



Key Policy Positions for Consideration by the 39th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State & Government

“Towards A Prosperous & Integrated Africa – Equity & Justice For All”



The Southern African Civil Society Forum (CSF) has gathered annually since 2005, bringing together the diversity of civic formations in the region, ranging from faith-based, trade union and non-governmental organisations to express themselves on matters of mutual and shared importance relating to SADC.

Since 2012 the CSF has campaigned and advocated for improvements and enhancements to regional integration under the initiative “The SADC WE WANT”. In 2012, when the SADC WE WANT was conceptualised as a broad based campaign for people centred development, we recognised the following key pillars for regional integration:

- * Effectively functioning SADC National Committees in all Member States of which national civil society organizations are integral parts;*
- * Institutionalized spaces for civil society engagement at SADC level;*
- * Reinstated SADC Tribunal with its original mandates and competences;*
- * Elevated SADC PF to become a Regional Parliament with legislative and oversight mandate and competence.*
- * Enhanced effectiveness of the SADC Secretariat to become a appropriately capacitated Regional Authority*
- * A comprehensive and cohesive Regional Poverty Reduction Strategy and People Centred Regional Integration Framework*
- * The Free Movement of Persons, Goods and Services within and between SADC Member States*

8th CSF Declaration, THE SADC WE WANT, 2012

As we prepare for the 15th CSF in Dar Es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 13 -15th August 2019, we can reflect that significant progress has been made towards the realisation and implementation of some of the key pillars. Indeed, as Civil Society Organisations, we are pleased that the popularisation of the core demand for a people-centred SADC has taken root and is increasingly shared not only by the wider public but by SADC and Member States as well.

We note and appreciate the steps currently underway to operationalise the elevation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum as well as the on-going consultation with Member States and civil society with regards to the SADC Non-State Actors Mechanism.

We are pleased that the reviews of SIPO and RISDP as overarching frameworks are also being conducted with active consultation by non-State Actors. We remain concerned however that the Regional Development Fund, which should underpin the revised RISDP, remains under-developed. Furthermore the lack of political will and institutional commitment to SADC National Committees continues to undermine the efforts of SADC and Summit to truly embed regional integration at national level with strong regional-national linkages.

We are concerned by the lack of progress to properly constitute the SADC Tribunal as a Regional Court of Justice & Human Rights cannot go unmentioned and remains an unacceptable regression which must be addressed by Member States, urgently and without obfuscation. Equally the lack of progress in respect of the free movement of persons requires urgent attention by SADC and Member States. The 15th CSF notes with alarm the recent and continued attacks on foreign nationals, particularly in South Africa. We condemn these attacks and once more call on SADC member states to unequivocally condemn the recent and continued Xenophobia attacks and rhetoric in South Africa. The South African Government and all SADC Member States must guarantee the safety and respect for human rights of all foreign nationals present within their borders.

The 15th CSF is held under the theme ***“Towards A Prosperous & Integrated Africa – Equity & Justice For All”*** in full recognition of the progress we have made as a region and on the continent as a whole. We can not however assume that this progress is irreversible nor as yet sufficient to meet the growing challenges and demands in an increasingly insecure world. Insecurities have increased markedly, from trade and geo-political stability to natural disasters and degradation in our natural environment, as well as increased pressure on our energy sources and supply, as well as human and social security. Climate change continues to impact the economic growth of region as its biggest trigger to food security and malnutrition. These are often driven not only by imbalances in power and wealth, but also by inequalities and exclusion, most notably of women, youth and children. We strive purposefully for the inclusion of all and the exclusion of none.

Our policy positions seek to give effect to our long-cherished traditions of self-reliance and self-sufficiency – meaning our conscious efforts to ensure domestic resource mobilization in

support of our own development. We endeavour to work with SADC and its Member States in ensuring that we Africans can, and indeed will, be self-sufficient.

Our common goal is to mobilise our people, especially targetting women and youth in a movement against corruption, for improving public accountability and maintaining peace and stability throughout the region and in all spheres of society including food security, climate change and adequate nutrition.

We call on Member States to carefully consider, and take into account these reasoned calls as they deliberate on the next steps of our journey, as SADC towards a free, prosperous and inclusive Africa underpinned by justice for all.

KEY POLICY POSITIONS OF 15th SOUTHERN AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

1. Democracy & Elections

We call on SADC and Member States to:

- Embark on the process to elevate the SADC Principles and Guidelines governing Democratic Elections to Protocol level to strengthen its binding power and adherence at national level. In so doing, to include provisions that ensures the independence of National Election Management Bodies; Integrity of the Voters' Registration and Roll and Transparency in Party Financing and thereby adhere to the ethos of African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governane (ACDEG);
- Sign, ratify, domesticate and implement the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- Commit to fully implement, with adequate resourcing, of the provision in the SADC Protocol on Gender Equality regarding the adoption of 50-50 gender parity at all levels of decision making positions.
- Subject the drafted Election Observation Handbook to an inclusive public discussion so that it is owned and used as a standard by all regional and national actors in election observation;
- Establish a Regional Democracy Fund sourced by the contribution from Member States and is accessed – according to established criteria and transparent procedures - national Election Observation Bodies and accredited CSOs observing elections; The fund could also be handy for Snap elections , technical support to member States and post electoral events.

- Develop clear standards on assistance to be provided to Member States in the implementation of the recommendations by SADC Election Observation Mission observed elections.
- Develop guidelines that strengthen the networking, coordination, collaboration of regional observer missions deployed in the SADC Member States.
- Promote the building of strong Institutions of Governance, promote accountability, transparency and advocate for adherence to anti-corruption Protocols & good practices.

2. Decent Work & Sustainable livelihoods

The SADC region is critically with increasing job losses and unproductive work, and their impact on communities and poverty levels, we believe that aspirations of all men and women to enjoy access to quality and productive work will enhance their conditions of freedom, security, equality and dignity, thereby contributing towards poverty eradication. We therefore call on:

- SADC Member States to ratify and implement the SADC Employment and Labour Protocol which was signed in 2014 by the Heads of States Summit;
- SADC Member States should formulate macro-economic policy frameworks that are conducive to employment creation, structural transformation and the realization of sustainable livelihoods particularly for the youth;
- SADC Member States should take the necessary measures to protect the rights to sustainable livelihoods of the informal economy actors/workers during the transitions from the informality to formality as contained in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Recommendation 204 of 2015.
- Ensure access to productive resources such as land, agriculture inputs, extension services/technologies for the realization of sustainable livelihoods particularly of the youth.

3. Workers' Solidarity in SADC

The SADC region ranks low when it comes to the protection of internationally recognized workers' rights as the Member States continue to intensely compete based on low wages and above all low labor standards.

The women working in the informal economy have suffered from extreme inequality due to their gender and structural economic conditions. As a result, the enjoyment of acceptable conditions of work has been undermined, including with regard to hours of work, wages and occupational safety and health.

Furthermore, discrimination in employment against ethnic minorities and migrant workers also significantly limit the economic potential of the SADC Member States.

The promotion of the fundamental rights of workers is directly related to a country's success in improving living standards of the masses as well as increase labor productivity and enhance skills development. Hence the adoption and enforcement of core labor rights is essential to broad-based economic development and regional integration in SADC.

Recommendations:

- Trade unions, churches and NGOs should collectively advocate for the implementation of the conclusions of the 108th International Labour Conference's Committee on the Application of Standards pertaining to Zimbabwe in violation of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 87: Freedom of Association;
 - SADC Members States must pressurise the Government of Zimbabwe to accept the ILO direct contact mission to monitor its implementation of conclusions of the 108th International Labour Conference's Committee on the Application of Standards pertaining to Zimbabwe in violation of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 87: Freedom of Association;
 - Trade unions, churches and NGOs should collectively advocate that SADC Member States ratify and implement ILO Convention 190: Violence and Harassment in the World of Work, Convention 189: Domestic Workers and adopt and implement national plans to transition from the informal to formal economy consistent with ILO Recommendation 204.
4. **Agriculture and Nutrition as the bed rock for poverty alleviation, industrialization and good health**

We recognise that SADC as a regional economic community of 16 countries has a combined population of 327 million. Of its total population an estimated 40% lives in abject poverty despite abundance fresh water bodies, land, mineral deposits and labour force. It is estimated that 16% of SADC rural population are suffering from food security consistently for the last 6 years and 29.4 million people were food insecure in 2018/19. Nutrition indicators shows 20 million children under the age of 5 are stunted in which 12 members out of 16 have stunting rate of above 20%. By every Human Development Indicator the condition of our people's lives are not improving.

According to a study by FAO (The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012) agriculture is the sector that can alleviate poverty 11 times more than other sectors including oil and gas or mining and services. However, the region has not paid enough

attention to agriculture and nutrition since the first Dar es salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security on 15th May 2004 (15 years ago) including progressively increase budgetary allocations to agriculture to at least 10% of the national total budget, increase the establishment of rural financial intermediaries and establishment of an Agricultural Development Bank/Fund. According to the Malabo Biennial Review Report of 2018 SADC, as a region provided inadequate investment and financing to agriculture sector with only 2.5% compared to Eastern Africa 5.8%, West Africa 5% and Central Africa 3.8%. The recent report by SADC has put the number of food insecure people at 41 million in 13 countries that submitted their end year data. Most of the household were only harvested enough to only up to 3 months. Some members states have had their number of food insecure people incread by 144% from last year. Food security challenges are a serious precursor to economic challenges because most of the economies are agro-based.

On the other hand, the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap focuses on three potential growth paths for SADC economies: (1) agro-processing; (2) minerals beneficiation, and down-stream processing; and (3) enhanced and upgraded participation in regional and global value Chains. To realise rapid poverty alleviation in the region as well as to realise goals set under industrialisation (increase the share of manufacturing value added (MVA) in GDP to 20 per cent by 2020 and 40 per cent by 2050) we recommend the following:

- SADC Member States to adhere to the commitments of the Malabo Declaration on Agriculture¹, and progressively allocate budgets to agriculture that efficiently and effectively reach the Malabo Declaration target of at least 10% to sustain annual agricultural GDP growth of at least 6% annually, while also increasing the quality of investments and the efficient utilisation of budget allocations. National investments in agriculture should align with farmers' own priorities and focus on financing diversified smallholder support programmes, such as extension services, research, climate change adaptation and financing, input support, improving access to finance and market.
- Recognising the importance of innovative and sustainable domestic resource mobilisation, we urge all Member States to ratify the SADC Regional Development Fund (RDF) and to expedite the operationalization of the SADC Agricultural Development Fund (ADF).
- Urge the SADC Secretariat to urgently operationalize the establish SADC Food and Nutrition Security Regional Steering Committee as formed during the SADC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy Forum in Malawi (2014), as well as likewise at Member States level which is both gender-balanced and inclusive of civil society and smallholder farmers' organisations, to advise on regional/national agriculture investment plans, food and nutrition policy frameworks and strategies.

¹ Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods (2014). In Article 2a, African states reaffirmed their commitment to allocate at least 10% of public expenditure to agriculture, and to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness.

- Given the importance of food sovereignty and the role of small scale farmers, especially women and young people, we urge MS to promote sustainable land tenure, land use management and agricultural production practices, especially agro-ecology and agricultural value chains.

Furthermore SADC Head of States Summit member states must:

- Commit to diversifying agriculture from largely rain-fed system to investing in irrigation which has a huge potential in the region to enable communities produce food throughout the year.
- Commit to investing in nutrition sensitive agriculture and nutrition sensitive development which delivers 80% of the nutrition outcomes as opposed to nutrition specific interventions.
- Commit to opening up to regional agriculture trade to enable food exports from countries with surplus to those running in production deficits.
- Commit to investing 3 per cent of the national budget into nutrition in 3 years starting 2019/2020 from an average of 0.45% of the national budget commitment.
- Review their national budgets to provide resources for emergency food relief to the affected communities and intensify efforts for international humanitarian support where necessary.
- Commit to scale up safety nets to ensure food security and nutrition especially amongst the most vulnerable, child-headed households, people living with HIV and the ultra-poor.
- Agree on the trans-boundary mechanism of combating pests and diseases such as fall army worm and other that affect both plants and livestock

5. Land Reform & Land Grabbing

In the SADC region, the issue of land reform remains a burning issue. Land is not merely a natural and economic resource but of cultural and historic significance to all our communities. Women continue to be impacted by large scale farming and mining displacement and are excluded from aspects of land access, ownership and control despite their provision of labour in agriculture sector further resulting in growing income inequalities. We call upon members to urgently address land reform in order to overcome income disparities, food insecurity and past injustices orchestrated through systematic dispossession and displacement embedded in all SADC member states.

We call on SADC and Members States to:

- Undertake a land audit at national level.
- Coordinate an equitable, inclusive, participatory and transparent land reform process.

- Prevent on-going land grabs and land dispossession, including displacement from economic opportunities.
- Combat occupational hazards in mining.

6. Climate Change

Climate change impacts are increasingly being felt across Southern Africa. Recurrent and higher intensity extreme weather events are affecting the poor, women and other marginalized groups the most, severely restricting their rights to adequate food, nutrition, water, housing, other basic services and livelihoods. SADC Member States must:

- Actively protect citizens from the ongoing impacts of climate change, and ensure that the rights of communities affected by extreme climate events are protected and that such communities are supported to rebuild their lives.
- Invest in research and technology development through national structures while leveraging on the opportunities in the international cooperation such as UNFCCC and UNCCD.
- Adopt inclusive climate policies and plans, that are informed by latest available science and responsive to the needs and aspirations of women, young people and other marginalised groups.
- Address structural drivers of vulnerability and ensure that capacity for climate adaptation and resilience is built, especially at local levels.
- Develop SADC Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Fund to facilitate speedy emergency response to natural disaster.
- Address the multi-national strategy to address impacts of climate change e.g improving the agriculture trade by removing restrictions to ensure that governments are able to off-set each other food production imbalances.
- All ratify Doha amendment of the Kyoto Protocol Second commitment until 2020 which effectively prepares members states towards the new global regime under Paris agreement.
- Climate proof the national development plans by ensuring that climate change is integrated in the sectoral development plans and investment.
- Develop capacity for resource mobilization for climate change adaptation and mitigation especially through the green climate fund.
- Develop pathways to fulfill the Malabo agenda to contribute to 25*25 target of climate smart agriculture by incentivizing policy and practice.
- Ensure scaling up and provision of long-term climate finance for the marginalised and vulnerable communities, in recognition the importance building resilience, especially at local levels.

- Transition to low carbon climate resilient development pathways in the implementation of National Determined Contributions, and limit global warming well below 1.5 degrees celsius

7. Disaster Response and Relief

Cyclone Idaimade landfall in Beira, Mozambique, on the night of 14-15 March, with winds of 170km/h and heavy rains. Described by the UN as ‘one of the worst weather-related disasters in Africa’, it has caused extensive damage and devastated the lives of more than 2.6 million people in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. A second cyclone in just six weeks, Cyclone Kenneth, brought torrential rains to northern Mozambique, causing flash floods, burst rivers, potential landslides and storm surges, putting an additional 750,000 people at risk.

Besides the cyclones, Southern Africa has been coping with climate-related shocks such as recurrent and persistent drought conditions, poverty and inequalities which affect the dignity, health and well-being of millions of people. SADC recently estimated that 41.2m people across 13 SADC countries will face food insecurity this year.

We call Member States and SADC to:

- Target the rural communities in hard to reach areas, many of which have still not had their basic humanitarian needs met following the cyclones and floods.
- Ensure that the safety and security of women, girls, boys and people with disabilities affected by disasters and their basic needs are met – particularly in resettlement sites and rural communities. This includes immediate food assistance, safely accessible water and sanitation, healthcare and protection from disease outbreaks, and appropriate protection interventions. Prevent the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse resulting from malnutrition and food insecurity and respond accordingly, including by setting up appropriate accountability mechanisms.
- Make livelihood activities and social protection programs easily available to every person in need, with a priority on vulnerable individuals and communities devastated by the cyclones and those in temporary or permanent resettlement sites.
- Restore and ensure immediate access to quality education in the resettlement sites, especially by increasing the capacity and safety of learning spaces, the provision of education kits, facilities for girl child mothers who return to school as well as incentives for teachers.
- Undertake seed multiplication for crops including promotion of drought resistant food crops so that farmers can prepare for the planting seasons and guard against possible climatic shifts, respectively ahead and recover their livelihoods.
- Work with the international community to improve institutional ability to anticipate, cope with, prepare for and mitigate the impact of disasters through the integration of DRR in development planning, and support capacity building for Local Committees for Disaster Risk Management in vulnerable areas.

- Proactively engage women and girls and ensure their participation in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of humanitarian support, response early warning, climate migration and longer term strategies.
- Remind their international partners, in particular countries responsible for the majority of carbon emissions, to close the climate finance gap, ensuring that the annual \$100bn climate finance goal will be met in a fair and robust way that takes account of the gender and age-related impacts of climate change. This means guaranteeing that those on the frontlines of climate impacts get far more of the support they need and have been promised in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.
- Develop a Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) regional emergency response fund to support support to countries affected by emergencies.
- Invest in the regional climate outlook by improving on the regional early warning and guidance to member states on how to respond and protect communities from the impacts of changing climate.

8. HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS remains a public health threat in Sub-Saharan Africa and must be reprioritised within SADC. There is no doubt that the females bear the brunt of the pandemic going by the high prevalence rates among women and girls. It is also obvious that HIV/AIDS has a disproportionate impact on key vulnerable populations such as the youth, people with disabilities, prisoners, sex workers and long truck drivers, who are susceptible to the disease. We call on the international community to recommit to gender responsive resource allocation to public health interventions for HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

We call on Member State to invest and promote national universal public sector health systems that promote health and wellbeing, prevent ill health, and provide treatment and care for all (including migrants and refugees) that are adequately domestically funded.

This must be done by meeting the Abuja commitments in all Member States. Member states should improve investment in nutrition for people living with HIV/AIDS.

9. Ebola and insecurity in the DRC

The Ebola outbreak in the DRC is not only a public health crisis but a significant challenge to our responsiveness as a region and the continent to manage coherent and coordinated interventions which are sustained and shared. The crisis is coupled with insecurity and instability in the DRC, which is contributing to the spread of the disease. We call on SADC and the AU to support all efforts to increase funding to treat of

patients and prevent the further spread of the disease. We call on SADC to initiate a AU-wide consultation on public health and disease prevention and control on the continent.

10. Youth Empowerment & Employment

Youth constitutes a large and rapidly growing proportion of the population in Southern Africa. They are a creative force, a dynamic source of innovations, and have undoubtedly, throughout history, participated, contributed, and even catalyzed important changes in political systems, power-sharing dynamics and economic opportunities. Youth can also constitute a source of instability within society if national development processes and resources fail to target them. They experience vulnerability and volatility. Therefore, youth must be stakeholders, stockholders and leaders in SADC; policy mechanisms must be put in place to ensure the youth bulge is harnessed. There are limited concrete mechanisms and solid legal frameworks to support youth development and participation in the region. We call on Member States and SADC to:

- Develop the SADC Youth Protocol as a legal framework that will address young people and ensure increased youth participation, empowerment, peace and security among others. This Protocol should be developed in direct consultation with young people and their formations in the region.
- Have priority Investment in Education and especially focusing on girl child progression in the education system, as entry point for practical youth empowerment.
- Adopt the SADC Youth Employment Promotion Policy Framework and Youth Employment Charter in accordance with the provisions of the African Union Youth Charter
- Adopt a clear Strategy on Climate Change Mitigation and adaptation with the involvement of young people as a critical stakeholder for inter-generational equity and justice. SADC Leaders should commit to investing in national early warning systems management for both slow on-set and rapid water and climate related disasters.
- Deliberately establish practical mechanisms to include youth and civil society formation in their Parliament as an integral part of Parliamentary Reform.

11. Children

It should be recognized that children have the potential to transform SADC and ultimately Africa - but if neglected they could also increase the burden of poverty and inequality, posing a serious risk to peace, security and prosperity.

We therefore urge the SADC Member States to:

- Develop a SADC Child Protocol,
- The Child Rights Protocol will not only ensure clarity of normative expectation, but it will also permit the inclusion of and focus on region-specific child rights violations. The Child Rights Protocol will result in increased accountability among member states both regionally and domestically as well as provide a framework for policymakers, service-delivery institutions, child rights activists, and children as rights holders to design children interventions.
- Harness the demographic bulge into a dividend by public investment in children starting at conception to facilitate early stimulation for children; adequate nutrition; quality social services such as health, education as well as employment opportunities for SADC's young population.
- Commit to accelerating domestic resource mobilization; increasing allocations for child focused sectors in national and regional budgets; efficient and equitable expenditure of available resources; and transparent and accountable public finance management.
- Develop multi-sectoral policies and integrated programs that utilize a holistic and life-cycle approach to early childhood development, including enhanced monitoring of early childhood development policies and programs.
- Put systems and infrastructure in place for children with disabilities; member states should put systems and infrastructure in place to ensure that people with disabilities have access to quality education (i.e well equipped to suit their needs like Braille text books and appropriate infra structure to facilitate easy access to schools buildings) and socio-economic services that will empower them to effectively participate in national development.
- Recognise child abuse and 'child marriage' as well as access to justice as an area of focus; providing psychosocial support and legal support for survivors of violence and improving the criminal justice systems in the region to be more 'child friendly' and the judicial system adapted to prevent both primary and secondary victimisation of children.
- Ensuring availability and accessibility of data on children in the region (and national level) disaggregated by age, ability and gender as well as encourage consultation with children in the formulation of plans, policies and laws that have a bearing on their interests. Child participation in governance must be devolved to national, regional and district levels.

12. Education

Education is both a fundamental human right and an enabling right that has the potential to ensure for the fulfilment of all other rights. Women, girls, boys and children with disabilities continue to live in poverty, isolation, deprivation and without access to basic services, going by their inaccessibility to formal education and productive

resources. For Governments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) it is crucial to ensure adequate investment in quality public education.

We call on SADC Member States to:

- Adequately finance SDG 4 in line with the financing benchmark of 15 – 20% and above 4-6% of GDP spending by adopting progressive tax reforms.
- Create a SADC Education Fund in line with the proposed Africa Education Fund and following the model of the SADC Basic Income Grant. The Fund to be designed in a way to contribute to supporting regional interventions on ending child marriage and social protection mechanisms for vulnerable children to enable them to thrive and meaningfully participate in the sustainable development agenda.
- Fulfil their obligations to ensure the provision of quality public education that is transformative for its citizens at all levels using the maximum available resources through efficient and progressive domestic taxation, tackling illicit financial flows and ceasing to grant harmful tax incentives to multinational companies. In line with the commitments made in the 2018 Nairobi Declaration and Call for Action on Education.
- Effectively regulate and monitor all private schools and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in line with human rights standards as stated in the recently adopted [Abidjan Principles](#) and ensure the provision of quality education to all without discrimination in the spirit of leaving no one behind which is in line with the resolution of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights of 12th June 2019 that addresses the role of private actors in education and health.
- Decolonize the curricula to ensure that it shapes young minds for social justice rather than free market fundamentalism and embrace a curricula that embraces indigenous knowledge from a Southern African perspective.
- To ensure that Education budgets are gender responsive and inclusive to the needs of all children.

13. Persons With Disabilities

We call on Member States to Ensure that all marginalized and excluded groups are stakeholders in development processes within SADC. In doing so Member States and SADC must ensure that all phases of the development cycle include a disability dimension and that persons with disabilities are meaningfully and effectively participating in development processes and policies. This should be done in line with the 3 key principles of participation, non-discrimination and accessibility. We call on:

- SADC member states to formulate a guideline on Disability.

- SADC member state to sign the African Charter on Peoples and Human Rights Protocol on Persons With Disabilities.

14. Persons With Albinism (PWA)

Across SADC, persons with albinism (PWA) are victims of violent attacks, including murder, maiming and abductions by individuals and criminal gangs operating within and across borders. Attacks, discrimination and abuse of PWA are fuelled by erroneous beliefs and myths that body parts of PWA have magical powers that can be used for ritual purposes. Cases of attacks continue to be underreported, while in some cases, perpetrators have not been held to account due to criminal justice failures.

- SADC leaders must condemn the attacks and commit to regional collaboration for the protection of PWA
- SADC Member states must adopt the Regional Action Plan on Albinism in Africa (2017–2021)

Civil Society organizations recognize the importance of having inclusive programmes to accommodate other categories of marginalised groups including Youth, women and persons with disabilities.

15. Statelessness

We call upon all SADC Member States to address statelessness in their territories by:

- Developing a National Action Plan to end statelessness by 2024, including a plan to identify and resolving stateless situations;
- Supporting the African Union’s *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Specific Aspects of the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa*, which addresses Africa’s unique challenges.”
- Ratifying the 1954 UN Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 UN Convention on the Prevention of Statelessness at the UNHCR Excom High-Level Segment during on Statelessness in Geneva on 7 October 2019.

16. Migration & Free Movement of Persons

SADC member states are battling to deal with the realities of the mobility of individuals because it is lagging behind the domestication of the Protocol on Free Movement. Although SADC Treaty makes free movement of peoples central to its priorities, its Protocol on Freedom of Movement remains restrictive and contradictory. The 1997 SADC Protocol on Free Movement faced an uphill battle (the word ‘Freedom’ was revised into ‘Facilitation’ of Movement), not only in title but substantially in

content. There is ample evidence that the political will to implement the Protocol is very low. Only seven countries have ratified the watered-down version.

This has also served to undermine the aspirational goals of integration, economic cooperation, the regional trade and mutual development, as enshrined in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDIP). It also unveils the major discrepancies between policies articulated at regional level, versus the interests of governments at the national or even bi-lateral levels.

The 39th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), should amend the Regional Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, and prioritize the formulation and implementation of a regional migration policy framework that elevates the free and safe movement of persons. In addition, it is worth noting that SADC Member States must:

- Adhere to the AU framework on migration and fulfill their commitment under the Global Compact regarding migration, which was signed last year;
- Call for revisiting of VISA requirements such that they are accessible, cheaper and user friendly to facilitate organizations or persons doing business in SADC;
- Adopt and implement the existing SADC Policy Framework on Labour Migration which was developed by the SADC Employment & Labour cluster in 2014;
- Ratify and implement the African Union (AU) Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment which was adopted by AU Heads of States on 29 January 2018.
- Hold member states accountable for the protection and safety of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from all forms of xenophobia, xenophobic violence and discrimination.

17. Debt

Increasing debt levels in sub-Saharan African countries are above 50% of GDP in at least half of these countries. Some SADC countries, notably Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe have introduced austerity measures with undesirable economic and social consequences on poor citizens. We call on SADC leaders, to establish strategies for reducing public debt such as ringfencing integrated and comprehensive social protection systems and devise mechanisms to influence the international architecture on debt facilities.

We call upon SADC member states to use a holistic approach, adopt strategies that promote sustainable, transparent and accountable lending, with social return and

multiplier effect on GDP growth, that ensures reimbursement rather than stringent austerity and tax increases on the general population.

18. Cyber Freedom and Data Privacy

Civil society organisations in SADC recognize the importance of the need to address online harassment, especially of women and girls, as well as identity and data theft. While taking necessary and reasonable measure to secure the privacy of citizens we are mindful that restrictions and regulations should not hinder, diminish or take away freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly. We call therefore call on SADC to develop a transparent and balanced Policy on Digital Freedoms and Data Privacy and to domesticate such within Member States as a matter of urgency.

Civil Society Organizations take note of the growing use of technology , in particular the use of social media and the lack of legal frameworks to adress the challenges that affect the political, economic, social and environmental space in the SADC region.

19. Community Benefit Schemes in Mining

The colonial history of Southern Africa has greatly influenced the regions' socio-economic strategies, particularly in mining and in extractives industries in general, as the colonial models of exploitation of the region's mineral resources turned the indigenous people of those countries into workers of the regime thereby, disempowering the indigenous people from ownership of the means of production.

We call on SADC and Members States to:

- Take urgent steps towards the development of a consolidated SADC approach or standard on community benefit schemes from mining to ensure poverty reduction and sustainable development from mining including basic principles on Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) and clarity on the difference between Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Community Benefit Schemes (CBS); ensuring gender considerations;
- Promote inclusive mining contract negotiation processes which stipulate and enforce mine closure and disinvestment clauses that will lead to rehabilitation of mined areas after closure and lessen long term negative health and environmental impacts;
- Support youth participation in the development of policies around Business and Human Rights which can improve community benefit schemes from mining; speed up implementation of the provisions of the Africa Mineral Governance Framework; SADC processes around assimilation of the Africa Mining Vision.

We further urge SADC Member States:

- To ensure Mandatory CBS laws and policies are formulated and implemented, that provide for inclusion of communities in mining regions. This will also include stand-alone legislation that addresses community benefit schemes providing for registration, structure, governance and functions;
- Not to conflate Corporate Social Responsibility with community benefit schemes. The mines' profitability should tally with the socio-economic development of the mining community.
- Accelerate the development of Country Mining Visions in line with the Africa Mining Vision to ensure value addition/beneficiation, economic diversification and linkages from mining to other economic sectors;
- Transfer means of production to indigenous people to enable community benefit schemes to function effectively; and allow communities to access mining claims in order to leverage their participation in the sector
- Advocate and monitor fiscal transparency in terms of the share of taxes collected from mining that should be retained/ returned to mining hosting local governments for local benefit, so that these funds are returned to local authorities in mining areas and are used for community benefit.

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