

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

MOTION ON INCREASING EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD AND IMPACT OF HIV AND AIDS IN THE SADC REGION

Mover: Hon. Bonginkosi Success MADIKIZELA, South Africa Seconder: Hon. Mpho MOROLONG, Botswana

Date for which Notice is given: 5th June 2025

Question Proposed: That the $57^{\rm th}$ Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC PF:-

NOTING that the adverse effects of the HIV and AIDS epidemic on social, political and economic development remain one of the most pressing challenges facing the SADC region as it strives toward deeper integration;

CONCERNED that the SADC region continues to bear a disproportionate burden of the global HIV epidemic, with approximately 34% of all people living with HIV worldwide residing in the region, according to UNAIDS;

ACKNOWLEDGING that HIV and AIDS have had an unprecedented and devastating impact on the entire region, with high levels of adult mortality leading to increasing numbers of orphans, with more than 5.5 million children aged 0-17 years orphaned by the end of 2003, and in some Member States, as many as 20% of children have lost one or both parents to the disease;

RECALLING the SADC Declaration on Accelerating Action to End AIDS, a binding regional commitment to eliminate AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 through:

RECALLING the SADC Declaration on Accelerating Action to End AIDS, a binding regional commitment to eliminate HIV and AIDS as a public health threat in the SADC region by 2030 through:

- (i) Scaling up prevention and societal mobilisation;
- (ii) Expanding access to counselling, testing, treatment and support services;
- (iii) Mobilising increased financial resources to combat HIV and AIDS;
- (iv) Enhancing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;

FURTHER RECALLING Articles 26 and 27 of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development which mandate SADC Member States to address gender-specific health care needs related to HIV and AIDS, while ensuring universal access to treatment for all infected individuals, and the protection of girls from harmful practices;

CONCERNED that declining Official Development Assistance (ODA) for HIV programmes threatens the sustainability of gains made across the region, for instance, UNAIDS reports that global resources available for HIV responses in low- and middle-income countries fell to US\$20.8 billion in 2022—over US\$8 billion short of the estimated annual need by 2025;

ALARMED that unless urgent steps are taken to bridge the funding gap, progress toward achieving the 95-95-95 targets and eliminating vertical transmission in children may be reversed;

RECOGNISING that increased domestic financing is not only vital to mitigate donor withdrawal but also essential for building long-term,

resilient health systems capable of sustaining HIV prevention and treatment efforts;

EMPHASISING the critical role of national parliaments in securing adequate domestic budget allocations for HIV responses, strengthening legal frameworks, holding governments accountable, and ensuring inclusive stakeholder engagement;

NOW THEREFORE:

Calls on SADC Member States to

(i) Expedite the full implementation of the SADC Declaration on Accelerating Action to End AIDS by 2030, also known as the Dar es Salaam Declaration for Action to End AIDS in Children by 2030, with particular focus on regional coordination and shared accountability;

- (ii) Move with greater urgency to implement measures to fulfil the ten key commitments outlined in the Declaration, that need to be made to end AIDS in children, particularly ensuring universal free testing and treatment for all children and adolescents with HIV and access to treatment and care for all pregnant and breastfeeding women;
- (iii) Invest in and scale up innovative digital technologies to engage adolescents and young people to ensure that they receive comprehensive, integrated, youth-friendly HIV prevention and treatment services;
- (iv) Work proactively with civil society organisations and communities, including men and boys, to prevent gender-based violence and counter harmful gender norms that perpetuate HIV vulnerability;
- (v) Prioritise sustainable domestic financing for HIV responses in national budgets, with active parliamentary oversight to ensure accountability and alignment with international commitments; and
- (vi) Strengthen the capacity of parliaments to engage in health financing processes, advocate for equity and efficiency in resource allocation, and champion the needs of key populations and vulnerable groups.

SIGNATURE OF THE MOVER: