



**57TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION
31ST MAY TO 7TH JUNE
VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE**

**MOTION ON STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY IN THE SADC REGION BY
CREATING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND VIABLE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS
TO RESPOND TO THE GROWING CYBERSECURITY THREATS IN THE
REGION**

Mover: Hon. Mosimanegare Kenneth Mmoiemang, SOUTH AFRICA

Seconder: Hon. Hon. Richard LABROSE, SEYCHELLES

Date for which Notice is given: 5 June 2025.

Question Proposed: That the 57th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC PF: -

NOTING that cybersecurity in the SADC region faces significant challenges, including a substantial skills gap, underdeveloped digital infrastructure, and fragmented or inadequate legal frameworks;

FURTHER NOTING that these cybersecurity challenges are being compounded by the region's rapid digital transformation and increasing dependence on digital technologies across sectors such as finance, health, education, and government services;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the region remains highly vulnerable to a range of cyber threats, including ransomware, phishing, and social engineering attacks, due in large part to a severe shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals, with the African Union and the World Bank confirming that Africa faces a shortfall of nearly 100,000 cybersecurity professionals, with a significant proportion of that gap affecting SADC countries;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the persistent digital divide between urban and rural areas in many SADC Member States, which contributes to uneven access to technology, weak infrastructure, and poor enforcement of cybersecurity laws, ultimately hindering effective law enforcement and prosecution of cybercriminals;

RECALLING the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention), which aims to establish a harmonised legal framework for cybersecurity, personal data protection, and electronic transactions across the continent;

FURTHER RECALLING the SADC Model Laws on Data Protection, Electronic Transactions and E-Commerce, and Computer Crime and Cybercrime, developed under the Harmonisation of ICT Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa (HIPSSA) project, which provide a foundational framework for Member States to strengthen their national legislation and regulatory environments;

NOW THEREFORE:

- (i) **Calls** on national Parliaments to develop or updating national legal frameworks to align with the Malabo Convention and SADC Model Laws, ensuring consistency and interoperability across borders; and
- (ii) Urges SADC Member States to strengthen cybersecurity in the SADC region by:
 - (a) Establishing and adequately resourcing national and regional institutions dedicated to cybersecurity coordination, monitoring, and response;
 - (b) Investing in digital infrastructure, particularly in underserved rural communities, to bridge the urban-rural digital divide;
 - (c) Creating and scaling up targeted education and training programmes to address the digital skills gap and build a robust pipeline of cybersecurity professionals in the region; and
 - (d) Encouraging public-private partnerships and regional collaboration to share best practices, threat intelligence, and technological resources for combating emerging cyber threats.

SIGNATURE OF THE MOVER: