



55th PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

LUANDA, ANGOLA, 1 – 7 JULY 2024

“THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICIES IN THE SADC REGION AND CREATING A SINGLE REGIONAL ENERGY MARKET”

CONCEPTUAL NOTE PROPOSAL

I. CONTEXTUALIZATION

1. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) region has been facing an electricity crisis since the early 2000s, due to demographic growth and considerable progress in industrial infrastructure. In this regards, the demand for electrical energy has caused a deficit in the supply of energy needs, since demand is much higher than supply.
2. Given this context, SADC has been implementing long-term measures to ensure self-sufficiency to resolve the deficit rate of energy consumption. Studies indicate that the global hydropower potential of SADC countries is estimated at around 1,080 terawatt-hours per year (TWh/year), but much less than 31 TWh/year is being used. Regarding geothermal energy, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that around 4,000 MW of electrical energy is available and unexploited along the Rift Valley, in the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique¹.

However, it is estimated that on a weighted average, only 50% of the population in the SADC region has access to electricity². Therefore, it is an important point that the demographic increase and the industrialization of the Region will place a greater pressure on the electricity supply system, forcing governments to act proactively to avoid constraints and limitations in Regional Development Plans.

ALER Lusophone Association of Renewable Energy, Mozambique and Angola presents at the SADC Meeting on energy. Available at: <https://www.alerrenovaveis.org/pt/comunicacao/noticias/mocambique-e-angola-presentes-na-reuniao-da-sadc-sobre-energia/>

Southern African Development Community Towards a Common Future, Energy, 2022, Available at <https://www.sadc.int/pt-pt/pillars/energy>

Renewable Energy Sources: global scope, 2015, Available online at: <https://www.jusbrasil.com.br/artigos/fontes-de-energia-renovavel-ambito-global/181519012>, Accessed [April 8, 2024]

4. In this regard, within the scope of the vision of combating energy shortages in the SADC region, promoting renewable energy policies and creating a regional market to facilitate the flow of excess energy generated in one particular country in the region to another, Projects for the rapid implementation of transmission lines for regional interconnections have already been adopted.

5. Furthermore, the Governments of the Region have adopted the implementation of distributed generation of renewable energy in small Rural Communities to meet energy needs locally and have shown satisfactory results.

6. Accordingly, recognising the long-term objective established by SADC is to achieve a Renewable Energy Mix in the regional grid of at least 32% by 2020 and 35% by 2030³, the Energy Protocol was approved in 1996. The Protocol offers a framework for cooperation on energy policies between its Member States. It recognises the importance of the energy sector in pursuing SADC's vision for economic well-being and the eradication of poverty in Southern Africa, which requires cooperation aimed at creating a Single Energy Market through the harmonization of policies and regional strategies⁴.

7. To operationalise the mentioned Energy Protocol, SADC established several strategic plans for the energy development of the region, namely:

- The SADC Policy and Strategy for Energy Cooperation, 1996;
- The SADC Energy Action Plan of 1997;
- The SADC Energy Activity Plan, 2000;
- The Regional Master Plan for Infrastructure Development and its Energy Sector Plan, 2012;
- The Regional Strategy and Action Plan on Access to Energy, from 2020 to 2030;
- The Strategy and Action Plan for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency from 2016 to 2030;
- The SADC Industrial Energy Efficiency Programme; and
- The Regional Master Plan for Gas.

³Verdade, The truth in every word, Southern Africa has high potential for geothermal energy, Southern Africa has high potential for geothermal energy – True, Available online on the website: <https://verdade.co.mz/africa-austral-possui-high-potential-for-geothermal-energy/>, Accessed [April 8, 2024]
See the Report on the Status of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in SADC – 2018. Available at https://www.lerenovaveis.org/contents/lerpublication/ren21_2018_relatorio-da-situacao-das-energias-renovaveis-e-eficiencia-energetica-na-sadc_1222.pdf.

8. However, despite the establishment of these development strategies setting goals to be achieved within defined timelines, their implementation has been slow. Despite the vast renewable energy resources existing in SADC Member States, the renewable energy market still remains very underdeveloped⁵, which offers an opportunity for parliaments to intervene and accelerate this process.

9. Accordingly, Regional Parliaments are called upon to play a central role in programmes for promoting renewable energy and reducing greenhouse emissions. This entails their responsibility in creating and approving laws and technical regulations, approving legal mechanisms to safeguard the correct functioning of regional electricity trade, and promoting transparent regulatory and tariff policies that are attractive to private investment.

II. PARLIAMENTS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

10 The SADC Region, being vastly rich in solar, wind, hydro-electric and biomass resources, has great potential for the development of renewable energy. Therefore, parliaments have a fundamental role in promoting renewable energy policies in the SADC region, which involves strategies and actions in several areas, in accordance with their constitutional mandates:

- a) In the **legislative domain**, parliaments are responsible for drafting, discussing and approving laws that encourage the development and use of renewable energy. This could include legislation that offers tax incentives for investments in renewable energy, sets renewable energy targets, and creates favorable regulatory frameworks for the development of these technologies.
- b) In the **field of oversight and control**, once laws and policies have been approved and are being implemented, parliaments have the task of monitoring and controlling the implementation of these policies by governments and sector agents.
- c) In the **field of Resource Allocation**, parliaments have influence over the approval process of the national budget, which means that they can influence the allocation of financial resources for the development of renewable energy projects, research and development, and for the construction of necessary infrastructures.
- d) In the **field of awareness and education**, parliamentarians can promote awareness and education actions about the advantages of renewable energy, both for the environment and for the economy.
- e) In the **field of regional cooperation**, taking into account the transnational nature of many challenges related to renewable energy, parliaments in the SADC Region can promote and facilitate regional cooperation and integration in the development of renewable energy policies, technology sharing and best practices.
- f) In the **field of investment promotion**, parliaments can work on creating an enabling environment to attract both local and international investments in renewable energy.

III. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE 55th PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

11. The 55th Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum will take place in Luanda, Republic of Angola, from 1 to 7 July 2024, under the theme “**The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Renewable Energy Policies in the SADC Region and the Creation of a Single Regional Energy Market.**”

12. The aforementioned Plenary Assembly has the general objective of strengthening the institutional capacity of Member State Parliaments to understand the policies and regulatory frameworks for renewable energy in the SADC Region, with the inherent advantages for their economies and people.

13. The **specific objectives and expected** results of the 55th Plenary Assembly are:

- a) Emphasize the crucial role played by parliamentary institutions, such as the SADC Parliamentary Forum (PF-SADC) and National Parliaments, in boosting the adoption and implementation of renewable energy policies in the SADC Region, with emphasis on the Strategy and the Action Plan for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency from 2016 to 2030
- b) Discuss the potential of renewable energies to catalyze socio-economic development, mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote energy independence in the SADC Region;
- c) Encourage the SADC PF and National Parliaments, through promoting the adoption and investment in renewable energies, to play a fundamental role in diversifying energy sources, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and promoting environmental sustainability;
- d) Identify strategies to improve cross-border cooperation, public-private partnerships and stakeholder engagement to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and achieve global objectives of improving energy access, security and efficiency in the SADC Region;

REFERENCES

1. Southern Africa Today, SADC TODAY Vol. 15 No. 4 June 2013, Available online at: <https://www.sardc.net/editorial/sadctoday/documents/portv15n4.pdf>, Accessed on [8 April 2024]
2. Renewable Energy Sources: global scope, 2015, Available online on the website: <https://www.jusbrasil.com.br/artigos/fontes-de-energia-renovavel-ambito-global/181519012>, Accessed [April 8, 2024]
3. Verdade, The truth in every word, Southern Africa has high potential for geothermal energy, Southern Africa has high potential for geothermal energy – Truth, Available online on the website: <https://verdade.co.mz/africa-austral-has-high-potential-for-geothermal-energy/>, Accessed [April 8, 2024]
4. Southern African Development Community Towards a Common Future, Energy, 2022, Available online at: <https://www.sadc.int/pt-pt/pillars/energy>, Accessed [8 April 2024]
5. ALER Associação Lusófona de Energias Renováveis, Mozambique and Angola present at the SADC Meeting on energy, 2017, Available online on the website: <https://www.alerrenovaveis.org/pt/comunicacao/noticias/mocambique-e-angola-presentes-na-reuniao-da-sadc-sobre-energia/>, Accessed [April 8, 2024]
6. See the Situation Report on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in SADC 2018, available online at: https://www.lerenovaveis.org/contents/lerpublication/ren21_2018_relatorio-da-situacao-das-energias-renovaveis-e-eficiencia-energetica-na-sadc_1222.pdf, Accessed [April 8, 2024]