



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA

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COUNTRY REPORT ON PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS BY THE 56TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM, HELD IN LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA, FROM 8TH TO 15TH DECEMBER, 2024

	RESOLUTIONS ON THE SYMPOSIUM ON THE THEME: "LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR SMART, INCLUSIVE AND RESPONSIVE PARLIAMENTS IN THE SADC REGION."	COUNTRY REPORT
1.	SADC MEMBER STATES TO TAKE DELIBERATE MEASURES TO SENSITISE THEIR CITIZENS ON THE BENEFITS AND POSSIBLE DANGERS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS PART OF ITS DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY, THE MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE IS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. COLLABORATING WITH THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL AND HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS TO RUN AI AWARENESS WORKSHOPS AND CURRICULUM REVIEW; ii. INCLUDING AI TOPICS IN THE DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMMES IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES UNDER THE SMART ZAMBIA PROJECT; AND iii. HIGHLIGHTING BOTH THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND RISKS OF AI; AND FOCUSING ON ETHICAL AI USE, JOB DISPLACEMENT RISKS, AND DATA PRIVACY CONCERNS. • TO SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS, THE AI POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK WILL BE FINALISED IN ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL AND GLOBAL STANDARDS.
2.	SADC MEMBER STATES TO UPSCALE REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL SPACE THROUGH CREATION OF A REGIONAL FIBRE LINK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZAMBIA IS PART OF THE ONGOING SADC INITIATIVES TO ENHANCE FIBRE OPTIC CONNECTIONS AND IS CONNECTED TO REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FIBRE NETWORKS IN EIGHT (8) OUT OF TEN (10)

	SO AS TO ENSURE THAT NO MEMBER STATE IS LEFT BEHIND;	<p>NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TO SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENGAGE UNDER THE SADC COMMUNICATION REGULATORS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (CRASA) TO HARMONISE REGULATIONS AND ENSURE SHARED FIBRE INFRASTRUCTURE IS LEVERAGED REGIONALLY AND COORDINATE WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO CLOSE EXISTING GAPS IN REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY.
3.	MEMBER STATES TO SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND WORK COLLECTIVELY TOWARDS UNIVERSAL INTERNET ACCESS, ACCESS TO COMPUTING DEVICES AND PROMOTION OF DIGITAL LITERACY IN THE REGION	<p>ZAMBIA IS ACTIVELY PROMOTING DIGITAL LITERACY THROUGH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTEGRATION OF DIGITAL LITERACY INTO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM; • COMMUNITY-BASED ICT ACCESS POINTS AND DIGITAL HUBS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE SMART ZAMBIA INITIATIVE; AND • PARTICIPATION IN SADC UNIVERSAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY TARGETS, WHICH INCLUDE BOOSTING DIGITAL SKILLS.
4.	MEMBER STATES TO UNDERTAKE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS TO HELP REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS. IN THIS REGARD, EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES THAT REDUCE THE COST OF EXPORT OF FINISHED PRODUCTS INTO THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETS MUST ALSO BE DEVELOPED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZAMBIA IS REVIEWING BROADBAND TAXATION POLICIES TO IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY. • FURTHER, THE COUNTRY IS IMPLEMENTING DIGITAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND PROMOTING INNOVATION HUBS TO SUPPORT LOCAL DIGITAL CONTENT CREATION AND TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTION. • THE COUNTRY HAS ALSO INVESTED IN EXTENDING BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY THROUGH PROJECTS SUCH AS THE SMART ZAMBIA PHASE II AND THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENGAGE IN REGIONAL SADC PROGRAMMES AIMED AT SHARING BEST PRACTICES AND COLLABORATING ON TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS FOR DIGITAL INDEPENDENCE AND REGULARLY MONITOR AND EVALUATE PROGRESSON BROADBAND PENETRATION, DIGITAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, AND REDUCTION IN ICT IMPORTS.
5.	SADC MEMBER STATES TO TAKE PRACTICAL STEPS, SUCH AS ENACTMENT OF DATA PROTECTION AND CYBER SECURITY LAWS AND SENSITISATION OF THE CITIZENS ON THE PROVISIONS OF THESE, SO AS TO MAKE THE CYBER SPACE SAFER FOR ALL;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZAMBIA HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN STRENGTHENING ITS CYBERSECURITY AND DATA PROTECTION FRAMEWORK THROUGH THE ENACTMENT OF THE CYBER SECURITY ACT, 2025, THE CYBER CRIMES ACT, 2025 AND THE DATA PROTECTION ACT, 2021. • PUBLIC SENSITISATION CAMPAIGNS ON CYBERSECURITY RISKS, DATA PRIVACY, AND SAFE INTERNET USE, TARGETING SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ARE BEING STRENGTHENED; AND • THESE CYBER LAWS AND POLICIES WILL BE MONITORED AND REVIEWED TO KEEP PACE WITH EMERGING CYBER THREATS AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES AMONG OTHER THINGS.
6.	SADC MEMBER STATES TO INVEST IN UPGRADING THEIR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) INFRASTRUCTURE AND MODERNISING SYSTEMS, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS, TO FACILITATE FOR EASIER GOVERNMENT PROCESSES AND SERVICE PROVISION WITHOUT CITIZENS HAVING TO TRAVEL LONG DISTANCES TO ACCESS SUCH SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZAMBIA HAS ALIGNED ITS ICT DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS WITH THE SADC BROADBAND TARGETS BY 2025. THROUGH INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE SMART ZAMBIA PHASE II PROJECT AND THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY, THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPANDING BROADBAND COVERAGE AND MODERNISING ICT SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY. BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES ARE ONGOING, INCLUDING THE EXTENSION OF FIBRE OPTIC NETWORKS AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF MOBILE BROADBAND SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED AND RURAL AREAS. • ZAMBIA IS ALSO PARTICIPATING IN REGIONAL ICT DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT EVIDENCE-BASED

		POLICY FORMULATION AND TRACK PROGRESS TOWARDS BROADBAND TARGETS.
	RESOLUTIONS ON THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN ADVANCEMENT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	COUNTRY REPORT
1.	SADC MEMBER STATES TO ESTABLISH SAFE SPACES AND ENSURE PROVISION OF COUNSELLING AND LEGAL SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF CHILD MARRIAGE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) SO AS TO ENSURE PROPER CARE AND REINTEGRATION WHILE MAKING SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE AND HEALTH RIGHTS (SRHR) SERVICES YOUTH-FRIENDLY AND ACCESSIBLE, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA HAS ESTABLISHED SHELTERS IN RURAL AND PERI-URBAN AREAS TO PROVIDE SAFETY FOR VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GVB). • IN ADDITION, PSYCHO COUNSELLING SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO SURVIVORS OF CHILD MARRIAGE AND VICTIMS OF GBV. THE SURVIVORS OF CHILD MARRIAGE AND VICTIMS OF GBV ARE ALSO LINKED TO NECESSARY SOCIAL SUPPORT SUCH AS HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE SUCH AS SUPPORTING WOMEN LIVELIHOODS (SWL) AND CASH SUPPORT THROUGH THE SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME.
2.	SADC MEMBER STATES TO ALLOCATE ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DISASTER REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE. IN THIS PROCESS, THE NEEDS OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES MUST BE EXPLICITLY ADDRESSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANNUAL BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION HAVE GENERALLY INCREASED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AS SOCIAL PROTECTION HAS BEEN USED AS A KEY STRATEGY TO REDUCE POVERTY AND VULNERABILITY. • RESOURCE ALLOCATION TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DISASTER REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITY HAS BEEN PRIORITISED. GENDER-RESPONSIVE PLANNING AND BUDGETING HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE THAT PROGRAMMES ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN ARE ADEQUATELY FUNDED MORE SO, DURING IMPACTS INDUCED BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER INTERVENTIONS

		FOR RESILIENCE.
3.	SADC MEMBER STATES TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS AND ADOPT ACCOUNTABLE POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ERADICATION OF POVERTY, WHICH AFFECTS WOMEN AND GIRLS DISPROPORTIONATELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A NEW NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY OF 2024 HAS BEEN ADOPTED. THE POLICY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXT, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES BEING FACED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION. • MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, THE POLICY INTRODUCES A LIFE CYCLE APPROACH TO SOCIAL PROTECTION TO COVER ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL GOODS AND SERVICES AS WELL AS ENSURE INVESTMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND COMPREHENSIVE PROVISION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION. • FURTHER, DELIBERATE INTERVENTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, INCLUDING IMPROVING INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, STRENGTHENING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS AND PROMOTING INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CASH PLUS INITIATIVE.
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4.	SADC MEMBER STATES TO IMPLEMENT REGULAR IMPACT EVALUATIONS, GENDER-DISAGGREGATED DATA COLLECTION, AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS TO ASSESS EDUCATIONAL ACCESS AND ADAPT PROGRAMMES FOR IMPROVED OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION MAINTAINS AN EDUCATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (EMIS), WHICH CAPTURES ENROLLMENT, PROGRESSION, AND COMPLETION RATES BY SEX. ADDITIONAL DISAGGREGATION IS UNDERTAKEN IN KEY PERFORMANCE REVIEWS AND STATISTICAL BULLETINS. • INTERVENTIONS PROMOTING GENDER-FOCUSED EVALUATION INCLUDE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. PERIODIC IMPACT EVALUATIONS CONDUCTED THROUGH THE KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL (KGS) PROGRAMME. ii. NATIONAL SURVEYS WHICH HAVE INTEGRATED GENDER ANALYSIS TO ASSESS DROPOUT, RETENTION, AND THE PROGRESSION

		<p>RATES OF GIRLS; AND</p> <p>iii. COMMUNITY-LEVEL MONITORING AND SCHOOL-BASED FEEDBACK SYSTEMS ARE BEING STRENGTHENED.</p>
5.	<p>MEMBER STATES TO INTEGRATE GENDER-SENSITIVE CURRICULA, INCREASE THE PROPORTION OF FEMALE TEACHERS, AND ESTABLISH CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING METHODS, AND THE PROVISION OF SAFE SPACES AND TARGETED SUPPORT TO CREATE INCLUSIVE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS FOR MARGINALISED STUDENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE GENDER-RESPONSIVE CURRICULUM IN ZAMBIA INTEGRATES GENDER EQUALITY, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, AND LIFE SKILLS. FURTHER, SCHOOL CLUBS UNDER KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL (KGS) AND LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION PROMOTE INCLUSIVE VALUES. • SINCE 2022, OVER 40,000 TEACHERS, WITH A FOCUS ON FEMALE EDUCATORS AND EDUCATORS WITH DEBILITY, HAVE BEEN RECRUITED. • FURTHER, TEACHER TRAINING IN ZAMBIA INCLUDES MODULES ON GENDER-SENSITIVE PEDAGOGY. • THROUGH THE ZAMBIA ENHANCING EARLY LEARNING (ZEEL) AND THE ZAMBIA EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (ZEEP), OVER 120 NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND 550 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE) CLASSROOMS ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. • REGARDING TARGETED SUPPORT AND SAFE SPACES FOR GIRLS, BOARDING SCHOOL REPAIRS, SAFE SPACES, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED UNDER THE KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL PROGRAMME. IN ADDITION, THE MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME HAS REACHED OVER 1 MILLION GIRLS.
6.	<p>SADC MEMBER STATES TO ADOPT INCLUSIVE EDUCATION POLICIES, ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS, AND QUOTAS FOR WOMEN IN EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND LAUNCH AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS TO CHALLENGE STEREOTYPES, PROMOTE EQUALITY, AND</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZAMBIA'S EDUCATION ACT GUARANTEES THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR ALL. • THE RE-ENTRY POLICY SUPPORTS ADOLESCENT MOTHERS. CURRENTLY, THE POLICY IS UNDER REVIEW FOR IMPROVED SUPPORT FOR GIRLS • THE HIGHER EDUCATION LOANS AND SCHOLARSHIPS BOARD IS

	INFORM WOMEN AND YOUTH ABOUT EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.	<p>UNDER REVIEW TO ENHANCE GENDER EQUITY.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER SECTORS, THE COUNTRY HAS ENACTED STRONG LEGAL FRAMEWORKS—SUCH AS THE JUVENILES ACT AND THE CHILDREN'S CODE ACT, 2022—TO ELIMINATE CHILD MARRIAGE, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, AND EXPLOITATION, WHILE PROMOTING INCLUSIVE, SAFE, AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE EDUCATION. • FURTHER, THE KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL TERTIARY IS SUPPORTING OVER 2,000 GIRLS SINCE 2022 AND PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO SUPPORT 4,000 GIRLS ANNUALLY BY 2028.
	RESOLUTIONS ON THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATISATION, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS	COUNTRY REPORT
13.	SADC MEMBER STATES TO REVIEW AND UPDATE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ELECTORAL PROCESSES TO ALIGN WITH THE SADC MODEL LAW ON ELECTIONS AND THE REVISED SADC PRINCIPLES GOVERNING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF ZAMBIA CONSTITUTED THE ELECTORAL REFORMS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE IN JULY 2024 TO UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ELECTORAL LAWS. • THE COMMITTEE PROVIDED A PLATFORM FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF ZAMBIA TO CONDUCT A HOLISTIC REVIEW OF ELECTORAL LEGISLATION WHICH ARE CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS TO ENSURE LEGAL CERTAINLY AND CONSISTENCY, IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLES ESPOUSED IN THE SADC MODEL LAW ON ELECTIONS AND SADC PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES GOVERNING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS.
14.	MEMBER STATES TO ACTIVELY IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE MARGINALISED AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS WITH TARGETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE CONSTITUTION OF ZAMBIA GUARANTEES RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION. • IN ADDITION, THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND THE

	<p>APPROACHES, INCLUDING CONTEXT SPECIFIC PROTECTIONS OF THEIR ELECTORAL RIGHTS AS PART OF THE BROADER NATION-BUILDING EFFORTS</p>	<p>NATIONAL POLICY ON DISABILITY OPERATIONALISES THE COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (UNCRPD).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF ZAMBIA, THEREFORE, HAS IMPLEMENTED ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT ELECTORAL RIGHTS OF VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS AS FOLLOWS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. DEVELOPMENT OF THE GENDER AND INCLUSION POLICY AIMED AT PROMOTING ELECTORAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND PWDs IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. ii. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ON THE PAYMENT OF NOMINATION FEES: THE COMMISSION HAS INTRODUCED LOWER NOMINATION FEES FOR WOMEN, YOUTH AND PWDs IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE THEIR PARTICIPATION. iii. STRATEGIC COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SUCH AS THE ZAMBIA AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS TO PROMOTE ELECTORAL RIGHTS OF MARGINALIZED AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.
	<p>RESOLUTIONS ON THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>COUNTRY REPORT</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>SADC MEMBER STATES TO ADOPT AND</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZAMBIA HAS A NUMBER OF NATIONAL POLICIES AND

	<p>IMPLEMENT POLICIES THAT PROMOTE AGRO-ECOLOGY AND CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE, REDUCE EMISSIONS AND ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY. SUPPORT FOR GENDER-SENSITIVITY APPROACHES AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES SHOULD BE PRIORITISED.</p>	<p>PROGRAMS AIMED AT PROMOTING AGRO-ECOLOGY, CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE, AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE STRATEGIES IN CLIMATE ACTION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KEY INITIATIVES INCLUDE THE ONGOING REVIEW OF THE SECOND NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY TO ENHANCE CLIMATE RESILIENCE, GENDER INCLUSIVITY, AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT; THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL CROP DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY TO IMPROVE FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY; AND THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CATSP), WHICH PROMOTES INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS AND INFRASTRUCTURE. FURTHER, THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION POLICY AND INCREASED BUDGETARY SUPPORT ARE ENHANCING CLIMATE ADAPTATION THROUGH IMPROVED WATER MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES.
2.	<p>SADC MEMBER STATES TO INTEGRATE GENDER RESPONSIVE STRATEGIES IN CLIMATE ACTION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION. MEMBER STATES SHOULD ENSURE WOMEN AND MARGINALISED GROUPS ARE CENTRAL TO PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESSES ENABLING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND DECISION MAKING OPPORTUNITIES.</p>	<p>TO PROMOTE GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE ACTION, THE MINISTRY IS BUILDING CAPACITY IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES, STRENGTHENING GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING, AND RESTRUCTURING THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FISP) TO SUPPORT RESILIENT, HIGH-VALUE FARMING SYSTEMS.</p>

ANEX1: UPDATE ON KEY RESOLUTIONS

	Decisions/Issues	Questions to be Addressed in the Country Report
1.	TRANSFORMATION OF THE FORUM INTO A SADC REGIONAL PARLIAMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZAMBIA HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IN ADVANCING THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE FORUM INTO A SADC REGIONAL PARLIAMENT. • ON 2ND JULY, 2024, ZAMBIA BECAME THE ELEVENTH SADC MEMBER STATE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT AMENDING THE SADC TREATY TO ESTABLISH THE SADC PARLIAMENT. • ZAMBIA HOSTED THE 56TH SADC PF PLENARY ASSEMBLY IN DECEMBER 2024. DURING THE SESSION, THE VICE PRESIDENT, MRS W K MUTALE NALUMANGO, REAFFIRMED ZAMBIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SADC PARLIAMENT AND PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR ALL PROCESSES LEADING TO ITS SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION. • WITH REGARD TO THE DRAFT PROTOCOL, ZAMBIA HAS SUBMITTED HER COMMENTS TO THE SADC SECRETARIAT, PURSUANT TO THE DECISION OF THE 44TH SADC SUMMIT.
2.	SECONDMENT OF SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA REMAINS STEADFAST IN ITS COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SADC PF THROUGH THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT. • AS EVIDENCE OF THIS ONGOING COMMITMENT, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA HAS IN THE PAST, SUCCESSFULLY SECONDED QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO THE

		<p>FORUM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THESE SECONDMENTS HAVE NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE WORK OF THE FORUM BUT HAVE ALSO ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE SECONDED STAFF. • IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA HAS STARTED THE PROCESS OF SECONDING QUALIFIED AND COMPETENT STAFF TO THE FORUM, FOLLOWING THE OFFICIAL REQUESTS FOR THE REQUIRED POSITIONS BY THE FORUM.
3.	ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS (EOMs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTION OBSERVATION IN PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY AND CREDIBILITY OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES WITHIN THE SADC REGION. • HOWEVER, DUE TO THE PREVAILING FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA REGRETS ITS INABILITY, AT THIS TIME, TO SPONSOR THE PARTICIPATION OF TWO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND STAFF IN EACH ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS (EOM) DURING THE 2026 ELECTORAL CALENDAR. • NONETHELESS, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMENDS THE FORUM FOR ITS PROACTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF A RESOURCE MOBILISATION STRATEGY AND URGES THE FORUM TO

		<p>INTENSIFY ENGAGEMENT WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WHO MAY BE IN A POSITION TO SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM AND STAND READY TO PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY IN ITS ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE LIMITS OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES.
4.	DESIGNATION OF A FOCAL PERSON ON MODEL LAW DOMESTICATION	<p>FOCAL POINT PERSON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE SADC PF DESK OFFICER AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING THE FOCAL PERSON ON MODEL LAW DOMESTICATION. THE OFFICER IS TASKED WITH COORDINATING MATTERS RELATED TO THE DOMESTICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SADC MODEL LAWS, PROGRESS MONITORING AND ENSURING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE FORUM, AMONG OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES. <p>NATIONAL EFFORTS IN DOMESTICATING AND PROMOTING MODEL LAWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA HAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ALIGNING NATIONAL LEGISLATION WITH MODEL FORUM. THESE EFFORTS REFLECT ZAMBIA’S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND HARMONISING

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS ACROSS THE SADC REGION.

LEGISLATION DOMESTICATION

- **THE CHILDREN'S CODE ACT** IS ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT EXAMPLES OF LEGISLATION IN ZAMBIA THAT DRAWS DIRECTLY FROM THE SADC MODEL LAW ON ERADICATING CHILD MARRIAGE AND PROTECTING CHILDREN ALREADY IN MARRIAGE. THE ACT CONSOLIDATES CHILD-RELATED LEGISLATION, ELEVATES THE LEGAL AGE OF A CHILD, AND CODIFIES PROTECTIVE MEASURES, THUS REFLECTING KEY PROVISIONS AND PRINCIPLES ADVOCATED BY THE SADC PF.
- **THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT:** ZAMBIA HAS ALSO TAKEN STEPS TOWARD ALIGNING ITS PUBLIC FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT MECHANISMS WITH THE SADC MODEL LAW ON PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (PFM), ADOPTED BY THE FORUM IN 2022. AS SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, I HAVE PUBLICLY ENDORSED THE UTILITY OF THIS MODEL LAW IN ENHANCING ACCOUNTABILITY AND FISCAL DISCIPLINE IN LINE WITH REGIONAL BEST PRACTICES.
- **THE MARRIAGE ACT:** THE AMENDMENT OF THE MARRIAGE ACT IN 2023 OFFERS A SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY FOR ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE COUNTRY BY ADDRESSING LEGAL LOOPHOLES, STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND HARMONISING THE CUSTOMARY AND STATUTORY DEFINITION OF WHO A CHILD IS.

- THIS AMENDMENT INTRODUCED STRICTER REGULATIONS REGARDING THE AGE OF CONSENT FOR MARRIAGE, ALIGNING IT MORE CLOSELY WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES. BY RAISING THE MINIMUM AGE OF MARRIAGE TO 19 YEARS AND ENFORCING STRINGENT PENALTIES FOR THOSE WHO VIOLATE THESE PROVISIONS, THE AMENDED MARRIAGE ACT ACTS AS A POWERFUL DETERRENT AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS CO-HOSTED REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUMS, SUCH AS THE SADC PF REGIONAL CONVENING HELD IN LUSAKA, IN AUGUST 2024, WHICH FOCUSED ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SADC MODEL LAW ON ERADICATING CHILD MARRIAGE AND PROTECTING CHILDREN ALREADY IN MARRIAGE. THIS FORUM BROUGHT TOGETHER LEGISLATORS, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO CO-CREATE NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM BASED ON THE SADC PF MODEL.
- THROUGH PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES, COMMITTEE WORK, AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS FACILITATED NATIONAL AWARENESS OF SADC MODEL LAWS AND ENCOURAGED INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE ON THEIR RELEVANCE TO ZAMBIA'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.

5.	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2023– 2026 SRHR AND GOVERNANCE PROJECT	<p>THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA SIGNED AN IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT FOR THE SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRHR)/HIV, AIDS AND GOVERNANCE PROJECT IN NOVEMBER 2023. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE RENEWAL/RECRUITMENT OF TWO SRHR RESEARCHERS, WHO ARE ALSO PARLIAMENTARY STAFF AND HAVE WORKED ON THE PROJECT SINCE 2019. THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE PROJECT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) RECONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL WORKING GROUP (NWG) TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT DURING IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES. THE NWG CONSISTS OF SELECTED MEMBERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, UN AGENCIES AND THE TWO SRHR RESEARCHERS; (ii) THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT DRAWN FROM THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON SRHR UNDERTOOK A COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITY IN OCTOBER, 2024 TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO ASCERTAIN THE INHERENT CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY THIS MARGINALIZED GROUP IN ACCESSING SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN GENERAL AND HIV TREATMENT IN PARTICULAR; (iii) DURING THE 56TH SADC PF PLENARY ASSEMBLY, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT UNDER THE SRHR PROJECT WERE ABLE
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		<p>TO SHOW CASE SOME OF THE WORK THEY HAVE BEEN DOING UNDER THE PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH MANY PARTNER ORGANISATIONS WORKING ON SRHR IN ZAMBIA AS WELL AS TRADITIONAL LEADERS. SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER THIS COLLABORATION INCLUDE THE AUGMENTING OF VOICES TO END CHILD MARRIAGE AND TO SCALE-UP THE DOMESTICATION OF THE SADC MODEL LAW ON ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE;</p> <p>(iv) FROM DECEMBER, 2024 TO DATE, THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HAVE BEEN ENGAGING WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND OTHER STATE ACTORS TO DEVELOP IN THE SHORT TERM, A STATUTORY INSTRUMENT, PURSUANT TO THE CHILD CODE ACT, 2022 TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF THE AGE OF CONSENT FOR ADOLESCENTS TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND ACCESS SRH SERVICES FROM HEALTH CENTERS, IN VIEW OF THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM "CHILD" UNDER DIFFERENT LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS IN ZAMBIA. UNDER THIS INTERVENTION, ABOUT THIRTY MPS, FOUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF, TEN SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY WERE ORIENTED AND TRAINED; AND</p> <p>(v) AT THE BEGINNING OF MAY, 2025, THE PROJECT COMMENCED CONSULTATIVE WORK WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING A CONCEPT NOTE AND BUDGET THAT WOULD GUIDE PARLIAMENTARY INTERVENTIONS ON ISSUES OF THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SRHR. THE CONCEPT NOTE HAS SINCE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE SADC PF CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERT</p>
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		<p>FOR SCRUTINY.</p> <p>IN TERMS OF FINANCING OF ACTIVITIES, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA HAS CONTINUED TO BENEFIT FROM THE SUPPORT FROM THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT. SO FAR, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA HAS DRAWN ABOUT US\$ 1,550 TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES LISTED ABOVE, INCLUDING THE PROCUREMENT OF PROJECT FLAGS AND PULL-UP BANNER. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SRHR PROJECT HAS ALSO BUILT A STRONG WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH UN AGENCIES AND CSOS WORKING IN ZAMBIA, WHO HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PROJECT ACTIVITIES.</p>
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MR PRESIDENT, I submit.