



PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE PROGRESS REPORT

ON

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 56TH
SADC-PF PLENARY ASSEMBLY**

**TO BE PRESENTED AT SADC PF 57TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY
SESSION**

AT

VICTORIA FALLS CITY, ZIMBABWE

31ST MAY TO 7TH JUNE 2025

1.0 Introduction

1.1 It is with great honour that I present this country report on Zimbabwe's implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 56th Plenary Assembly Meeting of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, held in Livingstone, Zambia from 8th to 15th December 2024.

2.0 Report on the resolutions on the symposium on the theme: ***'Leveraging Technology and Innovation for Smart, Inclusive and Responsive Parliaments in the SADC Region'***

2.1 Recommendation number one (i) *'Urges Member Parliaments to formulate laws that protect critical assets, privacy and protection of children who use technology, especially AI, in order to make the cyberspace safer'*.

2.2 In alignment with global best practices, the Parliament of Zimbabwe has ratified regional and international agreements to strengthen cross-border digital cooperation. This commitment is further exemplified by the enactment of the Cyber and Data Protection Act [Chapter 12:07] in 2021, establishing a robust framework for cybersecurity and data protection. Furthermore, Zimbabwe has accelerated its national digital transformation through the implementation of the Smart Zimbabwe 2030 Master Plan and the National ICT Policy 2022–2027.

3.0 Report on the resolution under the theme: ***'Adoption of the Report of the Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment'***.

3.1 Recommendation number six (vi) *'APPEALS to Member States to come up with strategies to recover job losses occasioned by the COVID 19*

pandemic through industry closures so as to jump start and resuscitate industry and boost trade and employment’.

- 3.2 Recommendation number seven (vii) ***‘Urges member states to advocate for more health financing which will enable the attainment of universal health coverage, thereby fostering positive SRHR outcomes’.*** .
- 3.3 Zimbabwe has actively championed increased health financing as a strategy to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and enhance SRHR outcomes. The Government has established sustainable domestic funding mechanisms, including the HIV/AIDS Levy, which ensures dedicated financial support for HIV programmes. Additionally, in response to the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, new taxes, including the Sugar Tax, Sin Tax and Fast Foods Tax, have been introduced.
- 3.4 The current industrial policy, known as the “*Zimbabwe Industrial Reconstruction and Growth Plan (ZIRGP) 2024-25*”, focuses on reducing the cost of doing business and promoting collaboration with the private sector. The manufacturing sector is expected to grow by 3.1% in 2025, with capacity utilization projected to increase from 47% in 2020 to 55% in 2025, with an eye to benefit more from the African Continental Free Trade Area.
- 3.5 Recommendation number eight (viii) ***‘ENCOURAGES Member States to harmonize existing legislation with the PFM Model Law with the view of promoting transparency and information sharing with the Executive, especially on debt management’.***
- 3.6 In line with this recommendation, the Parliament of Zimbabwe is accelerating efforts to harmonize the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) with the Public Financial Management (PFM) Model Law

adopted by SADC. By the time the SADC PF Model Law was introduced in 2022, Zimbabwe was already in the process of aligning its PFMA with these progressive principles in order to provide Parliament with effective oversight over public funds.

- 3.7** Recommendation number nine (xi) *‘IMPLORES Member States to remove barriers that hinder free trade within the region. In this regard, Member States should also implement measures aimed at fostering trade within the region, especially through improved transportation and connectivity’.*
- 3.8** The Parliament of Zimbabwe, in collaboration with the Executive, is actively working to eliminate barriers to regional trade and enhance connectivity through extensive road construction and rehabilitation efforts. Since ratifying the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in 2019, Zimbabwe has advanced its commitment to regional economic integration. The completion of negotiations on the rules of origin in 2023 marked a crucial milestone, enabling participating nations to define preferential trade terms.
- 3.9** As of May 2024, Zimbabwe was among the 41 countries that submitted their Schedules of Tariff Concessions to the AfCFTA Secretariat. While 36 of these submissions have been approved, Zimbabwe's remaining tariff offer is still pending approval.
- 3.10** To complement its trade facilitation efforts, Parliament is urging Government to prioritize completion of strategic infrastructure projects aimed at improving regional transport networks. As a result, key highways, including the Harare-Beitbridge Road, which links with South Africa, the Mutare-Plumtree Road, which connects Botswana to Mozambique via Zimbabwe, the Harare-Nyamapanda Road, which

facilitates trade with Malawi and the Beitbridge-Victoria Falls Highway, which serves as a crucial trade route linking Zimbabwe and Namibia through Zambia. These developments underscore Zimbabwe's commitment to promoting seamless regional trade and economic growth.

4.0 Report on the: ***'Resolutions on Adoption of the Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Climate Action'***.

4.1 **Recommendation on** *"Encourages Member States to advocate for increased budget allocations; and also adopt and implement policies that promote agro-ecology and climate smart agricultural practices; and also clean energy transitioning emphasizing affordable renewable energy that is secure and inclusive"*.

4.2 The country continues to face challenges associated with climate change, including intensified and more frequent extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, heat waves, and cyclones. In response, the government has launched the National Accelerated Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development Programme which aims to increase functional irrigable land from 217,000 hectares to 496,000 hectares by 2025. Government is also spearheading a project to construct dams across the country through a funding kit of over US\$1.5 billion raised during the Zimbabwe Irrigation Investment Conference held in Harare in 2024.

4.3 Zimbabwe's climate finance policy is aimed at mobilizing resources for climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience building aligned with national development. The country is setting up Climate Fund which is set to be operationalized by the enactment of the Climate Change Bill. Parliament has ensured that climate change is mainstreamed across all development planning and economic sectors in the country. Additionally,

Zimbabwe has established a carbon trading regulatory framework and a carbon registry to participate in the growing international carbon credit market. The Government is also incentivizing small grain production and expediting the enactment of the Plant Breeders Bill. The Pfumvudza/Intwasa climate-smart farming programme has been scaled up, to about 1.1 million hectares for the production of cereals, cotton, and oilseeds in the 2024/25 season under the programme. This accelerated agricultural production trajectory is expected to be enhanced by Zimbabwe's construction of 10,600 water bodies for agricultural production.

- 4.4** Furthermore, Zimbabwe is employing a comprehensive strategy to transition to renewable energy and aims to achieve universal energy access by 2030. The country plans to significantly increase its renewable energy capacity, focusing on solar, wind, and hydropower, including a major investment in a 250MW floating solar plant on Lake Kariba.
- 5.0** Report on *'Resolutions on the Resolution on adoption of the report of the Standing Committee on Democratization, Governance and Human Rights'*
- 5.1** Recommendation (c)(i) on the *Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas which encourages SADC Member States to endorse and implement the Declaration to Minimize Civilian Harm.*
- 5.2** In 2017, Zimbabwe demonstrated its dedication to this cause by endorsing the communiqué from the Maputo Regional Meeting on Protecting Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas. Furthermore, Zimbabwe enforces strict regulations on the possession, storage and use of explosives through the Explosives Act and the Firearms Act. Zimbabwe's ratification of the Chemical Weapons

Convention underscores our firm stance against the development and use of chemical weapons which aligns with our broader efforts to promote peace and security regionally and globally.

- 5.3** Recommendation (d) (i) on *Autonomous Weapons Systems, which urges SADC Parliaments to support an international ban on autonomous weapons systems to prevent their development and deployment.* Zimbabwe upholds the sanctity of life as enshrined in Section 48 of the Constitution which guarantees every person's right to life. This Constitutional provision underscores the moral and ethical obligation to oppose the development, stockpiling and use of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), including chemical weapons, which pose a grave threat to human existence. More so, the Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act [Chapter 11:18], gives effect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.
- 6.0** Report on '*Resolutions on the Adoption of the Report of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development*'.
- 6.1** Recommendation (a) '*On the Legislative and Oversight Measures to Strengthen the Implementation of Regional Gender Parity Frameworks at the National Level*', focusing on item four (iv) '*EMPHASIZES Parliament plays a critical role in achieving gender parity by enacting rights-based laws, domesticating regional and international commitments regarding women's political participation, establishing gender-focused committees and ensuring that all Parliamentary outputs eliminate gender discrimination*'.

- 6.2** The Parliament of Zimbabwe plays a pivotal role in advancing gender parity through legislative action, policy domestication and institutional frameworks. It has enacted various rights-based laws to protect and promote women's rights, including the Constitution, which incorporates a comprehensive Bill of Rights, as well as the Domestic Violence Act and Sexual Offences laws.
- 6.3** To align with international and regional commitments on women's political participation, Zimbabwe has domesticated key provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development. This domestication is embedded in constitutional provisions such as section 17 (gender balance), section 56 (non-discrimination), and section 80 (political rights of women), which reinforces the country's commitment to gender-inclusive governance.
- 6.4** The Parliament of Zimbabwe has also established dedicated gender-focused Committees. These include the Portfolio Committee on Women Affairs, Community and SMEs Development, the Thematic Committee on Gender and Development, and the Zimbabwe Women Parliamentary Caucus. These structures play a crucial role in ensuring that gender equity remains a priority in legislative processes and national development programmes.
- 6.5** Recommendation number five (v) *'CALLS UPON SADC Member States to introduce constitutional or legislated gender parity quotas in decision making positions, adopt more inclusive electoral systems, and appoint women to strategic roles, especially in social policy areas affecting marginalized groups'*.

- 6.6** The Parliament of Zimbabwe has reported previously on steps taken in on the above resolution.
- 6.8** Recommendation (b) (i) *CALLS for increased advocacy by SADC Member parliaments for the domestication of the SADC Model law on Eradicating Child Marriages and Protecting Children Already in Marriage, imposition of stricter penalties for offenders, stronger child marriages laws, and decriminalization of abortion to ensure that women and girls have autonomy over their reproductive health decisions*’.
- 6.9** Pursuant to this provision, Parliament of Zimbabwe has fully incorporated the SADC Model Law on Child Marriage into the country's legal framework through the Marriage Act, which explicitly criminalizes child marriage. Furthermore, section 78(1) of the Constitution affirms that every individual who has reached the age of eighteen has the right to establish a family. Indeed, no girl below this age can legally consent to marriage. In addition to these legal measures, Parliament actively oversees the effective execution of the Zimbabwe National Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence (2023–2030) which focuses on combating gender-based violence among young people.
- 6.10** Recommendation number four (d) (i) *‘CALLS for urgent action to address youth unemployment, digital literacy, and skills gaps, particularly for women, to reduce disparities and promote equal economic participation across the region*’.
- 6.10.1** In 2024, the Government of Zimbabwe unveiled the National Youth Empowerment Strategy, which prioritizes skills development, entrepreneurship, and innovation, with a particular emphasis on digital literacy and inclusive training for young women.

6.10.2 In addition, the Digital Ambassadors Programme mobilizes community leaders as digital champions, promoting digital literacy among local populations and expanding opportunities for youth engagement in the digital economy.

6.10.3 In order to tackle youth unemployment, Zimbabwe has implemented a range of targeted interventions, including the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) model in Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), which equips learners with practical, industry-relevant skills tailored to evolving market demands.

6.10.4 To bolster youth employment and economic participation, Zimbabwe introduced the US\$7 million Presidential Youth Empowerment Scheme in March this year under the theme **“Fuel Youth: Ignite the Future.”** This initiative consists of a US\$2 million Revolving Fund to support youth enterprises and a US\$5 million mining equipment support programme aimed at facilitating the entry of young entrepreneurs into the mining sector.

6.10.5 To ensure effective administration of these financial resources, the Youth Empowerment Bank has been established to oversee loan distribution and provide tailored financial solutions for aspiring young business owners. Additionally, the government has allocated US\$10 million from the National Irrigation Fund to empower youth engaged in agricultural ventures.

7.0 Report on ***‘Resolutions on the Report of the Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Programmes’***.

Recommendation number one (i): *‘Urges National Parliaments to prioritize health financing in national budget allocations, ensuring that domestic resources*

dedicated to health are increased in line with the Abuja Declaration target of at least 15% of national budgets.'

7.1 Parliament of Zimbabwe has demonstrated a strong and deliberate commitment to strengthening the health delivery system through a combination of direct budgetary allocations and complementary domestic financing mechanisms. In the 2025 National Budget, 11.8% of total Government expenditure was allocated to the Ministry of Health and Child Care. While this falls slightly short of the 15% Abuja Declaration target, it nonetheless reflects significant prioritization of the health sector within a landscape of competing national needs.

7.2 Importantly, the government has adopted a more comprehensive health financing strategy which includes targeted levies and taxes that bolster the health sector beyond core budgetary provisions. A prime example is the HIV and AIDS Levy, a ring-fenced tax that continues to provide sustainable domestic funding for Zimbabwe's HIV response and ensures the long-term viability of critical health programmes.

8.0 Report on *'Resolution on the Adoption of the Report of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus'*.

8.1 Recommendation number one (i): *'Urges SADC Member States to adopt and implement deliberate measures to promote women's participation and leadership in decision-making spaces on climate change and disaster risk management, and integrate gender into disaster risk reduction'*.

8.2 Recognizing the critical role women play in climate action and disaster risk management, Zimbabwe has adopted the Climate Change Gender Action Plan to advance their participation and leadership in decision-making spaces. This initiative underscores the nation's commitment to

gender-responsive climate policies. It ensures that women's voices, expertise, and leadership drive sustainable solutions for a resilient future.

8.3 Recommendation number two (2) *'ALSO URGES SADC Members 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'*.

8.4 The 2025 Gender Budget Statement highlights Zimbabwe's continued commitment to gender-sensitive budgeting. In 2024, Parliament allocated a total of ZWL\$25 939 615 938 to various Ministries to address the needs of women, men, boy and girls. For 2025, this allocation significantly increased to ZWL\$90 774 807 215. Furthermore, the budget ensures targeted funding for women and girls, particularly in areas related to disaster response, risk reduction, and climate change adaptation. To enhance oversight and promote accountability, in 2024, the Zimbabwe Women's Parliamentary Caucus tasked a group of 30 female MPs to monitor the implementation of the National Budget. These MPs track progress and, when necessary, present recommendations to address any discrepancies and improve gender inclusivity in financial allocations.

9.0 Report on *'Resolutions on the Adoption of the Report of the Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee'*.

9.1 Recommendation number six (vi): *'Implores the SADC Member Parliaments to seriously consider setting up Parliamentary Budget Offices to assist the parliaments to achieve excellence in budget oversight'*.

9.2 In 2016, the Parliament of Zimbabwe proactively took a significant step towards enhancing its fiscal oversight by establishing the Parliamentary

Budget Office (PBO). The PBO serves as a technical support unit to Parliament and its Committees, offering expert analysis on audit reports, macroeconomic and microeconomic policies, as well as monetary policies.

10.0 Report on the: *‘Resolution on the Motion on Enhancing Efforts to Integrate Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) into National School Curriculum in SADC Member States’.*

10.1 Recommendation number one (i) *‘ENCOURAGES SADC Member States that have not yet done so to integrate CSE into the national education curriculum for all primary and secondary schools, ensuring that it is age-appropriate, evidence-based, inclusive, and accessible to all students, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ability, or socio-economic status’.*

10.2 Zimbabwe, has taken deliberate steps to integrate Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) into the national education curriculum, guided by the Heritage-Based Education 5.0 model. At the tertiary level, institutions have incorporated Sexual and Reproductive Health modules into teacher training programmes and life skills courses. The Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education has also developed a National Sexual Harassment Policy for all institutions under its purview in order to promote safe, respectful and empowering academic environments.

11.0 Report on the *‘Resolutions on the Adoption of the Motion on the Security Situation in the SADC Region’.*

11.1 Recommendation (iv), *‘Urges all SADC member states and the broader international donor community to provide funding for capacity building initiatives aimed at strengthening the work of national electoral*

management bodies or commissions in the region, including their umbrella body, the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC countries (ECF-SADC) to ameliorate the adverse effects of electoral disputes and /or contestation of electoral outcomes.

11.2 The Government of Zimbabwe and UN Women organized a capacity-building workshop was in June, 2024 in Harare. It brought together 20 representatives from Chapter 12 Institutions, including the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC), Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), and Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC), as well as members of ZESN (Zimbabwe Election Support Network). The workshop focused on strengthening transparency, efficiency and governance in electoral processes.

11.3 Responses to specific questions

11.3.1 Transformation of the Forum into a SADC Regional Parliament

Zimbabwe signed the Agreement Amending the Treaty for the Transformation of the SADC PF into a Regional Parliament. Subsequent to this, Zimbabwe deposited a comprehensive dossier of comments on the Protocol Establishing the Regional Parliament through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Zimbabwe is eager to witness the full signatures of Member States at the 45th Extraordinary Summit of SADC to be held in Madagascar in August 2025.

11.3.2 Addressing the Impact of Inflation on the Budget of the Forum

Zimbabwe supports a subscription increase from April 2026 to address inflation challenges. This should align with other resource mobilization measures to support the Forum's operations and programmes' delivery, an essential niche in maintaining the vibrancy of the institution.

11.3.3 Secondment of Senior Parliamentary Staff to the Forum

Zimbabwe stands ready to second staff to the Forum. While the institution has occasionally seconded personnel on an ad hoc basis, it is now keen to do so on a longer-term and more sustainable basis, as pledged during the Executive Committee Meeting in April 2025.

11.3.4 Election Observation

Zimbabwe acknowledges the importance of participating in Election Observation Missions (EOMs). In this regard, Zimbabwe remains committed to regional electoral integrity and will explore options for financial and human resource contributions in future.

11.3.5 Designation of a Focal Person to Monitor Domestication of Model Laws

Parliament appointed SRHR researchers to track Model Law domestication.

11.3.6 Implementation of the 2023-2026 SRHR and Governance Project

Zimbabwe has made significant progress in implementing the SRHR and Governance Project. The Agreement to implement the project has been signed and the launch took place on 3rd October 2024. Parliament has utilized allocated resources to conduct awareness campaigns and stakeholder engagements.

11.3.7 Domestication of SADC PF Model Laws and Related Policies/Instruments

In April 2025, Parliament of Zimbabwe with the support of the SADC PF held a workshop on prison oversight aligned with the draft Model Law being proposed by the Institution.

I SUBMIT, MR PRESIDENT.