



**PROGRESS REPORT  
OF  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 54<sup>TH</sup> SADC PF PLENARY  
ASSEMBLY MEETING RESOLUTIONS  
TO BE PRESENTED AT 55<sup>TH</sup> SADC PF PLENARY  
ASSEMBLY SESSION  
LUANDA, ANGOLA  
(1<sup>ST</sup> to 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024)**

## 1.0 Introduction

2.1 It is my singular honour and privilege to present the Zimbabwe implementation progress report on the Resolutions of the 54th SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly Session held in Port Louis, Mauritius from 22nd to 26th November 2023 as guided by the Constitution of Zimbabwe and all international treaties and agreements ratified by our country.

2.0 **On the symposium theme: "Role of Parliaments in Promoting Coordination for Enhanced Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Planning in the SADC Region", recommendation number three (3): - 'CALLS UPON Member Parliaments to the SADC Parliamentary Forum to develop synergies with policymakers, academia, Civil Society Organization's (CSOs), traditional and faith leaders, Community-Based Organization's (CBOs), youth representatives and other stakeholders to promote climate justice by reducing the carbon footprint through measures in line with the Paris Agreement regularly reported to the COP"**

2.2 The Parliament of Zimbabwe has established a Parliamentary Technical Committee (PTC) on Climate Change and the consequential climate action thereof. Accordingly, on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024, this Committee conducted a climate change sensitisation workshop for all Members of Parliament, relevant Ministries and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Furthermore, Parliament promulgated Statutory Instrument 150 of 2023, which regulates the thriving carbon credits trading opportunities for climate action in Zimbabwe.

2.3 On the recommendation further calling **"Member Parliaments to enact laws, adopt budgets, exercise oversight and represent communities to address climate resilience in a way which mainstreams gender and ensures that the voices of women are heard in decision-making processes on disaster preparedness"**, a holistic Climate Change Bill will be under consideration during the current session of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament. The Bill will operationalize the National Climate Change Fund to effect climate action in Zimbabwe.

3.0 **Report on Adoption of a Report of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus following Public Hearings conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 under the theme: "Amplifying Citizens' Voices in Regional Integration in Southern Africa: Bringing the Engagement Gap by Bringing Parliament to the People".**

3.1 Recommendation number one (i) ***'Urge Members States to devise mechanisms of bridging the digital gender gaps and empowering rural women by, among others, advocating for subsidies or loans to rural women to enable them to acquire affordable digital devices***

*such as smartphones, tablets, or computers to enable them to access online resources and services; organising digital skills training programmes for rural women to enable them to effectively use digital technologies*'. The Universal Service Fund, managed by the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ), has launched a skills development programme targeting citizens in rural areas, including women and girls who were trained in digital skills and literacy.

- 4.0 Report on Adoption of a Report of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development Following Public Hearings conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 under the theme: "Amplifying Citizens' Voices in Regional Integration in Southern Africa: Bringing the Engagement Gap by Bringing Parliament to the People".**
- 4.1** Recommendation number two (ii) *'Urge Member States to increase the 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*. Zimbabwe has enacted the Domestic Violence Act. Additionally, in January 2024, Zimbabwe launched the National Strategy (2020 -20230) to prevent and address Gender-Based-Violence (GBV). Five One Stop Centres have been established to strengthen the multi-sectoral response to GBV.
- 5.0 Report on the Resolution on Adoption of a Report of the Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Programmes following public hearings conducted on 13<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".**
- 5.1** Recommendation number five (v) **Call (s) Upon SADC Member States to increase funding towards education and to further create synergies with stakeholders in the education sector. There should be an exponential increase in budget towards smart education agendas.** The Zimbabwe Parliament has consistently shown a strong commitment to education by consistently increased budget allocations with the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education receiving 3.86% of the national budget in 2022, 3.73% in 2023 and 4.64% in 2024. Additionally, Parliament also allocates funds for the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) to support indigent learners at Primary and Secondary level.
- 5.2** Recommendation number eight (viii) *'Encourages Governments of Member States to review the education curriculum since most curricula have become relics of the colonial legacy and out of sync with the demands of the modern world*'. Zimbabwe has crafted the new

heritage-based 5.0 education curricula anchored on teaching, research, community service science and technology.

**6.0 Report on Adoption of a Report of the Standing Committee on Democratization, Governance and Human Rights following public hearings conducted on 16<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"*.**

**6.1** Recommendation four (iv) *'Calls for urgent and deliberate measure to encourage and facilitate youth participation in electoral processes by creating policies and frameworks that reflect the needs and concerns of young people, amplifying their voices through organised platforms for engagement, and making electoral fees affordable for young people to enable their participation'*. The Zimbabwe Parliament passed the Electoral Amendment Act in 2023 pursuant to Constitutional Amendment 2, which introduced a ten Member youth quota in the National Assembly. Furthermore, Zimbabwe Parliamentary Youth Caucus attests to Parliament's commitment to amplifying the voices of young people in the Parliamentary processes. Additionally, Parliament annually hosts the Junior Parliament and the Junior Councils to debate policy issues affecting the youth such as access to education, digital technologies, drug and substance abuse as well as gender-based violence.

**6.2** Recommendation number five (v) *'Calls for immediate actions to counter the recruitment of youth by rebel groups and their susceptibility to violent extremism by offering enhanced educational and economic opportunities to engage them constructively alongside implementing reforms to safeguard the rights of young people in the region'*. Zimbabwe has established 68 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) and 15 satellite VTCs dotted across all Provinces to provide life and entrepreneurial skills to school leavers. Recently, the National Youth Service programme was launched in order to instil patriotism, leadership and civic responsibility among youths in Zimbabwe. The Youth Bill is being crafted to ensure holistic youth empowerment.

**7.0 Report of Resolutions on Adoption of a Report of the Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment Following Public Hearings conducted on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 under the theme: Amplifying Citizens' Voices in Regional Integration in Southern Africa: Bringing the Engagement Gap by Bringing Parliament to the People".**

**7.1** Recommendation number two (ii) **URGE Member States to avert debt distress by pushing for stronger coordination between multilateral, bilateral and private creditors to offer debt relief to all countries in or at risk of debt distress, including reforming the Common**

**Framework for debt treatment by making the process more efficient, transparent and inclusive'** The Government of Zimbabwe has initiated a comprehensive Arrears Clearance, Debt Relief and Restructuring Strategy in collaboration with the African Development Bank and former President Joaquim Alberto Chissano.

**8.0 Report of the Resolution on Adoption of a Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources following public hearings conducted on 18<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"**

**8.1 Recommendation one (i) CALLS UPON SADC Members States to promote inclusivity and gender responsiveness towards climate change while at the same time, implementing the Paris Agreement'.**

Zimbabwe has launched its Climate Change Gender Action Plan<sup>1</sup> aimed at systematic mainstreaming of gender in all climate actions in both public and private spheres.

**8.2 Recommendation number six (vi) 'PROMPTS SADC Member States to formulate legal frameworks that compel miners to consider environmental rehabilitation and regeneration and hold miners accountable for any damage'.** The Zimbabwe Environmental Management Act provides for the sustainable management of natural resources and conservation of the environment in the mining sector.

**8.3 Recommendation number nine (ix) 'URGES SADC Parliaments to show political commitment by enacting laws, policies, passing climate financing budget and use all available instruments to mitigate climate change consequences to the people and the environment.** The Parliament of Zimbabwe has facilitated climate-sensitive policies, including the National Climate Policy and various strategies on Climate action funding has been availed as follows: US\$7 million in 2022 and US\$15 million in 2023. The Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe marshalling a Climate Finance Facility (GFF) of up to US\$7.88 Billion by 2030.

**8.4 Recommendation number xi 'Calls upon SADC Member States to facilitate capacity building for women and youths to promote active engagement in agriculture'.** Through the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union's Youth Development Programme (YDP), women and youths are involved in the Pfumvunza/Intwasa, a sustainable small holder smart agriculture conservation farming programme and are receiving ICT training for agricultural value chains and market access. The innovative resources base include the

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<sup>1</sup> [Zimbabwe Launched Climate Change Gender Action Plan | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](https://www.undp.org/)

Presidential Heifer Pass-On-Scheme and 500 hectares of land for youth projects to boost farming productivity.

**9.0 Report on the Resolutions on Adoption of a Report of the Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee (RPMLOC) on "Garnering Insight into the Face of Signature and Ratification of SADC Protocols"**

**9.1** Recommendation number two (ii) *'IMPLORE SADC parliaments to push for the domestication of the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriages and Protecting Children already in Marriages and for the enforcement laws that are put in place at national level to eradicate child marriages'*. This has been complied with through a Constitutional Court ruling in 2016 which stipulated that child marriages are unconstitutional as they violate the 18 years age of majority threshold. The new Marriage Act of 2022 thus prohibits marriage for those under 18 years old.

**10.0 Report on the Resolution on Adoption of the Motion on BRICS and BRICS Parliamentary Forum moved by Hon. Speaker Professor Peter Katjavivi.**

**10.1** Recommendation number four (iv) *'Urge SADC Governments and Parliamentarians to use Parliamentary Diplomacy and then domestic Parliamentary mandates to promote cooperation between their respective Member States and BRICS'*

**10.2** As stipulated in section 327 of the Zimbabwean Constitution, Parliament ratified a 2024 agreement with the Russian Federation on Science, Technology and Innovation. Furthermore, Parliament has a robust benchmarking visit programme and embarks on bilateral visits which have strengthened Parliamentary Diplomacy and cooperation with BRICS and other countries. Additionally, in April and May 2024, I led a delegation to Mozambique at the invitation of Speaker Esperança Laurinda Francisco Nheuane Bias, which resulted in significant collaborative outcomes and the strengthening of Inter-parliamentary cooperation agreements between our two Parliaments.

**I SUBMIT, MR PRESIDENT.**