



COMMUNIQUÉ

THE SADC RISDP 2020-2030 & SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT -

A REGIONAL DIALOGUE FOR NON-STATE ACTORS

13-15 September 2022

1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Whereas a regional dialogue for non-state actors (NSAs) on the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Revised Regional Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) for 2020-2030 was held on 13 to 15 September 2022, under the theme of **The SADC RISDP and Social Accountability in Public Resource Management**, co-convened by Southern Africa Trust, Economic Justice Network (EJN) of the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA), Southern African People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN), Southern Africa Coordination Council (SATUCC), GenderLinks, Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) and the Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance (a consortium of ActionAid International (AAI), Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) of Rhodes University, Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) and SAfAIDS).

1.2 Over locations 120 people, from 5 of SADC's 16 Member States, joined the dialogue from meetings in 6 (Dodoma, Lilongwe, Lusaka, Harare, Johannesburg, Maputo) and virtually, representing various Non-State Actors (NSAs), including civil society organisations (CSOs), smallholder farmers' associations, trade unions, youth organisations, people's movements, women's groups, faith-based organisations and media outlets, the GIZ-SNRL programme, as well as parliamentarians, SADC Secretariat, SADC Parliamentary Forum (PF), SADC National Committees, SADC National Contact Points and other government departments.

1.3 Noting that the SADC RISDP 2020-2030 (hereinafter RISDP) and Vision 2050 were approved at the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit in August 2020, and its regional implementation plan and costings were adopted by the SADC Council of Ministers in August 2021, with national plans being developed by Member States and national costings being adopted by SADC Council of Ministers in August 2022. The 10-year regional strategy envisions "a peaceful, inclusive, middle to high income industrialised region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic well-being, justice and freedom".



1.4 Appreciating that the SADC PF adopted the SADC Model on Public Financial Management (PFM) at its Plenary in July 2022, which seeks to revitalise and modernise the PFM frameworks of SADC Member States. The Model Law is aligned with the objectives of the RISDP which envisages that the developmental goals within SADC will be reached within a climate that is conducive to good governance, transparency and accountability.

1.5 Applauding that the SADC Council of Ministers approved the establishment of a Regional NSA Engagement Mechanism at their meeting in August 2022. This further emphasises SADC's recognition of the importance of working in strategic partnerships with NSAs to ensure the successful implementation of regional policies and programmes, as highlighted in the RISDP 2020. To ensure social accountability in the roll-out of the RISDP 2020-2030, SADC and its Member States must ensure the people of the region are fully aware and involved in the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of associated national and local level initiatives.

1.6 Welcoming the 'Agreement Amending the SADC Treaty on Transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into the SADC Parliament', at the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit in August 2022, as the first step towards formalising the establishment of a SADC Parliament. It is hoped this will be followed swiftly by the required 12 Member States signing the SADC Treaty amendment, then the drafting and ratification of the planned protocol to establish a SADC Parliament with consultative and deliberative powers.

1.7 Recalling the importance of the African Union (AU) and SADC regional instruments such as the **(i)** African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (1996), and its Protocol on the Rights of Women (2003); **(ii)** African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007); **(iii)** African Youth Charter (2006); **(iv)** AU Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods (2014); **(v)** AU Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases (2001); **(vi)** SADC Protocol on Gender and Development; **(vii)** Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security (2004); **(viii)** SADC Strategy for SRHR in the SADC Region (2019 – 2030); **(ix)** SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) (2013) and Investment Plan (RAIP) (2017 – 2022); **(x)** SADC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (FNSS) (2015-2025); **(xi)** SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063; **(xii)** SADC Model Law on Elections; **(xiii)** SADC Model Law on Gender-Based Violence; **(xiv)** SADC Model Law on PFM; and **(xv)** SADC Model Law on HIV in Southern Africa; and **(xvi)** SADC Model Law on Eradicating Children Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage.

1.8 Recognised the progress made by SADC Secretariat and SADC Member States in implementing the RISDP 2020-2030, even amid the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflict in some Members States, war in Europe and multiple natural and man-made disasters, as reflected upon in SADC Annual Plans and Reports from 2020 to 2022.



In particular, in the area of **agriculture**: the continued efforts to implement the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP), alignment by 11 Member States to the SADC FNSS; conducting of food and nutrition assessments by 12 Member States; sustainability of regional early warning systems on food and nutrition security; and development of multiple regional strategies to deal with pests.

In the area of **health**: the support provided by SADC to strengthen health systems in Member States during and post COVID periods, including the management of TB patient tracing, implementation of Malaria elimination programmes, and operationalization by MS of the SADC Pooled Procurement Services (SPPS); and the launch and funding of projects through the SADC HIV and AIDS Special Fund and the establishment of the SADC Regional Health Financing Hub.

In the area of women, **gender** and development, the development of the SADC Guidelines on Developing and Implementing National Gender Action Plans to catalyse implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol; the review of Gender Based Violence (GBV) legislation in SADC; development of SADC Guideline on Developing GBV SOPs and Referral Mechanisms, SGBV Training Guidelines; and review of GBV indicators in the SADC Gender Protocol Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework.

In the area of **youth** development and empowerment, the drafting of the SADC Youth Empowerment Policy Framework; and convening of the SADC Youth Forum (SYF), and adoption of a revised Code of Conduct on Child Labour in March 2022.

1.9 Raised concern with the general lack of clarity about SADC processes at the national level, low levels of public access to and understanding of SADC information (including planning and reporting documents), and persistent underreporting by Member States on their SADC commitments.

1.10 Also raised concern about the absence of functional and accessible SADC National Committees (SNCs), as key accountability mechanisms, in most Member States, while acknowledging progress that has been made in establishing SNCs in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia, in particular.

1.11 Emphasised the importance of social accountability for effective delivery of quality, affordable, accessible and gender-responsive public services to all our people, and ultimately to the achievement of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the AU's Agenda 2063 and the SADC Vision 2050, and regional commitments as mentioned above.

1.12 Expressed concern that despite good conditions for crop production, animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries, the number of food insecure people in SADC region is estimated to be 55.7 million and 18.6 million children are stunted representing a third of the stunted children in Africa, according to the 2023 RVAA Synthesis Report (covering 12 Member States). Given the continued impact of climate change in the region, there is a need to ensure widespread adoption of sustainable agricultural practices to assist



smallholder farmers to adapt to the effects of climate change and to accelerate agricultural growth as a means of fighting hunger and poverty.

1.13 Highlighted the importance of improving SADC citizens' health, in general, and promoting access to HIV testing and treatment, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services for adolescents and young people, in particular.

1.14 Underscored the need for increased participation of women in political processes, improved data collection on gender indicators at national and regional levels, and strengthened protection, monitoring and strategies to tackle gender-based violence in the SADC region.

1.15 Stressed the need to facilitate the full and informed participation of young people at all levels in the formulation, decision-making and implementation of the RISDP and all SADC commitments.

1.16 Acknowledged that while the dialogue focused on four thematic areas: *agriculture, health, trade and gender*, the RISDP also covers areas of regional integration: peace, security and good governance (the foundation); industrial development and market integration (pillar I); infrastructure development in support of regional integration (pillar II); social and human capital development (pillar III); and cross-cutting issues of gender, youth, environment, climate change and disaster risk management.

The dialogue, therefore, makes the following recommendations on the implementation of the RISDP 2020-30:

2. RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE REGIONAL (SADC) LEVEL

2.1 Call upon the SADC Secretariat to share and promote the adoption by Member States of the SNC blueprint guidelines to inform the urgent establishment / strengthening of SNCs in all 16 Member States.

2.2 Urge SADC Member States to expedite the operationalisation of the Regional Development Fund and the Agricultural Development Fund to ensure adequate support of the implementation of the RISDP, particularly towards sustainable nutritious diversified food systems and SRH interventions for adolescents and young people.

2.3 Encourage SADC to expand the participation of NSAs in regional processes through operationalising the Regional NSA Engagement Mechanism, and including NSAs in consultations and technical working groups to inform monitoring, evaluation and reporting, and the development of expected regional strategies including development of the planned regional extension services strategy.

2.4 Remind SADC Secretariat and Member States of their responsibility to facilitate timely access to publicly available information that relates to SADC processes. The SADC Secretariat website should be regularly updated with official plans, evaluations, reports



and strategies, among other publicly available documents, in all four SADC official languages, in accordance with the SADC Policy on Strategy Development, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.

2.5 Recommend that the RISDP implementation plan be updated to include the SADC SRHR Strategy (2019-2030), as it provides the regional policy and programming framework to improve the SRHR of all people living in SADC Region, and contribute towards Member States meeting the SDG and related commitments.

2.6 Urge Member States to urgently sign the Agreement Amending the SADC Treaty on Transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into the SADC Parliament, and call upon SADC to ensure this is swiftly followed by formal amendment of the SADC Treaty and ratification of the required protocol, by August 2023, in accordance with the agreed roadmap.

2.7 Encourage SADC Parliamentary Forum to raise awareness of the Model Law on PFM, and Model Law on GBV, including initiating the development of scorecards to assess the alignment of Member States' laws to the model laws.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MALAWI

3.1 Call upon the SADC National Committee in Malawi to:

- a. work with NSAs in the development of the financing framework for the RISDP to enhance resource mobilisation, planning and utilisation, and
- b. ensure strong documentation and media coverage on implementation of RISDP at country level, in working closely with SADC media coordinator – Ministry of Information.

3.2 Call upon SADC leaders to increase access to information for young people to enable them to be actively engaged in all RISDP processes, including through the use of social media and other accessible platforms for youth.

3.3 Urge the SADC secretariat to train the Malawi SNC on monitoring and evaluation (online reporting) and support it to enhance reporting and sharing of monitoring reports.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MOZAMBIQUE

4.1 Call for the creation of a monitoring, evaluation and learning body (MEL) to monitor the performance of each country in the implementation of regional instruments.

4.2 Recommend that a funding mechanism be created at the national and regional level to support and facilitate NSA engagement at the national and regional levels.

4.3 Urge CONSADC and the SADC Secretariat to be more direct and effective in their communication towards achieving previously agreed objectives.



5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TANZANIA

5.1 Call upon

5.2 Recommend

5.3 Encourage

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ZAMBIA

6.1 Call upon the Government of Zambia to raise public awareness about the existence and importance of the RISDP 2020-2030.

6.2 Recommend that Zambia's PFM law be reviewed, and if necessary, amended to be in line with the SADC Model Law on PFM to improve management, transparency and accountability and participation of NSAs at all levels.

6.3 Encourage

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ZIMBABWE

7.1 Call upon

7.2 Recommend

7.3 Encourage

We express our profound appreciation to all our donors for their commitment to strengthening social accountability in the SADC region, in particular the regional office of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for their support of this dialogue.

Finally, this communiqué is hereby submitted to the SADC Secretariat, SADC Parliamentary Forum, as well as each SADC Member State through their National Contact Points.

NSAs at regional level and in each Member State are also encouraged to make use of this communiqué and its recommendations in their own engagements.