



**REPORT OF THE SADC PF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE ACTION (FANRCA) TO THE 56<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY ASSEMBLY**

***THEME: “LEVERAGING THE ROLE OF SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM IN FACILITATING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION SADC REGIONAL INTEGRATION FOR ENHANCED ACCOUNTABILITY AND INCLUSIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COHESION”***

Mr. President, I beg to move that the 56<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Climate Action (FANRCA) laid on the Table on 11<sup>th</sup> December 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. Phillipus Katamelu, MP   | Namibia <b>(Chairperson)</b>     |
| 2.  | Hon Mutinta Mazoka, MP  | Zambia <b>(Vice Chairperson)</b> |
| 3.  | Hon. Domingos Mussokola, MP   | Angola                           |
| 4.  | Hon. Sicelo Jele, MP  | Eswatini                         |
| 5.  | Hon. Makatleho Motsoasele, MP   | Lesotho                          |
| 6.  | Hon. Hon. Ishmael Ndaila Onani, MP  | Malawi                           |
| 7.  | Hon Rocky Uranie, MP  | Seychelles                       |
| 8.  | Hon. Chinhenza Chigwadzara, MP  | Zimbabwe                         |
| 9.  | Hon. Hawa Subira Mwaifunga  | Tanzania                         |
| 10. | Hon. Faustin Kenda Kaziteriko,  | DRC                              |
| 11. | Botswana Parliament dissolved   |                                  |
| 12. | Madagascar had not yet constituted committees following general elections |                                  |
| 13. | Mauritius Parliament was dissolved pending elections                      |                                  |
| 14. | Mozambique Parliament was dissolved for elections                         |                                  |
| 15. | South Africa had not constituted committees following general elections   |                                  |

## **2.0 COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The SADC PF Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture Natural Resources and Climate Action (FANRCA) draws its mandate from 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 virtual statutory meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2024. This was a Public Hearing Session which was conducted under the theme: *“Leveraging the Role of SADC Parliamentary Forum in Facilitating Citizen Participation in SADC Regional Integration for Enhanced Accountability and Inclusive Socio-Economic Development and Cohesion.”*

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 importance of citizens engagement in advancing accountability and inclusive socio-economic development and cohesion.

The meeting emphasised on the need to strengthen food security in the region through the establishment of a Parliamentary Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition a platform which brings together parliamentarians to facilitate parliamentary action on priority topics through networking and collaboration. The meeting further looked at the COP29 priorities as a finance COP and how

climate finance can be accessed for the management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation, water security and sustainable water management, disaster risk reduction, and renewable energy and de-carbonisation in line with the New Collective Quantified Goal to be set at COP29. The meeting also emphasised the need to effectively manage the impacts of climate change on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and to bridge the gaps at their intersection.

#### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

The SADC region faces a complex array of challenges and opportunities at the intersection of climate resilience, food security, natural resource management, and sustainable development. With climate change exacerbating vulnerabilities across the region, the imperative for coordinated and innovative approaches has never been greater.

Climate-smart agriculture has emerged as a critical pathway to enhance food security and resilience, addressing the immediate impacts of climate variability on crop yields and livelihoods. The establishment of a Parliamentary Food Security and Nutrition Alliance within SADC is poised to play a pivotal role in scaling up these practices through legislative advocacy, resource mobilisation, and regional collaboration.

The management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation remains central to the region's sustainability agenda. However, the escalating pressures of climate change demand mobilisation of climate finance to support robust strategies that preserve ecosystems while fostering economic growth.

Water security, another pressing issue, underscores the need for sustainable water management practices that meet both agricultural and urban demands. With climate finance playing a vital role, the region has the potential to develop infrastructure and policies that align with global standards for resource conservation and equitable distribution.

Disaster risk reduction and climate change resilience have gained urgency as extreme weather events increasingly devastate vulnerable areas in Southern Africa. Parliamentary action, supported by climate finance and adaptation funding, can bolster efforts to reduce these risks while safeguarding lives and livelihoods.

A further vulnerability arises from the intersection of SRHR and climate change. Women and girls, particularly in marginalised and rural communities, bear the brunt of climate impacts, facing increased risks of gender-based violence, reduced access to healthcare, and disruptions in education. Climate-induced displacement often exacerbates inequalities, leaving women and girls disproportionately affected. Addressing these vulnerabilities requires integrating SRHR into climate policies, ensuring that resilience strategies promote equity and access to essential services, while

recognising the critical role of women and girls in building adaptive capacities in their communities.

The transition to renewable energy and the broader goal of de-carbonation present transformative opportunities for the region. However, barriers such as limited infrastructure, high initial costs, and policy inconsistencies must be addressed. The New Collective Quantified Goal, expected to be set at COP29, offers a crucial framework for mobilising targeted climate finance to overcome these barriers and support a just energy transition.

Against this backdrop, the Committee is guided by five core questions that examine actionable pathways to tackle these critical issues. These include enhancing food security through climate-smart agriculture, addressing biodiversity and natural resource challenges, improving water management, strengthening disaster resilience, and advancing renewable energy adoption. Through these inquiries, Parliamentarians from the SADC region can leverage their political capital to shape decisions that secure equitable and sustainable outcomes for the region.

## **5.0 SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED**

### **5.1 Briefing on the Establishment of the Parliamentary Alliance on Agrifood Systems, Food and Nutrition Security for the SADC Region**

The presentation focused on the outline of the draft charter for a Parliamentary Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition in the region and on the Pan African Parliament (PAP) Food Security and Nutrition Model Law and the role of parliamentary alliances to the Committee.

The presentation highlighted FAOs extensive global collaboration with parliamentarians to address critical issues of food security and nutrition (FSN). FAO has actively supported the establishment of over 60 parliamentary alliances and networks across multiple regions, including Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. These alliances have played a pivotal role in shaping policy and legal frameworks, leading to the development and adoption of over 100 laws related to food security, agriculture, and nutrition.

Key outcomes of these collaborations include:

- The organisation of two Global Parliamentary Summits against Hunger and Malnutrition in 2018 and 2023, which catalysed global commitments to FSN.
- The creation of the Global Parliamentary Pact against Hunger and Malnutrition in 2023, providing a roadmap for action by parliamentarians worldwide.
- Consistent engagement in regional and global dialogues, advocacy campaigns, and the development of tailored knowledge products, such as handbooks, legal briefs, and e-learning modules.

The presentation emphasised that Parliamentary Alliances are essential mechanisms for driving transformative change in FSN governance. These alliances operate at the local, national, regional, and global levels, offering platforms for networking and collaboration, creating synergies among parliamentarians and stakeholders to address shared FSN challenges, amplifying FSN priorities through inclusive legislative actions and raising awareness and supporting governments in allocating adequate budgets and securing external funding for FSN initiatives.

For SADC, the establishment of a Parliamentary Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition is a crucial step to accelerate agrifood systems transformation. This alliance would focus on building capacity within member states to implement sustainable agrifood practices, promoting inclusive strategies to address regional FSN challenges and leveraging FAO's expertise and networks to foster dialogue, align policies, and mobilise resources for sustainable food systems.

The second presentation introduced the Pan African Parliament (PAP) Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) Model Law, describing it as a tool to promote the realisation of the right to adequate food across Africa. The model law aims to provide a unified framework for harmonising food security policies and legislation across AU Member States, while respecting their diverse legal traditions.

The model law's purpose and scope includes: ensuring that every individual has physical and economic access to adequate, safe, and nutritious food at all times, enabling a dignified and fulfilling life; covering essential elements of FSN governance, such as availability, accessibility, stability, and utilisation of food resources; addressing cross-cutting issues such as food safety, nutrition security, market regulation, social protection, and accountability mechanisms.

The presentation emphasised the importance of domestication of the model law by AU Member States which can be achieved by adopting the model law verbatim, incorporating its essential provisions into existing national legislation or harmonising existing policies to align with the model law's principles.

The presenter highlighted the alignment of the model law with SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and Vision 2050, which prioritises sustainable food security and agriculture as key pillars of regional integration and development. Furthermore, the SADC Treaty explicitly identifies food security, agriculture, and natural resources as priority areas for cooperation.

The presentation concluded with a call to action for SADC Member States to accelerate the domestication of the PAP FNS Model Law to strengthen their legal and policy frameworks, allocate increasing budgets for FSN programs, as mandated by Article 22 of the model law and to establish Parliamentary

Alliances to oversee the implementation of FSN objectives and advocate for the realisation of the right to adequate food.

## **5.2 Submission by Eric Chipeta, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser – Namibia on Climate Finance, Challenges and Opportunities**

With COP29, referred to as the "Finance COP," on the horizon, the presentation centred on climate finance, shedding light on the specific challenges and opportunities facing the SADC region. It underscored the region's urgent need for financial resources to effectively address the impacts of climate change. Climate finance was defined as funding sourced from public, private, and alternative avenues to support mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

The presenter highlighted significant barriers to accessing climate finance, including overly complex application processes, stringent accreditation requirements, and limited institutional capacity within the region. While multilateral and bilateral funding were identified as essential sources, their intricacies often hinder effective utilization. The presenter further emphasized the staggering financial gaps in developing countries' climate action plans, estimating that between \$7.8 trillion and \$13.6 trillion will be needed by 2030 to combat climate change impacts adequately.

In response to these challenges, the presenter proposed actionable solutions, such as capacity-building programs like the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub, which supports governments in crafting viable, bankable project proposals. Additionally, the presenter stressed the need to recalibrate the global climate finance framework by advocating for a needs-driven New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) at COP29. This proposed framework would replace the previous \$100 billion annual target with a more realistic and equitable funding mechanism, ensuring resources are directed toward the priorities of developing countries, including adaptation, mitigation, and addressing loss and damage.

To advance climate finance and resilience in the SADC region, the following recommendations were made: governments must significantly increase budgetary allocations for climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy, and community adaptation. Parliamentarians are urged to advocate for budgets that align with global climate commitments, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Policies and legislation should embed climate resilience, ensuring that infrastructure and systems can withstand impacts such as floods and droughts. Gender mainstreaming is essential to include women in decision-making processes and to ensure they benefit equitably from climate initiatives.

Application processes for funds like the Green Climate Fund should be simplified, and accreditation efficiency in SADC countries must be enhanced. Direct access entities at national or regional levels should be established to



improve resource flow and reduce reliance on intermediaries. Parliamentarians should oversee the allocation and use of climate finance, ensuring both effectiveness and measurable impacts. Transparent tracking systems and public access to information about climate investments are critical for accountability.

Local governments and institutions require training, tools, and mentorship to develop viable climate project proposals. Specialised initiatives that provide technical support can play a pivotal role in this effort. Legislators should actively monitor government progress on climate strategies through mechanisms like question time and project evaluations to ensure commitments are met. Regular reviews of climate projects should be conducted to address community needs effectively.

There is a pressing need to support the establishment of a New Collective Quantified Goal at COP29, focusing on adaptation, mitigation, and addressing loss and damage. Funding mechanisms must be concessional, accessible, predictable, and equitable for developing countries. Local climate challenges should be identified, and tailored solutions such as drought management or renewable energy access must be prioritized. Collaborative efforts with development partners are vital to supporting community-driven initiatives and representing local voices in action plans.

Resilience-building should be incorporated into legislative frameworks, linking climate considerations to economic development, land use, and disaster risk reduction strategies. Cross-border initiatives addressing shared challenges like water resource management, renewable energy projects, and disaster response must be fostered. Leveraging SADC frameworks to align policies and pool resources will help tackle these regional challenges effectively. Members of Parliament are encouraged to lead by example, prioritising climate action, advocating for equitable resource distribution, and ensuring that the most vulnerable populations are protected through impactful climate finance initiatives.

### **5.3 Submission by Davie Malungisa, Natural Resources and Climate Change Senior Advisor (SARWatch) on COP29 priorities for Africa**

The presentation highlighted that Africa requires \$277 billion annually to address climate change, yet only \$29.5 billion was mobilised during 2019-2020. Within this context, Southern Africa alone requires a minimum of \$110 billion annually but received only \$2 billion during the same period. The presenter underscored the inadequacies of the current climate finance system, noting the slow progress in operationalising the Loss and Damage Fund, which currently holds just \$792 million far short of Africa's needs.

The presentation emphasised Africa's heavy dependency on external funding mechanisms and the challenges posed by complex application processes and limited institutional capacity. It also highlighted the rising global demand for green minerals as part of the energy transition, which presents both



opportunities and risks for the continent. While these minerals could drive economic growth, Africa remains highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of stranded fossil fuel assets.

Key recommendations from the presentation included the need to strengthen mechanisms for easier access to climate finance by streamlining processes for the Loss and Damage Fund and other multilateral facilities. Mobilising increased investment into green technologies and renewable energy was emphasised as critical for supporting Africa's energy transition. The presentation advocated for a needs-based NCQG at COP29 to address substantial financing gaps and ensure predictable and concessional funding.

Additionally, it called for African governments to enhance their NDCs to align with the Paris Agreement and develop NDC 3.0 by 2025. Finally, the presentation stressed the importance of prioritising capacity building to improve African institutions' abilities to develop bankable climate projects and effectively utilise available climate funds.

#### **5.4 Submission by Kudakwashe Ndhlukula, Executive Director SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) on Barriers to renewable energy adoption**

This presentation focused on promoting renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies in the SADC region. Established in 2015 by the SADC Energy Ministers, SACREEE is mandated to increase access to modern energy services and enhance energy security through market-based adoption of sustainable energy solutions. It plays a key role in implementing the Regional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REESAP) with support from member states, donors, and private stakeholders.

The SADC region is heavily reliant on fossil fuels and hydropower, despite having abundant renewable energy resources such as solar, wind, and hydropower. However, significant challenges persist, including aging infrastructure, high energy costs, limited access to energy in rural areas, and insufficient funding for new energy capacity. The industrial sector, where energy accounts for a quarter of production costs, is particularly affected, highlighting the importance of energy efficiency to enhance competitiveness. Several barriers hinder the adoption of renewable energy in the region. Financial challenges, including high capital costs, limited incentives, and underdeveloped financial markets, restrict investment. Policy and regulatory barriers, such as inconsistent implementation and a lack of de-risking mechanisms, further complicate progress. Infrastructure limitations, including aging grids and insufficient technical capacity, slow the planning and maintenance of renewable systems. Social challenges, such as limited awareness of renewable energy benefits and significant energy inequalities between urban and rural areas, also impede progress.

The presentation emphasised opportunities to address these challenges. Climate finance must be targeted toward renewable energy projects, with

mechanisms that attract private investment while eradicating energy poverty. Regional cooperation is essential to harmonise policies, reduce inconsistencies, and address urban and rural energy needs inclusively. De-risking frameworks are needed to build investor confidence and encourage private sector participation. Programs for a just energy transition should support communities reliant on fossil fuels by creating local renewable energy industries, generating jobs, and fostering sustainable economic development. The presentation called for regional collaboration among governments, private sector players, and development partners to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency. It stressed the importance of innovative financing mechanisms, harmonised policies, and localising renewable energy value chains to create sustainable economies and jobs. Continuous capacity building and stakeholder engagement are also essential to support the adoption of renewable energy and its integration into existing grids.

The presentation urged collective action to create an energy-secure SADC region. It highlighted the 2024 SADC Sustainable Energy Week as a key platform to explore renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities.

### **5.5 Submission by Nciko wa Nciko, Amnesty International on Enhancing disaster resilience**

The presentation highlighted the severe impact of climate change on the SADC region, including extreme weather events such as severe droughts in Angola and Madagascar, intense rainfall in South Africa, and frequent cyclones affecting Madagascar, Mozambique, and other inland areas like Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. These events have led to widespread internal displacement and associated human rights violations, including limited access to healthcare, food, and freedom of movement within national borders.

The presentation noted the inadequacies of existing legal frameworks in addressing climate-induced displacement. The 1998 United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement do not recognize climate change as a cause of displacement, making it difficult for countries to quantify losses and seek reparations. While the 2009 Kampala Convention directly identifies climate change as a leading cause of internal displacement in Africa, only 31 out of 54 African countries, and just 7 of 16 SADC nations, have ratified this vital agreement.

Amnesty International proposed urgent measures to address these challenges. It called on all African countries to ratify the Kampala Convention to ensure legal recognition and support for those displaced by climate change. The organisation emphasised the need to convene regular conferences under the convention to strategize on addressing displacement and strengthen African states' unified voice in international climate forums. It also highlighted the critical role of mobilising climate finance from historically high-emitting countries to fund disaster risk reduction, adaptation, and resources for affected communities.

The presentation underscored the importance of addressing climate change-induced internal displacement as a human rights issue, particularly for vulnerable communities. It also emphasized the role of regional solidarity in disaster risk reduction and resilience-building, noting that such efforts would not only protect the most vulnerable but also strengthen the SADC region. By ratifying the Kampala Convention, organising regular deliberations, and securing climate finance, SADC can lead meaningful change in addressing climate-induced displacement and protecting human rights.

### **5.6 Submission by Esther Sharara, ActionAid on Supporting vulnerable regions with climate finance**

The presentation highlighted the critical need to address disaster risk reduction (DRR) and enhance climate resilience in the SADC region, emphasising the intertwined roles of climate change, inequality, and disaster vulnerability. ActionAid, a global federation operating in several SADC countries, places women and young people at the centre of disaster preparedness and response efforts, advocating for their leadership in resilience-building initiatives.

The presentation challenged the notion of "natural disasters," explaining that hazards, whether natural or human-made, become disasters due to societal vulnerabilities and inequalities. These factors significantly reduce the capacity of communities to plan, prepare, and respond effectively to crises. The accelerating climate crisis has further set back progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), necessitating disaster-proof strategies that address vulnerabilities, particularly for women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Early warning systems were identified as one of the most cost-effective methods for reducing disaster impacts. However, the region suffers from limited coverage, with 60% of Africa's population lacking access to early warning information. The presentation underscored the need for robust regional coordination and legislative support to improve early warning systems and ensure timely action. Governments and donors were criticised for their reactive approach, waiting for disaster declarations to release funds, which often results in delayed and ineffective responses.

The presentation emphasised the importance of governance in DRR, highlighting the role of parliamentarians in enacting and overseeing laws that strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience. Examples from Malawi, which recently passed a progressive Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Bill, and Zimbabwe, which is developing a new DRM framework, were cited as steps toward aligning regional practices with international standards like the Sendai Framework.

ActionAid called for transformational changes in DRR, focusing on reducing vulnerabilities and inequalities. Parliamentarians were urged to ensure that

government funds are allocated for anticipatory actions and that DRR initiatives are led by those most affected by climate change, particularly women and young people. Agroecology was presented as a key adaptation tool, with smallholder women farmers at the forefront of responding to challenges like the El Niño drought.

The role of climate finance was emphasised, with the presentation outlining various funding mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Adaptation Fund (AF). These funds, established under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), are vital for supporting mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building. Parliamentarians were encouraged to advocate for increased allocation of public budgets to climate action, ensuring alignment with national climate pledges under the Paris Agreement.

Finally the presentation stressed the need for inclusive, proactive, and well-funded approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate resilience, with parliamentarians playing a critical role in driving legislative and budgetary action to protect the most vulnerable communities in the SADC region.

### **5.7 Submission by Giulia Gasparri, PMNCH on the intersection of climate change and SRHR**

The presentation, highlighted the profound impacts of climate change on health, particularly its intersection with sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Climate change was described as the largest global health threat and an intergenerational injustice, with significant implications for women, children, and adolescents.

The presentation outlined direct and indirect impacts of climate change on SRHR. These include adverse outcomes for maternal and newborn health, such as preterm births and stillbirths, disruptions to access to SRHR services and essential commodities, increased gender-based violence (GBV), and the exacerbation of harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation. Women, girls, and marginalised groups, especially those dependent on natural resources, were identified as being among the hardest hit by extreme climate events.

Ongoing efforts to address these challenges were noted, including initiatives in Angola, Malawi, and Namibia targeting maternal health, HIV/AIDS, and comprehensive sexuality education. However, significant gaps remain. Among the 119 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted between 2020 and 2022, only 38 countries directly referenced SRHR, with less than 5% of global adaptation funding and 7% of bilateral health aid addressing health impacts linked to climate change. The lack of adequate financing for SRHR in climate policies remains a critical challenge.

The presentation emphasised the role of parliaments in bridging these gaps. Recommendations included aligning national legal frameworks with

international commitments under the UNFCCC, ensuring that health and disaster risk reduction policies integrate SRHR, and conducting age- and gender-disaggregated vulnerability assessments. Parliamentarians were encouraged to advocate for intersectoral funding for climate and health, adaptive social protection schemes for vulnerable groups, and international climate funding to address health impacts. The importance of public hearings and meaningful engagement of women and youth in decision-making was also highlighted.

The presentation concluded with a call for intersectoral climate and health policies that prioritise the health and rights of women, girls, and adolescents, underlining the need for legislative, budgetary, and oversight measures to address the intersection of climate change and SRHR. Parliamentarians were urged to take a proactive role in driving these changes.

### **5.8 Submission by Ms. Ndivile Mokoena from GenderCC on Agroecology for climate adaptation**

The presenter could not join the session however she did make submissions to the committee in a written format. The presentation highlighted the critical intersection of gender, food systems, and climate justice, advocating for agroecology as a transformative solution for achieving food sovereignty and climate resilience in the SADC region. The presentation, delivered during the SADC PF Public Hearing on Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Climate Action, framed the industrialised food system as a driver of global ecological and social crises, perpetuating inequalities, environmental degradation, and hunger.

Agroecology was proposed as an alternative to the current industrialised approach to agriculture, which prioritises mass production over social and environmental sustainability. It was positioned as a model that reduces emissions across the food system, enhances climate resilience in food production and distribution, and ensures access to healthy and nutritious food. The presentation described agroecology as an opportunity to build food systems that nourish communities, protect ecosystems, and promote food sovereignty.

The presentation emphasised that climate change poses significant challenges for adaptation in Africa, particularly in agriculture and food systems. Vulnerabilities extend to urban areas and informal sectors, with structural inequalities disproportionately affecting women, youth, and indigenous farmers. Agroecology was highlighted as a rapidly growing agricultural model globally, offering a holistic framework to address hunger, poverty, and social disparities while building resilience to climate change.

The role of agroecology in advancing gender-transformative food systems was particularly stressed. Integrating agroecological practices into women's farming cooperatives was presented as a strategy to bridge resource gaps, enhance profitability, and ensure sustainability. Empowering women and



youth was identified as essential not only for addressing climate change but also for fostering innovation and community-led solutions. Agroecology supports economic diversification, helping smallholder farmers adapt to climate risks, and enhances local resilience through knowledge dissemination and community engagement.

The presentation concluded by asserting the importance of agroecology in building equitable, sustainable food systems that address the root causes of social and environmental challenges, empowering vulnerable groups, and advancing sustainable development goals.

### **5.9 Submission by Glen Tyler-Davies and Anda Dungulu (350.org): Role of development finance institutions in climate finance**

The presentation focused on the crucial role of public finance institutions (PFIs) in addressing climate change and the need for robust parliamentary oversight. The Fair Finance Coalition Southern Africa advocates for socially and environmentally responsible investment by PFIs across South Africa and Africa, with a specific focus on climate change, transparency, and human rights.

The presentation outlined the importance of PFIs, which serve as key sources of climate finance, facilitate financial flows, and implement climate projects. However, it highlighted several critical requirements for PFIs to ensure their contributions align with climate justice principles. These include ensuring transparency and public accountability, developing strong, publicly available policies, refraining from funding fossil fuel projects, and promoting just transitions that prioritise social and environmental equity.

Emphasis was placed on the opportunity for SADC to leverage its regional integration and parliamentary frameworks to drive climate action. The SADC Parliamentary Forum's Strategic Plan (2024–2028) envisions robust democracy and socio-economic prosperity through climate action and human rights advocacy. This vision aligns with the objectives of the 2024 Public Hearing, which include enhancing socio-economic development, ensuring inclusivity, and addressing pressing issues such as climate change and public financial management.

The presentation concluded with specific recommendations for SADC parliaments. These included actively monitoring and questioning the operations of PFIs, advocating for transparency and accountability in their policies, demanding increased climate finance as part of the global climate debt owed to developing nations, and maintaining vigilance against investments in fossil fuels. Parliamentarians were encouraged to seize opportunities presented by the climate transition to support communities and drive sustainable development across the region.

## **5.10 Submission by Sara Ahmed from the V20 on the Needs of vulnerable countries**

The presentation detailed the critical challenges posed by climate change to food security in Southern Africa, one of the most vulnerable regions globally. It highlighted the far-reaching impacts of rising temperatures, altered weather patterns, and the increasing frequency of droughts on the region's food systems, economies, and socio-economic stability.

Global findings emphasised that if climate commitments were met and temperature increases were limited to 1.5°C, 58% of the reduction in crop growth duration could be avoided. However, in Southern Africa, rising temperatures are already shortening crop life cycles, reducing yields of key staples such as wheat and maize. Although some crops, like soy, may see slight yield improvements under certain conditions, any benefits diminish significantly as global temperatures rise beyond 1.5°C. The region's reliance on rain-fed agriculture and its limited capacity to adapt exacerbate these challenges, leaving millions vulnerable to food insecurity.

The presentation underscored the economic ramifications of climate-induced food insecurity. Chronic impacts, such as declining food production and increased migration, could drive inflation and interest rates higher. A dependence on food imports to mitigate shortfalls further worsens current account deficits, compounding economic pressures. These effects are expected to ripple through global supply chains and financial systems, amplifying inflationary pressures and destabilising economies across Southern Africa.

To address these challenges, the presentation highlighted the establishment of pre-arranged and trigger-based financing mechanisms to provide predictable and enhanced risk-sharing solutions. Strengthening regional financial arrangements, such as adaptive social protection schemes and regional risk pools, was critical for responding to climate shocks effectively. Access to catastrophe financing instruments like Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Options (CAT DDOs) was identified as a vital component of a robust risk management strategy.

The presentation also explored measures to enhance food value chains to capture economic potential and improve food affordability and availability, particularly for vulnerable populations. These measures included developing local agro-industrial zones to reduce food waste and enhance value addition, strengthening regional food value chains to promote exports and generate high-value commodities, incorporating climate-smart agricultural practices, tracking systems, and cold-chain infrastructure to improve efficiency and resilience. Expanding the range of food products to mitigate risks associated with mono-cropping, along with innovative packaging and storage solutions to extend shelf life and reduce post-harvest losses, was also emphasised. Social safety nets were recognised as vital for protecting the most vulnerable



populations from food insecurity and price shocks, alongside fair pricing mechanisms to improve accessibility.

The presentation concluded by stressing the urgency of collective and proactive action to address the dual crises of climate change and food insecurity. Through collaborative efforts among governments, financial institutions, and regional bodies, Southern Africa can transform its food systems into sustainable, climate-resilient models that support long-term socio-economic stability. By adopting these measures, the region can enhance the resilience of its food systems, safeguard its economies, and secure the livelihoods of its populations.

### **5.11 Submission by John Oldfield, Accelerate Global on Sustainable water management**

The remarks focused on the essential role of parliaments in addressing water security challenges across Southern Africa. Water security, which is increasingly threatened by climate change, population growth, and economic pressures, requires robust engagement from legislative bodies to complement the efforts of technical ministries such as water, sanitation, health, and environment. Legislators were encouraged to prioritise the development of stronger laws, increased budgets, and improved regulatory frameworks to ensure sustainable water access for drinking, agriculture, health, and environmental purposes.

Parliamentary Water Caucuses or Networks were proposed as effective platforms to accelerate progress on water security. These caucuses, modelled on similar initiatives addressing climate, health, and gender, unite parliamentarians across political parties and committees with a shared commitment to advancing water security. They work collaboratively with civil society organisations and technical ministries to strengthen governance, pass stronger laws, and advocate for increased funding. Examples of successful water caucuses in countries like Uganda, Zambia, and South Sudan were presented as evidence of their effectiveness in addressing water challenges.

Recommendations for establishing Parliamentary Water Caucuses included learning from peers in other regions, forming inclusive memberships representing diverse parliamentary committees, engaging with civil society leaders and water ministries from the outset, and defining clear terms of reference to guide the caucus's work. Longer-term priorities were highlighted, such as setting legislative goals for the current or next legislative cycle, initiating actions like hearings or town halls, and committing to multi-year strategies. Continuous collaboration with stakeholders, including the private sector, media, and development partners, was emphasised as key to achieving sustained success.

The remarks underscored that water security challenges are intensifying due to climate change, economic growth, and urbanisation, but solutions are more attainable than ever. Establishing Parliamentary Water Caucuses across

Southern Africa was presented as a critical step toward addressing these challenges. By fostering collaboration, increasing accountability, and prioritising water in legislative agendas, these caucuses can deliver significant benefits to communities and support broader goals in health, education, gender equality, and climate resilience. Water security was characterised as both a pressing political issue and a strategic opportunity to advance sustainable development across the region.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

- (i) **Urge** SADC Member Parliaments to advocate for increased budget allocations for climate finance, emphasising funding for adaptation, mitigation, and resilience projects, particularly in vulnerable and high-risk regions. Members should support streamlining access to funds like the Green Climate Fund and the establishment of direct access entities at the national and regional levels.
- (ii) **Encourage** SADC Member Parliaments to adopt and implement policies that promote agroecology and climate-smart agricultural practices to strengthen resilience, reduce emissions, and enhance food security. Support for gender-sensitive approaches and financial incentives for sustainable agricultural practices should be prioritised.
- (iii) **Advocate** for the integration of gender-responsive strategies in climate action and disaster risk reduction. Parliamentarians should ensure women and marginalised groups are central to planning and implementation processes, enabling equitable access to resources and decision-making opportunities.
- (iv) **Call** on SADC Member Parliaments to form a regional Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition to promote legislative frameworks, resource mobilisation, stakeholder engagement, and awareness-raising efforts. The alliance should focus on agrifood systems transformation and align with SADC's development goals.
- (v) **Urge** Member Parliaments to develop clear strategies for transitioning to renewable energy while phasing down reliance on fossil fuels. These strategies should prioritise energy security, affordability, and inclusivity by addressing potential job losses through investment in green technologies and skill development.
- (vi) **Encourage** SADC Member States to develop a comprehensive strategy for the classification, exploitation, and value addition of critical minerals. This strategy should ensure equitable benefits for local communities, promote regional economic transformation, and align with global climate mitigation efforts.

- (vii) **Recommend** that SADC Member Parliaments advocate for investments in sustainable water management practices and infrastructure to address agricultural and urban needs. Integrated water resource management frameworks and transboundary cooperation should be strengthened.
- (viii) **Urge** Member Parliaments to prioritize investments in early warning systems, anticipatory action, and disaster resilience programs. Legislation should include mechanisms for protecting vulnerable populations and addressing climate-induced displacement through the domestication of frameworks like the Kampala Convention.
- (ix) **Call** for the establishment of transparent mechanisms to track and evaluate the implementation of climate and food security laws. Parliaments should monitor the allocation and utilisation of funds to ensure effective governance and equitable resource distribution.
- (x) **Promote** the use of Commonwealth Climate Finance Advisers and other technical experts to enhance the capacity of Member States in preparing viable climate finance proposals. Parliamentarians should also advocate for cross-regional exchanges to share best practices in FSN governance and climate adaptation.
- (xi) **Encourage** Member Parliaments to evaluate the current Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) and support the development of the next RAIP (2025–2030). These efforts should ensure alignment with SADC’s priorities, operationalise the SADC Agricultural Development Fund, and improve resource coordination.
- (xii) **Advocate** for regular public hearings and community dialogues to understand local needs and integrate citizen inputs into national and regional policies. This ensures inclusivity and accountability in decision-making processes.

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Hon. Phillipus Katamelo  
**CHAIRPERSON**

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Ms. Rachel Mundilo  
**COMMITTEE SECRETARY**

## **7.0 APPENDICES**

### **APPENDIX I - 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, Natural Resources and Climate Action, SADC PF Secretariat
- (iv) Ms Masenate Molapo, Programme Manager, Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment, SADC PF Secretariat
- (v) Dr Moses Magadza, Media Office SADC PF Secretariat
- (vi) Ronald Windwaai, ICT Officer, SADC PF Secretariat
- (vii) Paulina Kanguatjivi, Procedural Assistant and Coordinator, SADC PF Secretariat

### **APPENDIX II - RESOURCE PERSONS**

- (i) Nargis Bozorova, FAO Legal Expert
- (ii) David Kabanda, FAO Consultant
- (iii) Eric Chipeta, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser-Namibia
- (iv) Davie Malungisa, Natural Resources and Climate Change Senior Advisor (SARWatch)
- (v) Kudakwashe Ndhlukula, Executive Director SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE)
- (vi) Nciko wa Nciko, Amnesty International
- (vii) Esther Sharara, ActionAid International
- (viii) Giulia Gasparri, PMNCH
- (ix) Ndivile Mokoena, GenderCC
- (x) Glen Tyler-Davies and Anda Dungulu, 350.org
- (xi) Sara Ahmed, Managing Director and V20 Finance Advisor, CVF - V20 Secretariat
- (xii) John Oldfield, Accelerate Global