3 Resolution to encourage Member States to promote citizens consultations and engagements in decision making on issues that affect their communities

The Committee was updated that in accordance with the new SADC PF policy, public hearing sessions have become a regular feature of the Standing Committees to promote active engagement between Parliamentarians, as decision-makers and elected representatives, and citizens and stakeholders, on regional issues.

5.4 Resolution calling for SADC Member States to promote inclusivity and gender responsiveness towards climate change and to facilitate capacity building for women and youths to promote active engagement in agriculture

The Committee was briefed that in recognising the intersection of gender and climate, the Committee's objective on delivering gender-responsive climate action is entrenched in the SIDA SRHR project and the Secretariat continues to engage initiatives to ensure the entrenching of gender dimensions in the activities of the Committee on climate action.

5.5 Development of the Model Law on climate change for the SADC region

It was reported that in recognising the importance of harmonising legislative frameworks across the continent to effectively combat climate change, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) is in the process of developing a Model Law on Climate Change for Africa. The Secretariat is consulting with the PAP on how the SADC PF can contribute meaningfully to this ongoing initiative aimed at addressing climate change.

The Secretariat will continue to engage new and existing partners in raising funds for the development of a Model Law specifically for the region. The Model Law is a significant milestone and will greatly enhance the work of the SADC PF in strengthening the role of Parliaments.

6.0 SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS ON THE THEME

6.1 SESSION I: Integrating SRHR into Climate Change Policies: The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Inclusive Strategies for Vulnerable Populations by Charmaine Piccardo, Senior Programme Officer, SRHR and Gender SAfAIDS

The presentation focused on the crucial intersections between climate action and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), emphasising their relevance to food security, agriculture, and natural resources. It underscored the pivotal role parliamentarians play in promoting inclusive policies and interventions for vulnerable populations.

The presentation highlighted that the climate crisis disproportionately affects those least responsible for it, exacerbating existing injustices and leaving marginalised populations with fewer resources for adaptation and recovery. Poor SRHR outcomes from climate change are more severe for socially, economically, culturally, politically, and institutionally marginalised groups. Rising global temperatures and natural disasters such as floods and droughts pose significant threats to the health and rights of women and girls, with factors like gender, age, wealth, and race influencing vulnerability. Climate disasters exacerbate inequitable access to services and commodities, increasing risks such as gender-based violence, early pregnancies, and compromised maternal health.

Investment in SRHR is crucial for climate action, ensuring resilient health systems that can deliver SRH services during climate disasters. Climate change drives biodiversity loss, increasing zoonotic diseases and affecting ecosystems.

The presentation stressed that Parliamentarians must develop and enact inclusive policies addressing the needs of marginalised groups, ensuring climate action and SRHR policies are holistic. Parliamentarians can pass laws that protect the rights of vulnerable populations, promoting gender equality and safeguarding against discrimination and violence. Raising awareness on the integration of SRHR and climate action is essential and Parliamentarians must enhance their engagement with communities to understand their specific needs and facilitating dialogues for inclusive local, national, and regional strategies.

Furthermore, Parliamentarians can ensure that sufficient resources are allocated for interventions addressing both climate action and SRHR, prioritising health services, education, and climate resilience programmes. Parliamentarians play a role in monitoring policy implementation to ensure effective reach and benefit to vulnerable populations, overseeing government agencies' commitments and ensuring transparency in resource exploitation, usage and outcomes.

The meeting recommended the importance of mainstreaming SRHR and gender into climate policies. This involves integrating SRHR considerations into national climate action plans, adaptation, and mitigation strategies. Additionally, it advocated for the promotion of laws that combine environmental sustainability, SRHR, and food security, highlighting their interconnectedness. Developing and implementing gender-responsive climate policies that address the specific needs of women, girls, and marginalised communities was also deemed essential.

Collaboration with civil society groups and academics for expertise, resources, and networks was identified as crucial. Engaging in regional and global forums to share best practices and promote integrated approaches to climate action and SRHR was seen as vital. Establishing robust systems to monitor and evaluate integrated climate and SRHR policies is necessary to ensure transparency and accountability. The meeting emphasised the commitment to catalyse evidence-driven actions and progress towards integrating SRHR and climate action, which will inform policy adjustments.

6.2 SESSION II: Establishing Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Southern Africa. The role of a regional parliamentary network by Nargis Bozorova, FAO Legal Expert and Lewis Hove, Resilience Team Leader for FAO Southern Africa

The presentation underscored the FAO's global engagement with parliamentarians, highlighting collaboration with over 60 parliamentary networks at various levels, covering all regions. More than 100 laws related

to food security, nutrition, and agriculture have been developed and adopted through these collaborations.

Key global outcomes include the organisation of two Global Parliamentary Summits against Hunger and Malnutrition in 2018 and 2023, along with seven Virtual Parliamentary Dialogues in 2021. Additionally, the first-ever Global Parliamentary Pact against Hunger and Malnutrition was established in 2023. Consistent parliamentary engagement in policy dialogues and advocacy events was noted, alongside the creation of tailored knowledge products for parliamentarians, such as handbooks, legal briefs, and e-learning.

The presentation further highlighted the pivotal role of Parliamentary Alliances in Food Systems and Nutrition. Parliamentarians and their alliances at sub-national, national, and regional levels are crucial in promoting policy adoption, establishing appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks, raising awareness, fostering dialogue among stakeholders, and allocating resources for policy and programme implementation to achieve healthy diets through sustainable food systems.

For parliamentarians to improve food and nutrition systems, several actions were emphasised. In their oversight role, parliamentarians are encouraged to establish clear processes and mechanisms in legislation to monitor and enforce the implementation of laws. They should also monitor and evaluate the short- and long-term effects of these laws. Relevant parliamentary standing committees should be used to organise transparent hearings with line ministries, enshrine a nutrition agenda in political party manifestos, hold decision-makers accountable, and establish mechanisms to coordinate engagement with relevant stakeholders.

In their representative capacity, parliamentarians should solicit disaggregated evidence, data, and analysis. Raising awareness of nutrition and the need for actions is essential, as is organising evidence-based debates. Parliamentarians should advocate for prioritising the nutrition and food-systems agenda and build alliances to support these efforts.

In terms of law making, parliamentarians should take stock of existing bills on food and nutrition security, conduct consultations to identify legislative gaps and prioritise legislative needs, and advocate for a national nutrition plan and a framework law for nutrition. They should analyse relevant sectoral laws and policies through a nutrition lens and facilitate cross-regional exchanges of lessons and experiences in legislating for improved food and nutrition security.

When it comes to budget making, parliamentarians should track and analyse budgets for nutrition-relevant actions. They should negotiate and approve budgets for policies and programmes to improve nutrition and strengthen food systems, and request and review spending information from government sectors and other stakeholder groups.

The presentation also stressed the need to establish Parliamentary Alliances on Food Security and Nutrition, drawing from examples such as the Pan African Parliamentary Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition, the Eastern African Parliamentary Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition, the Network of Central African Parliamentary Alliances on Food and Nutrition Security, and the Network of ECOWAS Parliamentarians on Gender Equality and Investments in Agriculture and Food Security. The meeting highlighted the necessity for the SADC region to establish a similar alliance.

6.3 SESSION III: Investing in agroecology to mitigate climate-induced disasters by Dr. Stephen Greenberg, consultant and Responded to by Esther Sharara, ActionAid International and Dr. Cliff Dlamini, CCARDESA

The presentation provided an in-depth look at the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition's 13 agroecology principles and the Agroecology Financing Analysis Toolkit (AFAT). It emphasised the relevance of agroecology to national and regional priorities, including country assessments of support and investment for agroecology, and offered recommendations on financing for agroecology.

The HLPE identified these principles to guide sustainable agricultural practices and policies. These principles promote food security, biodiversity, and resilience, ensuring that agriculture is environmentally sound and socially just. They offer a holistic framework for transitioning towards more sustainable and equitable agricultural systems, addressing the complex interconnections between agriculture, society, and the environment.

The relevance of agroecology to country and regional priorities includes climate resilience, biodiversity as reflected in Global Biodiversity Frameworks (GBF) and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), food security, gender equity, and equitable and inclusive food systems transitions.

The meeting highlighted and recommended strengthening national agroecology strategies framed around the HLPE principles. This includes ensuring policy hierarchies, balanced investments between inputs and public goods, diversifying Farm Input Subsidy Programmes (FISPs) to support farmer-based ecological input production and distribution and developing a regional agroecology support strategy.

The respondents underscored the pervasive gender disparities and inequalities that hinder economic development in the region, exacerbated by the climate crisis. Issues such as child marriages, girls dropping out of school, and denied education rights reduce employment prospects and economic opportunities. For women-headed households in poverty, extreme weather events like droughts, floods, and tropical cyclones result in poor harvests and food insecurity, creating disasters for these households. Women, who provide about 70% of the agricultural labour force and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, are particularly affected. For instance,

post-Tropical Cyclone Freddy in 2023, women in Malawi who owned most micro-enterprises suffered significant income losses due to disruption of sales. The climate crisis disproportionately impacts those living in poverty, particularly women, girls, and other socially marginalised groups, which is unjust.

Moving forward, the meeting advocated for agroecology policies in the region. Policies that support agroecology adoption, matched with budgetary support, as crucial. Although agroecology is being adopted in some parts of the region, it is not at a sufficient pace. Regional and national agroecology policies could assist in achieving this. Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique who practised agroecology during the 2023/24 farming season reported better crop resilience against drought compared to those using conventional farming methods. Accelerating the adoption of agroecology policies is essential for integrating agroecology into agricultural programmes. Policies must be matched with budgetary allocations to be effective. For example, an analysis of the Zimbabwe national agriculture budget (2022/23) by the Partnership for Social Accountability Alliance, using the AFAT, revealed that despite a progressive national agricultural policy framework, the budget fell short in funding agroecology. Zimbabwe is on the right policy track, but funding must align with these policies.

Recommendations included SADC member states investing in agroecology to mitigate the effects of climate-induced disasters like the current El Niño-induced drought. Agroecology uses locally available resources, reducing dependency on external inputs like synthetic fertilisers and chemical pesticides. Additionally, SADC should recognise the gendered impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security, ensuring efforts to mitigate climate-induced disasters are gender-sensitive, placing women and vulnerable groups at the centre. Empowering women through training and access to gender-responsive extension services should be a top priority. Parliamentarians were urged to push for the wide adoption of agroecology across the region through enabling policies. In times of disasters, when Gender-Based Violence increases, protection mechanisms should be scaled up. The meeting also stressed the need for cross-learning among countries in the region. Zimbabwe's experience with adopting an agroecology policy serves as a valuable learning opportunity. Parliamentarians should advocate for and support cross-learning among member countries and parliamentarians on the positive impacts of such policies on agriculture and food security.

6.4 SESSION IV: Reflections on SADC Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) 2017-2022, and recommendations for the next RAIP 2025-2030 by Dr Martin Muchero, consultant and responded to by Irene Liborious Ngao, Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF)

The presentation provided reflections on the SADC Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP 2017-2022) and offered recommendations for the

next RAIP. The objectives of the RAIP are to facilitate enhanced sustainable agricultural production, productivity, and competitiveness; improve regional and international trade and market access for agricultural products; enhance private and public sector engagement and investment in agricultural value chains; reduce social and economic vulnerability in the context of food and nutrition security and changing economic and climatic environments; promote sustainable development and management of the environment; and support the conservation of wildlife and transboundary natural resources. Additionally, the RAIP aims to improve legal frameworks, effective stakeholder networks, dialogue forums, and collaboration in sectoral programme implementation.

The presentation highlighted several regional achievements. The SADC RVAA System Vulnerability Assessments and Analysis Guidelines have been operational since their approval in 2020, assisting Member States in urban assessments during the COVID-19 pandemic. The annual Regional Synthesis Reports on Vulnerability to Food Insecurity provide an overview of vulnerability across the region. The Regional Crop Development Program has developed a regional fertiliser programme, including a harmonised framework awaiting ministerial approval, aimed at developing fertiliser production capacity within the region. The Regional Livestock Development Program, in collaboration with the African Union Inter Bureau for Animal Resources, has developed common livestock sector compliance standards for Member States. Relevant regional strategies for controlling transboundary animal diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza, and rabies, have also been developed. The Regional Fisheries Program has seen the approval of a regional marine pollution action plan and the development of a regional blue economy strategy. The domestication and implementation of the Protocol on Fisheries in Member States was also reported as a key achievement.

Under the Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, Member States have aligned with the FNSS. The FANR Directorate received €9 million from the EU towards the 'Support Towards Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy Programme' (STOSAR), resulting in the development of a fully functional Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) Platform with FAO support. Other key achievements include the development and approval of a Circular Economy Strategy, the promotion of research information and technologies for increased production, productivity and competitiveness through CCARDESA, and the launch of the AIMS Strategy in September 2022.

Insights into national level achievements under the RAIP, based on an analysis of five countries (Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), revealed varying degrees of alignment with the RAIP. Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe showed indirect and low levels of alignment and domestication of the RAIP through their national agricultural investment plans, while Malawi's investment plan was directly aligned with the SADC RAIP.

For the next RAIP (2024-2030), principles include focusing on impactful implementation of strategies rather than policy development, prioritising projects identified in the RISDP 2020-2030, considering Post-Malabo Declaration and CAADP Commitments, continuing previously planned but incomplete activities, addressing emerging critical interventions, securing funding for implementation, and promoting partnerships and close collaborations in RAIP programme implementation.

The meeting recommended several actions for the development of the next RAIP. SADC Member States should review their agricultural policies to fully align with the RAIP. The development of second or third generation NAIPs should be directly aligned with the RAIP 2024-2030. The SADC Agricultural Development Fund should be operationalised to support these actions through its seven facilities. Agroecological approaches should be promoted in all RAIP programmes and projects, broadening the scope to include the full seed and food systems. Partnerships and effective collaboration in the implementation of RAIP 2024-2030 should be promoted. Effective resourcing of RAIP 2024-2030 implementation should be supported. Joint Sector Reviews should be introduced and effectively implemented to monitor RAIP implementation. Additionally, a rural development and transformation programme should be developed and implemented, addressing infrastructure development for effective market access for farmers.

During the session, the respondent urged Members of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and all parliamentarians in the region to actively participate in the evaluation of the current RAIP (2017-2022) and the development of the new RAIP. The respondent emphasised the importance of SADC Member States financing the RAIP 2025-2030 through the Regional Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) and called on SADC parliamentarians to advocate for the operationalisation of the ADF at the national level to ensure the smooth implementation of the RAIP in Member States. Despite the endorsement of the ADF by Heads of State in Manzini in 2016, which required each member to contribute USD 120 million over three years (totalling USD 360 million), no contributions have been made to date.

The respondent also urged SADC PF Members to persuade their respective Member States to align their National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) with the RAIP and the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Additionally, they called on the SADC Secretariat to establish a robust reporting mechanism for the RAIP, with biennial reports to be discussed during the Joint Agriculture Sector Review at both regional and Member State levels.

6.5 SESSION V: A critical review of SADC member states' performance on the CAADP biennial review by Panduleni Elago, CAADP Advisor, African Union Commission and Responded to Chikondi Chabvuta, CARE Southern Africa/ SADC CAADP NSA Group

This session examined the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Africa's policy framework for agriculture and agriculture-led development since 2003. The programme aims to reduce poverty and increase food security and nutrition across the continent. Emphasis was placed on the significance of the seven CAADP Malabo commitments, with specific focus on the thematic areas of performance. It was noted that for a country to be on track towards achieving its Malabo goals by 2025, its Biennial Review (BR) score needed to reach or surpass 9.29. The presentation highlighted that no Southern Africa/SADC country was on track in the 4th Biennial Review, and this was also the case continentally. However, some countries performed better than the general trend within the SADC region.

These changes reflect challenges in data availability and highlight the need for governments to increase investments in agricultural development. The presentation stressed the need to increase public expenditure on agriculture, research, and irrigation, as well as to enhance farmers' access to agricultural inputs and technologies. There is a call for increased investment in resilience building and post-harvest storage technology to limit post-harvest loss. Strengthening agricultural data collection and management systems is crucial to ensure that all Malabo Declaration goals and targets are reported accurately. Trade facilitation and openness are also important if SADC's performance is to improve under the trade commitment.

These results should be interpreted in the context of the numerous crises and disasters that SADC has faced, including El Nino, droughts, floods, the Russia-Ukraine crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic. All these have had short-term and long-term impacts on the agricultural sector, creating an urgent need to build robust food systems at both country and regional levels. Leveraging resources for the sector requires strong political leadership and commitment.

There is a need to develop strong monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and data systems to improve data quality and provide a solid evidence base to guide agriculture-based economic transformation. Each country should develop or strengthen data clusters and joint sector review systems, using these platforms to ensure that Biennial Review results are utilised effectively.

The meeting recommended that the SADC region should invest in programmes that support regional reporting and M&E systems, trade facilitation, gene banks, development and finance institutions, early warning systems, anticipatory actions to hedge against major regional risks, and transboundary water management and cooperation.

The respondent stressed that Parliaments in the SADC region should prioritise strengthening political leadership and commitment at all levels, including engagement from national governments, regional bodies, and parliamentarians. Strong leadership is crucial for driving implementation, ensuring mutual accountability, and securing necessary financing to achieve CAADP aspirations. The respondent further highlighted the significance of building a resilient food system in Southern Africa, which involves investing in agroecology, disaster risk reduction, and adaptive practices to ensure food security.

The respondent further noted that there is equally a need to strengthen financial and human resource capacities at the SADC level, with a focus on bolstering these capacities within Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for effective CAADP implementation. Improving data quality and integration is necessary, with SADC Member States and the African Union enhancing data accuracy and incorporating the BR process into national statistical systems for informed decision-making. Alignment between the Biennial Review (BR), National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs), and Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs) should be encouraged to maximise impact and avoid duplication. Increasing investment in agriculture is vital, with SADC countries prioritising larger budget allocations to agriculture, attracting private investment, and promoting public-private partnerships. Improving trade facilitation and openness is also essential for enhancing SADC's performance under the trade commitment. Continual assessment of BR scores and tracking progress is necessary, as no single SADC country was on track during the 4th Biennial Review. Regular monitoring and adjustments are needed to achieve the Malabo goals by 2025.

6.6 SESSION VI: Energy Transition, Critical Minerals and Accountability in Southern Africa: on Energy Transition in the SADC Region; Critical Minerals in the SADC Region; Accountability in energy transition and mining of critical minerals; and on Resilient Power Systems in the Polycrisis Era by Dr Nqobile Xaba- Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection; Dr Nelson Chipangamate - Wits Mining Institute; Mr Ian Mwiinga - EITI; Sara Ahmed, Managing Director and V20 Finance Advisor, CVF - V20 Secretariat

The session featured four presentations on the importance of energy transition, critical minerals, and ensuring accountability in the region. The first presentation discussed the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, the status and opportunities for renewable energy in the SADC region, and the policies and regulations promoting renewable energy. The transition to a lower-carbon economy is underway, highlighting the need for a just energy transition to improve quality of life, create decent work, ensure social inclusion, eradicate poverty, and build economic and ecological resilience. The presentation also emphasised the need for scaling up finance for developing countries and electricity market integration in the SADC region.

The second presentation focused on the current interest in critical minerals, their definition and distribution in the SADC region, their global importance, and the strategic agenda for the region. Key points included the need for collaboration to develop a comprehensive Critical Minerals List, forming an OPEC-style Green Energy Mineral Exporting Countries (GEMEC) initiative to mitigate geopolitical risks, increasing participation in the critical minerals value chain, and investing in research, development, and talent to create homegrown technological solutions. Active participation in value addition and beneficiation is important for SADC region countries to mitigate unequal terms of trade resulting from exporting raw materials, while creating the much-needed jobs for the young population. The presentation also stressed the importance of policies fostering sustainability and protecting vulnerable communities.

The third presentation addressed factors for mineral valuation, such as financing, permitting, geology, metallurgy, and country-specific risks. It highlighted areas prone to corruption risk, such as license allocation, contracts, beneficial ownership, state-owned enterprises, first trades, payment flows, and subnational payments. The presentation suggested measures to guard against these risks, including adhering to EITI requirements for transparency and accountability.

The final presentation discussed the need for resilient power systems in the context of multiple crises and the diminishing role of LNG in the energy transition. It critiqued carbon capture and storage technology as unproven and financially unviable. The presentation stressed that fossil fuel subsidies are a significant financial obstacle to energy transition. It advocated for a just energy transition with flexible, modular renewable energy systems that offer price stability, cost-competitiveness, and job opportunities. The presentation concluded by highlighting the Climate Prosperity Plan, supported by a green industrial policy, to unlock financing for a just energy transition.

6.7 Session VII: Phasing Down Oil, Coal & Gas in Southern Africa: Mapping the challenges and Opportunities for phasing down; The Critical issues for phasing down; and on Economic and Financial Implications of phasing down by Ms. Ruse Moleshe, Managing Director at RUBK Energy and Infrastructure Advisory; Dr Stephanie Borchardt, DSI/NRF SARChI Research Fellow, Stellenbosch University and Mr Ashraf Patel: Institute for Global Dialogue

The session included three presentations on the need to phase down oil, coal, and gas in Southern Africa. The first presentation discussed the impact of coal, oil, and gas on climate change, highlighting that burning fossil fuels produces greenhouse gases that accumulate in the atmosphere, causing climate change. This leads to severe weather events, such as rising sea levels, droughts, and floods. The presentation emphasised the economic impacts of phasing down fossil fuels in Southern Africa, including the challenges of balancing decarbonisation, energy security, and affordability.

It noted that South Africa dominates the region's coal production, with coal used for export, power generation, and industrial applications. Alternatives to coal in these industries are currently unavailable. Southern Africa's crude oil and natural gas reserves were also discussed, noting significant production in Angola and Mozambique. The presentation outlined the economic challenges of decarbonisation, such as threats to fossil fuel revenues, job losses in related industries, and the high costs of transitioning to renewable energy. It recommended that Southern African economies need to consider energy security, decarbonisation, and access to energy services for the poor.

The second presentation focused on developing strong policies to support the phasing down of oil, coal, and gas. It emphasised the importance of clear policy formulation, incentivising stakeholder participation, engaging with affected parties, and maintaining flexibility in policy frameworks. The presentation highlighted the need for education and awareness campaigns to promote behavior change and support for policy reforms. It also addressed energy poverty, noting that a significant portion of the population lacks access to modern energy services. The presentation called for a comprehensive approach to address energy poverty, considering socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental factors. It stressed the importance of inclusive policies that empower marginalised communities and ensure equitable access to affordable clean energy resources.

The final presentation provided a historical context on sustainable development and the just transition. It discussed the global shift towards green industrial policies and the competition among major economies to lead in decarbonisation technologies. The presentation highlighted the challenges African countries face in navigating global climate commitments while seeking economic diversification and job creation. It also addressed green protectionism, such as the USA's Inflation Reduction Act and the EU's Carbon Trade Mechanism. The presentation noted the need for Africa to balance its development goals with the global decarbonisation agenda, recognising the continent's small contribution to global emissions. It stressed the importance of green jobs and a just transition, emphasising the need for policies that maximise decent work opportunities and address the social impacts of the energy transition. The presentation concluded by highlighting the UN's role in supporting industrialisation and the importance of just energy transition partnerships to avoid deepening Africa's debt crisis.

The session emphasised the need to develop and implement strong policies for energy transition. SADC parliamentarians should focus on developing clear, flexible policies for transitioning to renewable energy, incentivising businesses and stakeholders to adopt green technologies. They should promote regional collaboration, possibly forming a collective bargaining group for green energy minerals. Investment in research and partnerships is crucial for technological development.

It is recommended that ensuring energy security and access is essential, balancing decarbonisation with affordability. Addressing potential job losses from phasing out fossil fuels by promoting job creation in renewable energy is important, as is prioritising the needs of vulnerable groups in a just transition while addressing energy poverty through awareness raising and educating communities about the benefits of renewable energy to foster support and participation in the transition process.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the presentations by the experts and the meeting deliberations, the Committee resolved to recommend to the Plenary Assembly to:

- (i) **Encourage** SADC Member Parliaments to prioritise the integration of SRHR into climate change policies. Stressing the importance of understanding the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls, through evidence driven policy making. Whilst highlighting the critical role parliamentarians play in promoting inclusive strategies that safeguard the health and rights of all individuals.
- (ii) **Call** on SADC Member Parliaments to ensure that sufficient resources for interventions addressing both climate action and SRHR, prioritising health services, education, and climate resilience programs. Emphasising the need to develop a budget tagging and tracking tool to accurately monitor the allocation and utilisation of funds to enable transparent oversight.
- (iii) **Encourage** engagement with communities to understand their specific needs and facilitate dialogues for inclusive local, national, and regional strategies through public hearing sessions which have become a regular feature of the SADC PF Standing Committees.
- (iv) **Call** on SADC Member Parliaments to establish a Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Southern Africa, to promote the adoption of policy, establish legislative frameworks, raise awareness, and allocate resources for policy and program implementation.
- (v) **Urge** SADC Member Parliaments to monitor and enforce the implementation of laws related to food security and nutrition, coordinate engagement with relevant stakeholders and advocate for increased investment in nutrition and food system policies.
- (vi) **Urge** SADC Member States to invest in agroecology to mitigate climate-induced disasters and promote sustainable agriculture. Emphasising the need to ensure that national policies are gender-sensitive and that those policies are aligned with agroecology principles, increasing budgetary support, and fostering cross-learning among member countries.
- (vii) **Encourage** SADC Member Parliaments to actively participate in the evaluation of the current Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) and advocate for the development of the next RAIP (2025-2030). Stressing the importance of aligning national agricultural policies with the RAIP, operationalising the SADC Agricultural Development Fund,

- and promoting effective resourcing and coordination for implementation.
- (viii) **Encourage** SADC Member Parliaments to prioritise strengthening political leadership and commitment at all levels for achieving the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) goals. Highlighting the importance of increasing public expenditure on agriculture, enhancing data collection and management systems, and promoting partnerships for effective implementation.
 - (ix) **Call** on SADC Member Parliaments to develop a comprehensive strategy for critical minerals classification, exploitation, value addition and contribution to structural transformation, climate mitigation and sustainable development.
 - (x) **Call** on SADC Member Parliaments to develop a clear strategy for transitioning to renewable energy and phasing down oil, coal, and gas. Underscoring the importance of balancing decarbonisation with energy security and affordability, promoting regional collaboration, and addressing potential job losses through investment in green technologies and job creation in renewable energy.
 - (xi) **Urge** SADC Member Parliaments to prioritise the development of strong policies for energy transition and phasing down fossil fuels. Highlight the importance of incentivising stakeholder participation, promoting inclusive policies for vulnerable groups, and addressing energy poverty through education and awareness campaigns.
 - (xii) **Call** for the establishment of regular dialogue and cooperation between SADC Member Parliaments and technical experts to address climate challenges, food security agroecology, energy security and the sustainable governance of natural resources in the region.

Hon. Phillipus KATAMELO
CHAIRPERSON

Rachel MUNDILO
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

9.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - LIST OF OFFICIALS

- (i) Boemo Sekgoma, Secretary General, SADC PF Secretariat
- (ii) Joseph Manzi, Director of Parliamentary Business and Programmes, SADC PF Secretariat
- (iii) Rachel Mundilo, Programme Manager, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources, SADC PF Secretariat
- (iv) Dr Moses Magadza, Media Office SADC PF Secretariat
- (v) Ronald Wandwaai, ICT Officer, SADC PF Secretariat
- (vi) Paulina Kanguatjivi, Procedural Assistant and Coordinator, SADC PF Secretariat
- (vii) Ms Lorenda Boois, Finance Officer
- (viii) Ms Nyashadzaishe Turuzawo, Researcher, Parliament of Zimbabwe

APPENDIX 1I - RESOURCE PERSONS

- Julie Middleton, Consortium Project Manager – Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa; ActionAid International
- Darlington Muyambwa, SARWatch
- Charmaine Piccardo, Senior Programme Officer, SRHR and Gender SAfAIDS
- Nargis Bozorova, FAO Legal Expert
- Lewis Hove, Resilience Team Leader for FAO Southern Africa
- Dr. Stephen Greenberg, consultant
- Esther Sharara, ActionAid International
- Dr. Cliff Dlamini, CCARDESA
- Dr Martin Muchero, consultant
- Irene Liborious Ngao, Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF)
- Panduleni Elago, CAADP Advisor, African Union Commission
- Chikondi Chabvuta, CARE Southern Africa/ SADC CAADP NSA Group
- Dr Nqobile Xaba- Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection
- Dr Nelson Chipangamate – Wits Mining Institute
- Mr Ian Mwiinga – EITI
- Sara Ahmed, Managing Director and V20 Finance Advisor, CVF - V20 Secretariat
- Ms. Ruse Moleshe, Managing Director at RUBK Energy and Infrastructure Advisory
- Dr Stephanie Borchardt, DSI/NRF SARChI Research Fellow, Stellenbosch University
- Mr Ashraf Patel: Institute for Global Dialogue