



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Parliament

**PRESENTATION BY THE PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO TO THE 57TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE
SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON THE COUNTRY REPORT ON THE
PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE
56TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY**

Victoria Falls, Republic of Zimbabwe, June 3, 2025

Honorable President of the SADC Parliamentary Forum,
Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe,
Madam Secretary General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum,
Honourable Members of Parliament and dear colleagues,
Distinguished guests, in your titles and capacities,

Following the recommendations as contained in the minutes of the 56th Plenary Assembly of the SADC PF, held in Livingstone, Zambia, from 1 to 7 July 2024. And taking into account the practical arrangements of the General Secretariat of our sub-regional organisation, the Country Report that I am submitting today to this August Assembly includes 5 points, namely:

1. The transformation of the Forum into a SADC Regional Parliament;
2. The secondment of senior parliamentary officials;
3. Election observation;
4. The designation of a focal point for the integration of model laws at the national level;
5. Implementation of the SRHR Governance Project for the period 2023-2026.

As you can see in the table you have sent, the points mentioned above are accompanied by the actions required for their implementation at the level of our national Parliament.

1. Concerning the transformation of the Forum into a SADC Regional Parliament, the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is concerned about democratic values, has no objection to this transformation process, as it has received the political approval of the Heads of State and Government. It believes that, beyond all the considerations inherent in internal specificities, this change will strengthen the role of parliaments in regional integration and cooperation among SADC member countries.

The DRC has agreed to the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a regional parliament by signing, on July 11, 2024, in Angola, through its Ambassador to Angola, Mr. Constantin KALALA MAYBA, to whom President Félix TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO had full powers to sign the SADC Treaty Agreement concerning the establishment of the SADC Parliament.

This signature by the DRC, in the presence of Mrs. Carolina Cerqueira, President of the National Assembly of Angola, represents a major turning point in the transformation process by reducing the number of signatory countries to 12 members, a quorum of two-thirds required for the entry into force of the Treaty under Article 9, point 1, paragraph a) of the Constitution of the regional organization, to give the green light to the defined objective.

2. Regarding the secondment of senior parliamentary officials, the National Parliament of the DRC is seized of the matter and will keep you informed of its deliberations in the coming days.
3. Regarding electoral observation, beyond the electoral waves that have been scheduled in the sub-region, the National Parliament of the DRC has not been able to send observers. However, it will not miss the opportunity to make up for it, to the extent possible, by sending its members as observers to the member states that will organize general elections in 2026, namely Malawi, Seychelles and Tanzania. However, given the budgetary restrictions at the level of the country's political institutions, we cannot answer affirmatively regarding the adjustment of the amount of participation in each Electoral Observation Mission (EOM).
4. Regarding the appointment of a focal point for the domestication of model laws, our parliament has not yet formally appointed a focal point

to liaise with the Regional Model Law Monitoring Committee (RPMLOC) to monitor the domestication of the SADC PF model laws. However, allow us to take this opportunity to shed some light on whether this is a matter of choosing from among parliamentarians or from within the parliamentary staff? The answer to this question will help us to appoint a focal point in the near future.

At the level of legislative texts, we have some laws which have integrated, to a certain extent, the provisions of model laws, among others:

- Four of the provisions of the domestic laws were taken from the SADC model laws;
- One of the provisions of the Model Law on HIV/AIDS has been adapted into the domestic law on HIV/AIDS, in that even a child under 18 years of age and only 14 years of age can be tested without parental permission;
- One of the provisions of the electoral law that made a political party that has 50% women on the electoral list exempt from paying the deposit in order to promote the participation of women in political bodies;
- The promulgation of the law on the protection and reparation of victims of sexual violence related to conflicts, crimes against the peace and security of humanity, as well as the creation of the National Fund for Reparations for Victims of Crimes of Sexual Violence Related to Conflicts and Victims of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Humanity (FONAREV), are also an illustration of this;
- Also, the President of the Republic appointed for the first time a woman as Head of Government in which 38% of the members are women;
- The law on public finances is also to be credited with the transposition in the sense that the health budget has increased from 9% to 11% for the 2024 financial year;

- A public hearing was held in the interior of the country on the popularization of the law on sexual violence in 2023 and on the Maputo Protocol.

Unfortunately, there are no separate budget allocations for all these laws in the national budget.

5. In relation to the implementation of the SDSR and Governance Project 2023-2026, we can say with certainty that:

- The DRC Parliament signed the SDSR Project Agreement on July 17, 2024;
- He reappointed the Researcher in charge of the Project and appointed a Director in charge of the Project;
- The budget is allocated to each organization of a workshop or meeting of SDSR activities.

The question here is whether Parliament should allocate an amount to the project?

In addition, two activities were organized including the meeting with the National Working Group (NWG) and the multi-stakeholder meeting with parliamentarians, partners and civil society;

- Statistical data indicates that 23 parliamentary staff, 12 parliamentarians and 17 members of civil society attended the training.

As recommendations in this chapter, we invite the Forum to support the efforts made by our parliament for the implementation of the SRHR project and to provide financial resources for the organization of the project's activities within the country where cases of sexual violence are intense.

Honorable President of the SADC Parliamentary Forum,
Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe,

Madam Secretary General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum,
Honourable Members of Parliament and dear colleagues,
Distinguished guests, in your titles and capacities,

In conclusion, allow me to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the entire SADC Sub-Region and particularly to the SADC Parliamentary Forum for your solidarity with the Congolese Government and people, and your continued commitment to supporting their efforts to establish lasting peace, security and development in my country.

Thank you.