



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE 55TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY ON
GENERAL SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE
MATTERS TABLED ON 4TH JULY, 2024**

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report of the Executive Committee on General SADC PF Policy and Administrative Matters to the 55th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, laid on the Table of this august House on 4th July 2024.

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TABLE OF ABBREVIATIONS

AU	AFRICAN UNION
AI	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ASGP	ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS
CPA	COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
DRM	DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT
EALA	EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
EXCO	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FANRCA	FOOD, AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE ACTION
HIV	HUMAN IMMUNO DEFICIENCY VIRUS
IPU	INTER PARLIAMENTARY UNION
IMF	INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
KPI	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
SADC	SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
SDG	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL
SIDA	SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
SRHR	SEXUAL, REPRODUCTIVE AND HEALTH RIGHTS
UN	UNITED NATIONS

PREAMBLE

Article 12(1) of the Constitution of the SADC PF provides that:

“The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Forum, giving direction to the Secretariat and ensuring that the decisions of the Plenary Assembly are implemented and shall be answerable to the Plenary Assembly.”

Pursuant to this mandate, the Plenary Assembly is requested to note that the Executive Committee, held a hybrid meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, with some members in attendance physically, while others participated virtually on the 15th and 16th June 2024. The EXCO comprehensively dealt with strategic policy and operational matters of the organization, which are submitted to the Plenary Assembly for noting or approval in line with the mandates and functions of the Forum’s organs under its Constitution and Rules of Procedure.

The EXCO now presents this report as containing its recommendations and resolutions to the 55th Plenary Assembly Session for noting or decision.

1. ISSUES RECOMMENDED BY EXCO FOR NOTING OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

1.1 PARLIAMENTS TO PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

The Plenary Assembly is requested to note that EXCO considered data from the IMF and the World Bank (Global Economic Prospects) regarding the socio-economic environment globally, with a bearing on developments in the SADC region and in Africa in view of informing the leadership of MPs at national and regional level. In particular, it was canvassed that national Parliaments must continue to work tirelessly to steady the inflation rate, propose coherent economic policies, protect vulnerable consumers, as well as increase salaries in the region which were considered to be amongst the lowest in the world.

1.2 PARLIAMENTS TO TACKLE INFLATION BY A SMART ECONOMY

The Plenary Assembly is further requested to note the recent announcement made by the Egyptian Government that subsidy for the purchase of bread, a basic commodity, will be quadrupled, representing around 3% of government spending, thus demonstrating that some Governments are actively manoeuvring public finances to protect citizens and ensure that basic commodities are available for consumption. The Plenary Assembly is requested to note that the struggle against hunger in Africa has been exacerbated by the high inflation rate which explains the urgent need for Governments to recentre their priorities regarding staple foods and basic commodities.

1.3 DOMESTICATION OF MODEL LAWS TO INSTIL GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Plenary Assembly is further requested to note that EXCO canvassed the current political context whereby over 1 billion citizens globally will go to the voting booths in 2024. The International Monetary Fund branded the year 2024 as the “Great Election Year” and predicted that average global debt would be almost 99% in 2029 with various pressures for countries to continue borrowing, including to finance electoral promises, green agendas and the election expense itself. In this context of widespread elections compounded with high public debt, there is thus a need for countries to continue domesticating the SADC Model Law on Elections as well as the SADC Model Law on Public Financial Management which provide the fundamental safeguards and precepts for good governance to prevail.

1.4 REDUCTION OF RISKS FOLLOWING TIMELY CONTROLS APPLIED AT THE FORUM

The Plenary Assembly may wish to note that, as part of exercising due diligence and the responsibilities bestowed upon the Forum, EXCO evaluated the progress made on Risk Management, and noted that, pursuant to controls applied or risk mitigation measures, only 30.4 % of risks remain after the last risk review. In other words, the mitigation measures applied by

the Secretariat have been able to subjugate 69.6% of prevailing risks, demonstrating the efforts made to consolidate good governance within the organisation.

1.5 INSTITUTIONALISING THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The Plenary Assembly is invited to note that the EXCO considered the Audit & Risk committee's Terms of reference which will serve to assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, providing advice and guidance on the adequacy of the organisation's initiatives regarding features such as the Governance structure, Risk management, Value and ethics, Internal control framework, Oversight of internal and external audit, financial statements and public accountability reporting. The matter has been referred to the Legal Sub-Committee for further review and guidance and legal scrutiny.

1.6 ENERGY POLICIES AT THE CENTRE STAGE OF THE 55TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The Plenary Assembly is requested to note that EXCO approved the necessary arrangements for the 55th Plenary Assembly to take place from the 1st to the 7th July, 2024, in Luanda, Angola, under the theme "***The role of Parliaments in promoting renewable Energy Policies in the SADC region and creating a single regional Energy Market***", which is a topic germane to the 2024 to 2028 Strategic Plan of the Forum particularly in promoting climate justice and governance.

1.7 PARLIAMENTS TO PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW TO GUARANTEE PEACE AND SECURITY AND SHIELD CITIZENS FROM COUPS D'ETATS

The Plenary Assembly is further called upon to note and deplore the attempted Coup D'Etat which took place on the evening of the 25th of May 2024 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where unauthorised military groups raided public places and tried to influence individuals in positions of power. Fortunately, their efforts were thwarted by the lawful forces deployed and the tensions were put to rest. The Plenary Assembly is requested to note that in times of civil unrest and strife, it is imperative for a framework to exist in view of preserving the sanctity and inviolability of institutions such as Parliament, the Offices of the Head of State and the Speaker, the Electoral Commission, to cite but a few. Without these key institutions, it would be impossible for a majority of MPs to constitute a government in accordance with the Constitution, and for Government to rule in peace. This framework for stability of institutions can be domesticated eventually through the SADC Model Law on the Rule of Law and Constitutionalism which has already been approved by the Forum to proceed to the drafting stage.

2. ISSUES RECOMMENDED BY EXCO FOR APPROVAL OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

2.1 HOW PARLIAMENTS CAN MITIGATE CYBER SECURITY THREATS AND CORPORATE ESPIONAGE IN OUR DIGITAL REVOLUTION

The Plenary Assembly is requested to note the urgent need for national Parliaments to embrace digital transformation. This initiative is crucial for addressing innovation, absorbing Artificial Intelligence, and preparing for potential cyberespionage and data privacy breaches. Recent incidents, such as the intrusions by an aide in the EU Parliament and the cyber-attacks at the African Union headquarters through foreign-built servers, underscore the importance of robust digital security measures.

2.2 Decision for Plenary Assembly

Consequently, the Plenary Assembly is requested to direct Member Parliaments to engage the SAHUB under the auspices of the Forum and to chart their ICT and cybersecurity needs so that the Forum and national Parliaments can engender a progressive digital revolution.

2.3 WEBINAR SERIES ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AS A CATALYST TO DOMESTICATION OF SADC MODEL LAW ON ELECTIONS AND ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS

The Plenary Assembly is invited to note that the Membership should consider renewing its capacities to enable Parliaments to participate in Election Observation Missions (EOMs) which are the best way to observe democracy in action, and national Parliaments are encouraged to innovate and endeavour to honour the Standing resolution on participation in EOMs despite financial difficulties or other reasons, especially as observing elections forms part of the new Strategic Plan (2024-2028) of the SADC-PF.

2.4 Decision for Plenary Assembly

In the meantime, the Plenary Assembly is requested to support the recommendation by EXCO, enjoining it to approve that the Forum continues to institutionalise collaboration with partners, to domesticate the SADC Model Law on Elections supported by the Technical Working Group and MPs on the Democracy, Governance and Human Rights Standing Committee. This would go a long way in conducting comparative exercises on application of the Model Law through a Regional Webinar series. Although the Webinars would not replace EOMs, they would ensure that the momentum for learning endures at the Forum pursuant to elections, with the case in point being the recent Webinar on the South African elections, which was a resounding success.

3. UPDATE ON TRANSFORMATION OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM INTO A SADC REGIONAL PARLIAMENT

- 3.1 The Plenary Assembly is requested to note that ten SADC Member States namely, Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, have duly signed the Agreement Amending the SADC Treaty to transform the Forum into a SADC Regional Parliament. In addition, updates indicate that the Republic of Zambia has already obtained policy approval to sign the Agreement and that the processes of completing the formalities leading up to signing are advanced.
- 3.2 In view of the above, once Zambia signs the Agreement, the total number of signatures will be eleven, meaning that only the signature of one more Member State is necessary to obtain the required three-quarters majority, or twelve member States, for the amendment to the SADC Treaty to take effect. This will pave way for the Protocol on the SADC Regional Parliament to be finalised.
- 3.3 The Plenary Assembly is requested to consider the situation whereby not all countries who are Members to the SADC-PF are prepared to yet sign the Agreement Amending the SADC Treaty to establish the SADC Parliament, and to appreciate the operational impediments that this asymmetry may present. With the 44th SADC Summit of Heads of States and Governments about to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from the 17th-18th August 2024, it is imperative that all member countries take a stand on the signature of the Agreement and the ensuing Protocol.

3.4 Decision for the Plenary Assembly

In particular, the Plenary Assembly is requested to approve that lobby missions continue to be deployed led by the chairperson Hon Adv. Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda, for persuaded countries which have not yet signed the Agreement (Botswana, DRC, Madagascar, and Mauritius), since once the Agreement and eventually the Protocol come into operation, there will be a time gap during which some Members will not be considered as members to the SADC Parliament, if they do not choose to sign early. Such asymmetry in Membership would negatively affect the operations of the organisation in the short to medium term, and this operational risk must thus be prevented by early rather than late signatures.

4. ENGAGEMENT OF THE FORUM IN PARLIAMENTARY INITIATIVES THAT PERTAIN TO PEACE AND SECURITY

- 4.1 The Plenary Assembly is requested to consider that international organisations are increasingly considering Parliament as a main stakeholder for active engagement on key topics that pertain to peace and security. In this regard, the Forum represented by the President Hon. Speaker Roger Mancienne, participated at the 5th Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary

Assemblies and 3rd Parliamentary Policy Dialogue, organised by the UN Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) from 8th to 9th May 2024 in Istanbul, Turkey. This will lead to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding among regional inter-parliamentary assemblies. In addition, the Forum is participating as Member of the Reference Group of Legal and Gender Experts to develop an AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls pursuant to invitation from the Office of the Special Envoy of the AU Commission on Women, Peace and Security.

4.2 Decision for the Plenary Assembly

In this connection, the Plenary Assembly is requested to approve that the Forum continues to participate in parliamentary initiatives that give credit to parliaments for contributing to the peace and security discourse and for consolidating the human rights framework regarding the protection of women and young girls.

5. PARTNERSHIP WITH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODIES

5.1 On the score of regional capacity-building, the Plenary Assembly is called upon to note that the Forum, in line with its mandate to forge partnerships with other interparliamentary bodies and to lead on thematic content, is exploring partnerships with the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference of the Great lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) which has four member Parliaments in common with the SADC PF, but also includes the Parliaments of Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Central African Republic, Rwanda, Sudan and South Sudan.

5.2 Decision for the Plenary Assembly

In this respect, the Plenary Assembly is invited to note and applaud the leadership of Hon. Nelly B. K. Mutti, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, who was appointed as the President of the FP-ICGLR following the last conference held in Livingstone, Zambia, on 15th April 2024.

The Plenary Assembly is also requested to direct Member Parliaments which have a dual Membership with other inter-parliamentary bodies such as the FP-ICGLR to assist the Forum in making headway through joint initiatives that advance democracy and human rights.

6. RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FOR STANDING COMMITTEES AT THE FORUM FOR TERM OF 2024-2026

6.1 The Plenary Assembly is requested to consider that the Standing Committees of the Forum along with the RWPC and the RPMLOC renewed their Membership for a 2-year term by holding elections for the Office-Bearing positions of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons.

- 6.2 The Plenary Assembly is requested to note that although there is a policy for the Chairperson and the Vice-chairperson to be of opposite genders and for the Secretary General, after consultation with EXCO, to reshuffle members in case gender considerations have not been observed, it is always better, in line with the democratic spirit, to allow Committees to decide for themselves when electing their leadership.

6.3 Decision for the Plenary Assembly

In this regard, the Plenary Assembly is requested to congratulate and welcome the Members in their new positions and to approve that henceforth, a policy be worked out for Committees to ensure that all genders are represented as Chairperson and Vice-chairperson to ensure the cardinal principle of gender equality in the leadership prevails at the Forum in line with the Forum's new Strategic Plan (2024-2028). In the same vein, the Plenary Assembly is requested to direct Member Parliaments to ensure participation of their delegates to the virtual Standing Committee meetings since low participation would be detrimental to the quorum requirements of the organisation.

7. UPDATE ON THE SRHR, HIV AND AIDS GOVERNANCE PROJECT

- 7.1 The Plenary Assembly is requested to note that the Swedish-funded SRHR, HIV and AIDS Governance Project (2023-2026) has continued its implementation at the Forum, with more Parliaments launching the Project in recent months.
- 7.2 In this regard, the Project is currently implemented in 11 national Parliaments (Angola, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), with the Parliaments of Botswana, Mauritius and South Africa) currently processing the appointment of SRHR Researchers.
- 7.3 The Project has had a resounding success so far at the Forum and has enabled the appointment of the Programme Manager for the Food Agriculture, Natural Resources and Climate Action (FANRCA) portfolio, a Media and Communications Officer, an Internal Auditor and an Accountant as new positions to strengthen the implementation capacity of the Forum's organogram.
- 7.4 Under the Project, the Human and Social Development and Special Programmes Committee (HSDSP) as well as the FANRCA Standing Committee were able to meet physically in May 2024, prior to the 55th Plenary Assembly of the SADC-PF. The Plenary Assembly is requested to note that regional and national activities have already commenced under the Project in view of advancing SRHR across the SADC region.
- 7.5 A recent initiative was the celebration of the day of the African Child on 16th June 2024 which occurred under the theme of resilient education systems

and the need to ensure that African children develop the competencies to rise to the emerging challenges of the continent.

7.6 Decision for the Plenary Assembly

The Plenary Assembly is requested to take note of the sound progress made under the SRHR Project (2023-2026) and to direct participating Member Parliaments to tap fully into the Project's available resources to implement parliamentary activities that promote universal access to SRHR commodities and services at national level in accordance with the approved work plan.

8. HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE MEDIA TO PROMOTE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

8.1 The Plenary Assembly is invited to note that concrete measures have been taken to render the Forum more visible through innovative and high-impact steps in view of increasing its footprint in mainstream and social media.

The following are some of the most recent results:

a) Communicating key achievements and activities

During the period under review (January to May 2024), various media platforms were used to raise public awareness on the work of the Forum. This helped to position the Forum as an authoritative voice on various issues aligned to its current Strategic Plan. An event-driven update on SADC PF's work was regularly shared with mainstream and social media, thus creating awareness about how the Forum's work was being carried out.

b) Use of mixed media platforms

Using a mix of traditional media platforms (including national and regional newspapers) as well as new media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter (now known as X), the Forum is now able to provide the public with accurate, timely and engaging information about various issues. For example, signing up to the SIDA-funded SRHR, HIV and AIDS Governance Project in Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique, Malawi, Angola and Seychelles, was extensively covered in national and regional mainstream media as well as social media.

Awareness was created around the SADC PF's new Strategic Plan; the need for legal and policy reforms to invest in women's rights; SADC PF MPs' trip to Germany for lessons sharing; SADC PF's participation in the IPU; efforts related to digital transformation; SADC PF's participation in meetings in Oslo, Norway on delivering SRHR for women and girls; recent Standing Committee meeting; and groundbreaking initiatives by the National Assembly of Angola to revise the country's HIV and AIDS law.

c) Supporting national communication initiatives

From March 2024, the Forum supported national parliaments – notably in Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi and Seychelles – to produce local versions of *The Sentinel* newsletter to provide in-depth coverage of relevant in-country activities such as the Launch of the SRHR Project and the SADC PF Strategic plan as shown above.

d) Covering Speakers and other Forum leaders

Cognisant of the crucial role of Speakers of National Parliaments and the leadership of the SADC PF in shaping policies, laws, and decisions that directly impact society, the Forum begun canvassing such thoughts and sharing them widely including through mainstream media. In this connection, thought leaders that include Honourable Advocate Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda, Speaker of the Parliament of Zimbabwe, the President of the SADC PF and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi have been interviewed and the interviews widely publicised through the media.

e) Engaging with online audiences

The Plenary is invited to note that, in the wake of COVID-19 and the global recession which compromised staffing and revenue in media houses, cost-cutting has led to a diminished capacity of many media houses to publish news in hardcopy. There is, thus, an increasing transition to and preference for online news. In response to this phenomenon, the Forum has strengthened its social media platforms and added new ones. Two online publications with a global reach (The PanAfrikanist and Africa News 24) were engaged and have been publishing articles from the Forum in almost real time, reaching wide audiences and thereby making the work of the Forum more visible.

8.2 Plenary is invited to note and appreciate some of the results, which include the following:

- i) Growing following on Facebook** – The Forum’s Facebook account has reached 8000 viewers. There is evidence of interaction with the Forum’s content, with at least 358 likes, comments and shares. Of the at least 8000 visitors to the Forum’s Facebook account, 3,000 have elected to become followers and be connected.
- ii) The Forum’s Twitter (X) account** now has at least 2,140 followers. This indicates a growing interest and engagement from our audience.
- iii) Connecting with academics and researchers** - The Forum set up a LinkedIn account whose followers now stand at 2000 from different parts of the world. The SADC PF LinkedIn has shown significant growth in terms of page views and unique visitors, with an increase of 63.6% and 41.9% respectively. The platform now attracts a diverse professional audience.

- iv) Reaching YouTube audiences** – The Forum now has a YouTube channel with at least 454 subscribers who spend hours appreciating the Forum’s content while the number of views has exceeded 10, 000.
- v) Going forward** - The Plenary is invited to note the Forum’s growing commitment to using social media effectively to connect with citizens across the SADC region, share information about its work, and promote democratic participation. Additionally, the Plenary is invited to note the Forum’s ongoing efforts towards engaging various state and non-state actors to garner support for its work. This includes constantly reaching decision makers and the wider public with compelling content shared through traditional national print and online media platforms so that more people are aware of issues being dealt with at the Forum in collaboration with national parliaments.
- vi)** More than 30 articles, which quote SADC PF or reference the work of the Forum, were published in mainstream media and republished in other media platforms including the SADC PF website during the period under review. To continue positioning SADC PF as a knowledge leader on regional integration and other issues, Plenary is invited to note that press releases will continue to be developed and shared with the media.
- vii)** Collaborations with state and non-state players to commemorate important advocacy moments for SRHR, regional integration and others will continue. In light of the above, the Plenary Assembly is requested to consider that media visibility calls for a budget envelope dedicated for media campaigns and sensitisation, including translation costs, to ensure coverage of Forum activities in all SADC Member States.

8.3 Decision for the Plenary Assembly

The Plenary Assembly is requested to take note of the promising media results demonstrated above and to approve that national Parliaments nominate their media officer or representative to collaborate with the Forum under a media framework to be worked out with a budget, to heighten media campaigning at the SADC-PF on themes which are approved by the Forum’s Standing Committees and other organs in line with the revamped Strategic Plan (2024-2028).

9. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF HUMAN RESOURCES AT THE SECRETARIAT TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY OF THE SECRETARIAT AND ORGANS

9.1 The Plenary Assembly is invited to welcome and congratulate the new staff complement and note that the positions shown in the Table below have since been filled through financial support received under the SIDA SRHR, HIV and AIDS Governance Project. All the contracts of the staff employed under the project are due to expire on 31st October 2026 in line with the imperative to align contracts with Project funding.

9.2 Table 3: Full-time Positions Filled between November 2023 and May 2024

	POSITION	OFFICER'S QUALIFICATIONS	CONTRACT TERM
1	Internal Auditor	Mr Samuel Allan Bokosi, Nationality: Malawian B. Acc, FCCA, CA (M)	1 st May 2024 to 31 st October 2026
2	Committee Secretary & Programme Manager (FANRCJ)	Ms Rachel Mundilo Nationality: Namibian -B. Juris, LLB, MA (Parliamentary Procedure & Legislative Drafting) LLM (Rule of Law for Devt)	1 st March 2024 to 31 st October 2026
3	Media & Communications Officer	Dr Moses E. D Magadza Nationality: Zimbabwean Dip in Journalism & Comms, Dip in Education, Dip in Copy Editing & Proofreading, BA (Hons) – Media Studies, MA (Media Studies), PhD (Media Studies)	23 rd February 2024 to 31 st October 2026
4	Accountant	Mr Mahendrasing Khooblall, FCCA Nationality: Mauritius	1 st November 2023 to 31 st October 2026

9.3 Decision for Plenary Assembly

- i. The Plenary Assembly is called upon to support the EXCO in developing a sustainability plan, beyond donor funding, and to ensure that the staff positions that have been filled in the organogram should not fall vacant yet again;
- ii. The Plenary Assembly is requested to note that due to ongoing financial constraints, three positions in the Parliamentary Business and Programmes Department, for RWPC, GEWYAD and HSDP remain and to implore Parliaments to second staff to these vacant positions on a full-time basis for at least 5 years, at this stage;
- iii. In this regard, the Plenary Assembly is also requested to applaud the filling of positions from resources raised under the SRHR Project and exhort the Membership to make the most of these positions which are aligned with the Project's duration;
- iv. The Plenary Assembly is also invited to note that the position of Committee Secretary & Programme Manager TIFI's recruitment has

been concluded, pending the acceptance of the offer made to a national of the kingdom of Lesotho. The position will be for an initial period of three years, under the Forum's core budget.

10. CONSIDERATION OF THE COMOROS TO JOIN THE FORUM

10.1 The Plenary Assembly is invited to note that, pursuant to its previous resolution to the effect that the SADC-PF Membership should include all the sixteen Parliaments of SADC Member States, the President of SADC PF was mandated and has engaged the Parliament of the Comoros to join the Forum.

10.2 Notwithstanding the above, the Comoros has so far not indicated readiness to join the Forum, largely due to the concerns regarding the obligation to pay Annual Mandatory Member Contributions.

10.3 Decision for Plenary Assembly

In view of completing the SADC family, the Plenary Assembly is invited to:

- i) authorise the President to continue bilateral efforts to encourage the Comoros to join the Forum; and
- ii) approve that the Forum, through the President, offers the Comoros membership of the Forum at a reduced membership contribution level to be decided upon by EXCO.

11. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE REGARDING THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE REGIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

11.1 The Plenary Assembly is invited to recall that recent devastation caused by extreme weather events in the SADC region have led to several Plenary Assembly resolutions on Disaster Risk Management (DRM). The Plenary Assembly will also note that, coupled with emerging climate change trends at the global level, it has become necessary for the Forum to intensify the integration of climate action in its programming, in line with the Forum's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan and the SRHR, HIV and AIDS Governance Project.

11.2 In this regard, the nomenclature and mandate of the relevant Programme and Standing Committee of the Forum that are dedicated to climate action issues ought to be amended to reflect this renewed focus.

11.3 Decision for the Plenary Assembly

The Plenary Assembly is invited to approve that Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure be amended accordingly so that:

- i) the nomenclature of the “Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources” should read as “Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources **and Climate Action**”;
- ii) the mandate of the Committee should read as follows;

“To deal with matters related to agriculture, fisheries, forestry and wildlife, water and environment, energy, transport, tourism, ICTs, meteorology, food security, **natural resources and climate action.**”

(The additions are in bold above)

Mr President, I beg to move.

APPENDIX I**MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2022-2024**

1.	Hon. Speaker Roger Mancienne, <i>President</i> (Chairperson)	Seychelles
2.	Hon. Marie Joanne Sabrina Tour, <i>Vice President</i>	Mauritius
3.	Hon. Senator Isaac Magagula, <i>Treasurer</i>	Eswatini
4.	Hon. Pedro Sebastião	Angola
5.	Hon. Speaker Phandu Tombola Chaha Skelemani, MP	Botswana
6.	Hon. Nadine Mangabu Luabeya	DRC
7.	Hon. Speaker Tlohang Sekhamane	Lesotho
8.	Hon. Acting (Dean) Speaker Jean Jacques RABENIRINA	Madagascar
9.	Hon. Rachel Zulu	Malawi
10.	Hon. Speaker Esperança Laurinda Francisco Nhiuane Bias	Mozambique
11.	Hon. Speaker Prof. Peter Hitjitevi Katjavivi (ex-officio)	Namibia
12.	Hon. Phillipus Wido Katamelo	Namibia
13.	Hon. Speaker (TBA)	South Africa
14.	Hon. Selemani Jumanne Zedi <i>proxy for Hon. Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson</i>	Tanzania
15.	Hon. Shally Raymond, RWPC Chairperson (ex-officio)	Tanzania
16.	Hon. Princess Kasune	Zambia
17.	Hon. Speaker Adv. Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda	Zimbabwe