



**57TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION
31ST MAY TO 7TH JUNE 2025
VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE**

**NOTICE OF MOTION ON STRENGTHENING THE NEXUS BETWEEN SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE
SADC REGION**

Mover: Hon. Napo MOSHOESHOE, LESOTHO
Second: Hon. Celestine FIAROVANA, MADAGASCAR

Date for which Notice is given: 5 June 2025

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

RECOGNISING the growing urgency and profound regional significance of addressing the nexus between sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and climate change in the SADC region;

NOTING WITH CONCERN that the impacts of climate change, including prolonged droughts, floods, food and water insecurity, and displacement, are intensifying across the SADC region and disproportionately affecting women, girls, young people, persons with disabilities, and those living in poverty;

FURTHER NOTING that climate-induced disruptions hinder access to essential SRHR services, including maternal healthcare, contraception, HIV prevention and treatment, menstrual hygiene support, and protection from gender-based violence;

ACKNOWLEDGING compelling data by UNFPA on the disproportionate impact of climate change on SRHR outcomes, including:

- (i) Over 80% of those displaced by climate disasters are women;
- (ii) Female-headed households lose 34% more income due to heat compared to their male counterparts;
- (iii) 12.5 million girls are projected to drop out of school annually by 2025 due to climate-related impacts—22 of the most affected countries are in Africa;
- (iv) A 4°C rise in temperature could triple the incidence of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Sub-Saharan Africa, from 48 million to 140 million cases by 2060;
- (v) In Malawi alone, 1.5 million girls are at risk of child marriage due to climate-related stressors; and

- (vi) Despite these realities, only 2 out of 15 SADC Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) mention gender-based violence (GBV), 3 reference HIV, and none address harmful practices or menstrual health;

CONCERNED that such crises exacerbate vulnerabilities and are associated with increases in early and forced marriage, unintended pregnancies, school dropouts, and gender-based violence, thereby reversing progress in gender equality and public health;

COGNISANT of strong evidence that promoting SRHR in the context of climate change enhances community resilience, strengthens health systems, and supports inclusive and equitable adaptation and mitigation strategies;

ALARMED that SRHR considerations are frequently omitted from national and regional climate policies, disaster risk reduction strategies, and climate finance frameworks;

RECALLING the commitments under the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage, the SADC SRHR Strategy (2019–2030), the Maputo Plan of Action, the Paris Agreement, and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that integrating SRHR into climate change responses promotes community resilience, public health, and sustainable development, in alignment with Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063:

NOW THEREFORE:

- (i) **Urges** Member Parliaments to actively champion the integration of SRHR into national climate change policies, adaptation plans, and disaster risk reduction frameworks;
- (ii) **Calls upon** SADC Member States to ensure that climate finance, including from the Green Climate Fund and national budgets, supports access to comprehensive SRHR services as part of climate resilience initiatives;
- (iii) **Encourages** all stakeholders to promote cross-sectoral coordination among the environment, health, gender, youth, and disaster response sectors in addressing the SRHR–climate change nexus;
- (iv) **Calls for** the full and meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalised groups in shaping climate- and SRHR-related policies and responses at all levels;
- (v) **Urges** the relevant parliamentary Portfolio Committees at national and regional levels to prioritise oversight, policy dialogue, and regional cooperation on this critical intersection; and
- (vi) **Mandates** the SADC PF Secretariat to facilitate the documentation and dissemination of best practices, research, and policy options on integrating SRHR into climate change responses, and to report on progress constantly.

SIGNATURE OF MOVER: