



SADC PARLIAMENTARIANS VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN THE SADC RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR



REPORT

Tuesday 15 September 2020

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INTRODUCTION

The Regional Workshop for Parliamentarians on Mainstreaming Gender in the SADC Renewable Energy Sector was a successful event which was full of rich and informative discussions. The workshop, organized by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) and the Parliament of Zimbabwe brought together members representing parliamentary committees on gender and energy from Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Standing Committee of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus was represented as well as researchers and civil society organizations.

The objective of the workshop, which was held virtually on 15 September 2020, was to strengthen the capacity of Parliamentarians and Regional Standing Committees on mainstreaming gender in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes in the SADC Renewable Energy (RE) Sector. The workshop sought for Member States to share existing national experiences on the status of access to renewable energies for women and men in their respective member states and develop solutions on how these challenges can be addressed.

The capacity-building initiative was held against the background that the region is facing specific challenges in the area of energy development and women are disproportionately affected by the challenges associated with access to modern sources of energy compared to men. Women and girls are largely responsible for household and community activities including energy provision and without access to modern energy services, women and girls often spend most of their time performing basic subsistence tasks which are time-consuming and physically draining, such as collecting biomass fuels. The necessity of doing such tasks limits the time for participation in decent wage employment, accessing educational opportunities, and opportunities to enhance livelihoods. It also limits the options for social and political interaction outside the household.

In this regard, the workshop discussed the need for Parliamentarians to drive the process to formulate and implement policies that mainstream gender variables in renewable energy initiatives, including ways to make renewable energy more accessible to disadvantaged groups which include women from different backgrounds.

The workshop was officiated by the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Professor Peter Hitjitevi Katjavivi and the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, Advocate Jacob Francis Mudenda. The Honourable Speakers both emphasised the need for Members of Parliament to make a concrete legislative agenda whose objective is to expeditiously mainstream gender in renewable energy in their respective countries. Parliamentarians are expected to their constitutional mandate of law-making, oversight and representation to promote gender equality and equity in RE and other sectors.



WELCOME REMARKS

BY SARDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MUNETSI MADAKUFAMBA



The SARDC Executive Director, Munetsi Madakufamba expressed appreciation to the Parliamentarians for their participation in this important policy dialogue. He introduced SARDC as a regional knowledge resource centre and gave the contextual background for the dialogue. He said that gender and renewable energy are essential to the cohesion of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and key to advancing the regional integration agenda and the targets of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. He presented some key points that emerged from research conducted by SARDC on gender and renewable energy.

1. Women are disproportionately affected by the challenges of access to modern sources of energy compared to men.
2. Women and girls are largely responsible for household and community activities, including the provision of energy, and without access to clean modern energy, women and girls engage in time-consuming, physically draining, basic subsistence tasks of collecting biomass fuels, which constrains women from accessing decent wage employment, educational opportunities and livelihood options.
3. Limited participation of women hampers SADC Member States from realizing their full development potential, and the participation of women in designing home energy systems, with access to resources and decision-making powers at the national and regional levels would be a major boost to the economies.
4. Energy production, procurement, transportation and distribution that are not gender-sensitive further perpetuate gender imbalances.
5. Some SADC Member States have policies for mainstreaming gender in renewable energy (Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa), but effective strategies and action plans are needed to implement and advance gender mainstreaming in the RE sector.
6. There is sparse evidence of the implementation of gender-sensitive initiatives in this sector and limited availability of gender disaggregated data for monitoring and evaluation.

Therefore SARDC, as a key knowledge partner of SADC, has made recommendations on how to assist in addressing these challenges, with the first step being to strengthen legislation on mainstreaming gender issues in renewable energy.

In this regard, Mr Madakufamba explained that the main purpose of the workshop is capacity building for Parliamentarians to strengthen the nexus between gender and renewable energy in advancing development in SADC. The workshop is expected to share information and strategies that can facilitate Member States to develop legislation to address the inequalities based on the realities of their own context. The Executive Director assured Parliamentarians that SARDC stands ready to share knowledge resources with Member States to advance the regional integration agenda.

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM, BOEMO SEKGOMA

The SADC PF Secretary General, Ms Boemo Sekgoma expressed her pleasure to be part of the workshop given the SADC PF's commitment to ensuring gender considerations are part of every parliamentary initiative. She said that implementation of renewable energy programmes is a core issue for SADC PF and that over the past decade at least 10 SADC Parliaments have adopted laws and policies that advance the use of renewable energy directly or indirectly. The reduction of taxes and tariffs on solar panels and wind-farm equipment, business facilitation for renewable energy industries, and trade concessions for energy-efficient amenities are some of the measures that have passed through SADC Parliaments. She said that specifically, two of the initiatives identified in the SADC PF Strategic Plan (2019-2023) are supported by the workshop's initiative. These are:

1. The need to strengthen gender equality and women empowerment across SADC; and,
2. Practical planning for the reduction of systemic risks through the identification and use of renewable sources of energy.

The Secretary General said that the Gender Responsive Oversight Model (GROM) should be used to assist in identifying major disparities between men and women. This will allow SADC Governments to work together with national Parliaments to devise gender-responsive laws and policies that close the existing gaps and capacitate women and girls to understand the prospects that renewable energy offers for them to be part of the renewable energy revolution. SADC Parliaments were reminded to continue to be at the forefront of legislative, oversight and budgetary interventions that strengthen gender mainstreaming in all sectors, including the green energy sector.

The Secretary General called for stakeholders in civil society to provide shadow reporting on the implementation of renewable energy programmes and work closely with the SADC PF and Parliaments to ensure that policies are responsive to the needs of the citizenry. She called on Parliaments to promote peer learning and a cross-fertilisation of ideas on renewable energy to ensure that gender considerations remain at the core of the energy debate. She added that the transition to renewable energy will be challenging, but the region can only reach its goals through a strong collaboration of stakeholders working together, with the shared interest in green energy as the unifying factor.

She extended an invitation to SARDC to continue with the capacity-building programmes for the benefit of the people of the region and availed the support and collaboration of the SADC PF.



OPENING REMARKS

BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZIMBABWE, ADVOCATE JACOB FRANCIS MUDENDA



The Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, Hon. Jacob F. Mudenda gave the official opening remarks and applauded the partnership between SARDC, SADC PF and the Parliament of Zimbabwe which has seen the successful organization of the workshop. He said the workshop is of great importance as it supports the Sustainable Development Goal 7, especially Target 7A that advances clean energy and technology, adding that the goal is captured in regional frameworks such as:

- SADC Protocol on Energy (1998)
- SADC Energy Action Plan (1997) and (2000)
- SADC Regional Energy Access Strategy and Action Plan (2010)
- Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan: Energy Sector Plan (2012)
- SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

The Speaker noted the importance of centres such as the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) which was established in Namibia and has undertaken a number of strategic initiatives to mainstream gender into the renewable energy sector. The initiatives include the launch of the Gender Mainstreaming and Women in Sustainable Energy Program whose goal is to advance the economic empowerment of women through access to sustainable renewable sources of energy. The Speaker noted that SACREEE is working with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to develop a strategy to address gender disparities and promote women in the value chain of sustainable renewable energy.

Hon. Mudenda emphasised the great potential of social inclusion and economic growth that comes when women entrepreneurship is embraced within the energy sector. He added that monitoring and evaluation are essential to measure the cumulative progress and successful achievements of mainstreaming gender in the renewable energy sector. Frameworks should not appear only on paper but must be implemented and that requires robust leadership in the Parliaments and the Executive of Member States.

The Speaker gave a case scenario of Zimbabwe, highlighting that wood fuel energy accounts for 61 percent of the total energy consumption and the main harvesters are rural women. Availability of alternative energies is expected to unlock potential for the nation. Sadly there is a significant energy divide between the rich and the poor, between men and women, boys and girls, which has significant economic and social impacts that vary based on demography. Fortunately this is evolving as women entrepreneurs are now more involved in off-grid technologies such as solar and biogas cookers, solar water pumps and home lighting systems which are now a common feature in renewable energy usage. Zimbabwe's 2018 National Budget committed US\$36.5 million for renewable energy investment as part of the rural electrification programme.

Members of Parliament should therefore develop a concrete legislative agenda whose objective is to expeditiously mainstream gender in renewable energy in their respective countries in fulfilment of the Paris Climate Agreement which espouses the use of renewable “green” energy. In that context, Hon. Mudenda urged SARDC to avail its research expertise and findings to Members of Parliament so that they can propagate the process of mainstreaming gender in the renewable energy sector from an informed position.

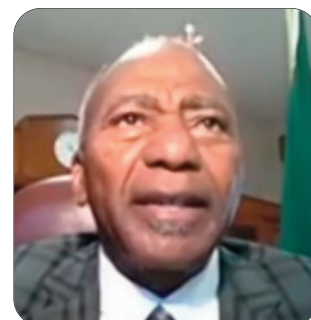
KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF NAMIBIA, PROFESSOR PETER HITJITEVI KATJAVIVI

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Honourable Professor Peter H. Katjavivi noted the timely nature of the workshop taking place at a time when SADC Heads of State and Government have just approved the Vision 2050 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030. The Vision 2050 is derived from the spirit of SADC's Founding Treaty and its vision statement: "A peaceful, inclusive, middle-to-high income industrialized region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic wellbeing, justice and freedom."

The RISDP propels the development of a regional policy and regulatory framework that promotes the use of renewable energy sources and recognizes gender as a development issue. Hon. Katjavivi therefore called on Parliamentarians to execute their role effectively to ensure that the enabling legislation is realized to facilitate gender equal representation, participation and mainstreaming in all areas.

Hon. Katjavivi further recommended that Parliamentarians work with think-tanks which can provide knowledge and research to support Member States in their development processes, such as SARDC, which is as an independent knowledge resource centre with a long track record of 35 years. The SARDC was established to strengthen regional policy perspectives and provide tools for tracking the implementation of regional targets, as well as capacity-building, research and knowledge-sharing to expand the knowledge base on regional issues. He stated that SARDC has done well in providing the much-needed information for Member States and also in identifying emerging issues for the attention and action of Member States.

SADC's aspirations for a united, prosperous and integrated regional community require appropriate institutions and mechanisms to drive forward this regional integration agenda. The establishment of a SADC Regional Parliament will be an integral development for SADC as it will provide a representative institution for the SADC citizenry, thus serving as a valid interlocutor for the needs and desires of the people of the region. A regional parliament will spearhead the domestication of policies and legal obligations in the region with the capacity to advance regional laws from stated intentions to actual application. The regional parliament will not replace the role of national parliaments but support them.



RATIONALE FOR MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

A presentation by SARDC on the Rationale for Mainstreaming Gender in the Renewable Energy Sector emphasised the key role of this nexus in achieving gender equality and sustainable development. The presentation noted the importance of gender equality as a central component in sustained economic growth and industrial development, which are the drivers of poverty reduction, social integration, and environmental sustainability. While energy was presented as a critical crosscutting issue which is a necessity for daily lives and livelihoods, the wellbeing of people and the economy depends on safe, clean, secure, sustainable and affordable energy, particularly renewable energy.

The presentation explained why access to renewable energy could reduce some of the challenges impacting on Member States such as load-shedding, deforestation, unproductive time spent in sourcing alternative energy sources, crime (particularly gender-based violence) and household air pollution, among others. The presentation showed that if the energy challenges are addressed and gender equality achieved, the economic development in the SADC region would accelerate. This perspective was supported by the examples of countries that have advanced toward gender equality and have economies that are doing better than those yet to advance women empowerment, gender equity and equality.

SARDC therefore encouraged legislators to approach social and economic development using a gender-energy nexus framework rather than addressing the issues in isolation. A SARDC case study of the impact of energy poverty on women in Mutare, Zimbabwe was shared to illustrate the socio-economic challenges that affect women and men when energy is not readily available.

Community benefits from mainstreaming gender in energy

A study conducted by SARDC in September 2018 on the impact of mainstreaming gender in transboundary water management documented the many benefits that access to energy can bring to communities, particularly women who bear the burden of inadequate access to modern technologies.

The study which was conducted in Zimbabwe, in a small community in Mutare, revealed that with no access to electricity there was no lighting at the local clinic and this had a negative impact on the women who got into labour overnight. Women in labour had to bring their own light sources such as candles, torches and kerosene lamps which are not a reliable source of illumination. Medication storage was a challenge as the clinic had no access to electricity for proper refrigeration of drugs which required such storage.

At the local school, it was difficult for teachers to teach their pupils subjects related to IT, as there was no means of doing practical lessons. It was in additional difficulty for teachers to stay after hours marking books and preparing for lessons due to the unavailability of reliable illumination sources. The headmaster of the school noted in addition that

the school was understaffed because teachers did not want to be employed at this school due to the unavailability of electricity.

The people in the community had limited access to information, as only a few had solar panels to charge and listen to the radio and charge phones, some community members noted no reason to purchase TVs and radios because of the unavailability of electricity in the community.

However, when the Micro-Hydro and Irrigation Scheme was introduced, the community now has access to electricity. The micro-hydro scheme draws water from a river in the community which it uses to power the community with electricity. The establishment of the scheme has had manifold benefits which include,

- ❖ Health Women can now deliver overnight with lighting in the rooms, and the clinic can stock drugs that require refrigeration.
- ❖ Education The Chipendeke Primary School is now connected to electricity and can attract more teachers, reducing the teacher-pupil ratio as well as offering a night-school facility for elders in the community who include women.
- ❖ Media Women and children can now watch cable television as well as own devices such as cellphones which allow access to entertainment and information services.

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN DEVELOPMENT

The presentation on Effective Strategies for Mainstreaming Gender in Development gave an appreciation of the methods used to mainstream gender in other sectors and see how/if the same methods could be applied to the RE sector. The key methods include:

- ❖ **Gender Sensitive Analysis** This can be described as understanding the different experiences that women, men, girls and boys face in a given situation/circumstance.
- ❖ **Gender Sensitive Indicators** These present evidence of the gender-related changes in society over time, including changes in the status and roles of women and men, and therefore measure the achievement of gender equity.
- ❖ **Gender Responsive Budgeting** GRB caters for the needs of women and men, girls and boys.
- ❖ **Gender Sensitive Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting** This uses gender-sensitive indicators to show whether a programme/project addresses the varying priorities and needs of women and men.

SADC NATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Parliamentarians were invited to share national experiences on the status of access to renewable energies for women and men in their country to open discussions on how these issues can be addressed as well as encouraging shared experiences and replication of effective practices.

Angola

Hon. Ruth Mendes of Angola spoke about the 2025 Energy Plan which is aimed at producing basic energy access. The Plan provides a high-level overview of the policies intended to increase access for at least 60 percent of the population. At least 70 percent of the electricity is expected to be derived from renewable sources. In addition, Angola conducted a study on rural electrification which identified the potential to integrate 22 megawatts from solar panels for most villages to benefit.

Lesotho

Hon. Kimetso Mathaba focused on the Energy Policy 2015-2025 which states that gender equality will be an integral part of energy programmes and activities. He highlighted some of the objectives from the policy which are to improve the availability and sustainable use of bio-energy resources and also to promote the conversion of bio-waste to energy for power generation and heat. Hon. Mathaba stressed how the policy is trying to accommodate gender equality, through meeting the needs of women and girls as well as men and boys.

Namibia

Hon. Phillipus Katamelo reported that Namibia has done well in terms of progress towards gender equality with the Parliament having achieved 44 percent women representation. He urged Parliaments to work with respective government bodies to craft legislation and policies to improve on the regulation and access for the RE sector so that women benefit as they are disadvantaged socially and culturally. He said that gender issues should be understood not only from a policy perspective but from a cultural and practical implementation aspect.

Mauritius

Hon. Marie Tour, spoke of how Mauritius is lacking gender mainstreaming in the renewable energy sector, and in this regard Mauritius is considering a process to start educating women, children and the future generations on the use of RE so that they could lower expenses on electricity. Hon. Tour said she is looking forward to suggestions from the workshop to assist on how they can implement legislation on RE.

Zambia

Honourable Chunga Mecha pointed out that Zambia does not have equitable utilization of RE and an awareness of the importance of mainstreaming gender in the RE sector is lacking in the country. He mentioned a project that Zambia is currently pursuing on rural industrialisation that has the potential to generate 15 Kilowatts through the installation of 1000 solar panels spread across the country to process mealie meal with the use of Solar Hammer Mills. Hon Mecha said development of the project will reduce an over-reliance on hydropower.

Zimbabwe

Hon. Dought Ndiweni emphasised the use of RE in reducing global warming that is affecting southern Africa. He spoke of how the Zimbabwean RE policy is influencing the advancement of gender equality and equity so that the country can become a gender-just society where everyone participates in the development processes. Hon. Chido Madiwa added to this, stating that Zimbabwe has put resources towards solar energy, for example, more that USD55 million has been set aside for the establishment of energy-related technologies especially for the benefit of rural areas where most women are disadvantaged.

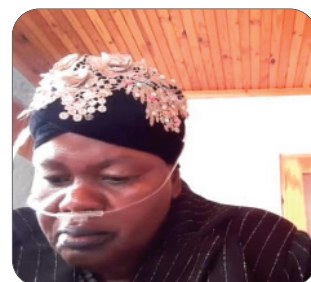
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

Hon. Josefina Diakite from Angola said Parliamentarians can support gender equality by advocating for investment in health and education as well the affordable supply of water and energy. Hon. Diakite laid emphasis on the need to develop strategies to speed up gender mainstreaming in the area of RE, whether wind, solar, or through the use of waste. She said there is need to address the issue of Gender Responsive Budgeting in the energy sector so that communities benefit.



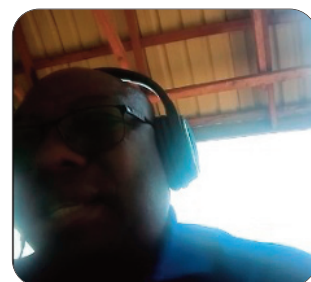
Hon. Damião supported this, saying it is imperative to create a nexus between gender and renewable energy, and create policies and strategies that promote gender equality and equity in the RE sector. She encouraged Parliamentarians to take this as their responsibility.

Hon. Perseverance Zhou from Zimbabwe placed emphasis on cultural attitudes that are still existent in most economies and how these are a contributing factor to gender inequality in the RE sector and in general. Most cultures believe that women and girls are responsible for providing sources of fuel in households through gathering firewood. She said that women and girls lose a lot of time because of multiple roles and they lose out on other productive activities. Effective strategies are needed for the rapid development of RE, especially in the rural areas to address challenges such as maternal deaths and reduce the multiple roles of women.



As an effective practice for replication by other Member States, Hon. Madiwa said Zimbabwe has a gender and women empowerment framework for monitoring and evaluation that provides indicators to ensure that gender issues are considered, especially in critical areas such as energy. Such frameworks have contributed to the advancement of women's access to modern energy technologies. She added that gender-responsive budgeting in Zimbabwe is always on the agenda and the Parliament ensures that there is capacity building for all Portfolio Committees in the Parliament that Government mainstreams gender in the national budgets.

Hon. Mecha from Zambia stressed the importance of research, information and dissemination in the quest to achieve gender mainstreaming in the RE sector. He recommended that in order to mainstream gender in development, strategies that are put in place must focus on how information will be disseminated so that potential beneficiaries can air their views and concerns for effective implementation. He therefore stressed that respective Parliaments should push for needs assessments to inform the preparation of frameworks and programmes as well as to ensure the tracking

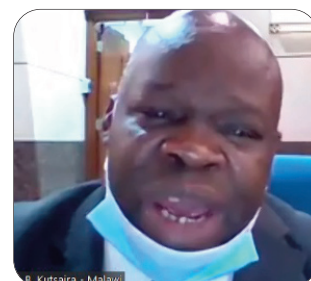


of progress on project performance. Hon. Mecha further cited how Zambia has adopted the RE approach but capacity to mainstream gender is limited regardless of a 30 to 50 percent inclusion of women in projects related to RE.

He noted that most of the modern energy technologies are capital-intensive and require large start-up costs which most women fail to afford, particularly those in rural areas without a steady income. In that regard, he urged other Member States to consider the options taken by Zambia such as the zero rating of some RE technologies which are duty free. He added that in 2008 the country revised the 1999 energy policy in an effort to mainstream gender although they are realising that the policy is not sufficient in terms of promoting gender mainstreaming in the manner which brings results. However, Zambia's 7th National Development Plan (7NDP) captures aspects of gender mainstreaming in a more comprehensive manner.

Hon. Jephther Mwale from Malawi proposed that Parliamentarians should ask governments that do not have gender-mainstreamed strategies to prepare these strategies and link them with existing policies in order to effectively achieve the desired results.

Hon. Bintony Kutsaira spoke of how Malawi is lacking participation of women despite having a policy on RE. He indicated the need for women and girls to be educated on RE so they can be aware of the provisions of the policies and confidently participate in the RE sector.



During the discussions, a question was raised saying that research shows the region is still far from addressing gender gaps in access to and meaningful participation in energy sector, therefore to what extent are parliaments holding government and other stakeholders to account on gender equality targets from the SADC gender protocol?

Responding to the question, Hon. Mecha said Zambia has a committee on women and gender to which Parliamentarians pose questions in respect of holding the government accountable. He said gender equality is a crosscutting issue and the standing committee of parliament focuses on progress on such commitments. Hon. Mwale from Malawi also contributed to say Parliamentarians ask for feedback from government and highlight where action is required so that governments can take the necessary action to improve.

Hon Mecha reported that some of the policy instruments that are being used are fragmented and ought to be harmonized and revised. He gave an example of the disconnect between the Zambia National Energy Policy and the National Development Plan and said Parliamentarians should be held accountable for pushing for the revision of the policies. He further proposed that Parliamentarians should look at their existing policies and legal frameworks and establish whether they cover issues of gender mainstreaming in a manner that is effective and results-oriented. He said that development of policies and frameworks is not enough but what is important is the implementation plan and monitoring and evaluation.

Hon. Kutsaira stated that most Parliamentarians are not aware of issues of mainstreaming gender in renewable energy. Thus he encouraged SARDC to engage with a wider audience of MPs, involving all countries and NGOs who focus on RE. He said if

MPs have knowledge of RE, it will be easier for them to enact laws in the RE sector and he recommended that SARDC should do more of these workshops to educate Parliamentarians. Hon. Kutsaira further emphasised that Member States need to be specific about what they want in the gender and energy programmes because most SADC Member States are very reliant on hydro which is no longer stable in view of climate change. He said that knowing what participation we want women to contribute to the RE sector will assist in producing effective strategies for mainstreaming gender in development.

Hon. Zhou from Zimbabwe recommended that Members of civil society or organisations for the advancement of women can facilitate the formation of laws which are favourable to RE through lobbying or advocacy to push the agenda through parliamentary committees. She said there is need for support and collaboration from all spheres because MPs cannot do it alone and to attain gender equality there is need for legislative amendments and work towards capacity building to manage gender mainstreaming, be it cultural or political capacity.

BUILDING A LEGISLATIVE AGENDA IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES

Research by SARDC reveals that national policies on energy fall short of addressing some key objectives of the energy protocol vis-à-vis mainstreaming gender, for reasons of limited technical capacity and knowledge to develop programmes that take into account gender inequalities and inequities. The experience of SARDC and lessons learned showed that key stakeholders and responsible authorities in SADC Member States still lack gender mainstreaming expertise and capacity; some policies lack appropriate gender-sensitive targets and indicators; documents and studies lack comprehensive and accurate data disaggregated by gender and age; and overall, commitments to gender equality lack provisions for financing and implementation.

In this regard, in a bid to begin the process of building capacity for gender to be mainstreamed in all processes, the SARDC posed a case scenario and asked the legislators to respond through gender-responsive lens.

CASE SCENARIO

Province X proposed to develop and implement a solar-powered irrigation project in a remote community with a population of 65,000. According to the Administrator, the project will require US\$1.5 million.

What questions would you have for the Administrator to establish the extent to which the project is gender sensitive?

Hon. Mathaba responded to the case scenario by asking if the project would be accessible to both women and men, and if they would benefit equally from the project. He said it would be important to know if the Administrator would consult the beneficiaries first before initiation and if the project was being aligned to existing policies.

Hon. Diakite said she would want to know why the Administrator opted for the type of project chosen, and the overall budget of the project, and if gender-responsive budgeting had been taken into account. It would be useful to know how women will benefit from the project and what effective strategies of gender mainstreaming have been applied to the development of the project.

Hon. Justice Peete said he would ask questions about who is going to take part in the oversight of the project, and will project implementers be hired according to their party affiliations, and whether locals will be hired instead of external people. He added that it would be crucial to know if there would be a gender balance on the work positions and specific criteria for the type of work to be done, for example who is given light work or heavy work.

WRAP UP AND WAY FORWARD

The SARDC Executive Director acknowledged the robust and informative discussions and contributions by the Parliamentarians and thanked all for attendance. Mr Madakufamba assured Parliamentarians that SARDC will continue to support and share information that can be used to champion policies in respective Member States, and that SARDC will facilitate the sharing of contacts for further engagement after the workshop. He expressed gratitude to the SADC Parliamentary Forum and the Parliament of Zimbabwe for collaborating with SARDC to host the workshop.

It was agreed that there is need for more capacity-building initiatives to assist legislators with the technical capacity to mainstream gender in the renewable energy sector so as to implement the effective strategies of mainstreaming gender in renewable energy. SARDC acknowledged the need to work with more stakeholders such as women's groups to advocate for this important subject matter to be taken up and noted that much work is to be done as the centre continues to provide knowledge for the development of the SADC region.

SARDC and SADC PF will partner to support Parliaments in SADC Member States on other issues as well, which include the domestication of protocols. He said it would be good to start by getting a deeper understanding of the progress Member States are making in domesticating policies, and specific challenges that they are encountering. Hon. Mathaba from Lesotho suggested the development of a module on the domestication of policies. He said Member States are facing challenges when it comes to domesticating policies, especially for decisions reached during Summits, so there is need for assistance. He said the module would educate and advise on how other governments are domesticating policies and protocols.

Given the capacity building and a general consensus that policies and programmes need to be more gender-sensitive in order to address the differentiated needs of women and men in accessing modern energy technologies, Parliamentarians have the task to actively lobby and advocate for gender-sensitive legislation in the RE sector.

In addition to the areas discussed above, Parliamentarians should consider:

- ❖ A gender-responsive approach to project design and implementation enables the identification of potential barriers to energy access for vulnerable households and provides a better understanding of the needs and interests of the entire population of target communities. When integrating women empowerment and gender equality strategies, renewable energy projects have an opportunity to deliver better development outcomes with more impact.
- ❖ Capacity Building and Gender-Responsive Approaches -- Understanding the different strategies that can be applied in gender mainstreaming is an important attribute in effective policy development, implementation and monitoring. Therefore Member States ought to place importance on capacity building of Parliamentarians, focal persons and project officers.

- ❖ **Reviewing Policies** – This is critical in the process of building a legislative agenda, that Member States review existing energy policies and frameworks to assess if gender issues are adequately addressed for the benefit of women, men, boys and girls.
- ❖ **Formulating Policies** – In circumstances where frameworks are non-existent, Parliamentarians or responsible authorities are encouraged to lobby for the formulation and adoption of policies while ensuring that gender-responsive approaches are used, including consultations with communities.
- ❖ **Involving Women and Men Equally** -- Considering that the renewable energy sector is expected to grow exponentially in the coming decades, a better understanding of how all people can contribute their skills and benefit from these new opportunities will be central to ensuring sector growth that does not exacerbate labour and income disparities between women and men, but rather builds on, serves and strengthens the unique capacities and priorities of all.
- ❖ **Monitoring and Evaluation** -- Pushing for gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation is critical as it enhances accountability and transparency in the use of public funds and resources. It is a mechanism that can be used to promote learning for future policy effectiveness.
- ❖ **Collection of Gender Disaggregated Data** – The lack of gender-disaggregated data and gender statistics is a major gap in achieving equal access to energy for men and women. Gender-disaggregated data is a tool that can be used to understand the status on the ground and contribute to gender-responsive programmes and policies.
- ❖ **Success Stories and Effective Practices** should be shared for replication and exchanges of experiences.

VOTE OF THANKS

Hon. Diakite from Angola gave the Vote of Thanks citing that the workshop was interesting and brought to light many aspects about the benefits of mainstreaming gender in renewable energy. She urged Parliamentarians to consider implementing strategies that empower women for sustainable development. In closing, she thanked the organizers and participants of the workshop and encouraged further engagements beyond this workshop. Special mention went to the Honourable Speakers of the National Assembly of Namibia and the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, and the Secretary General of the SADC PF, for officiating at the workshop and setting the tone for the rich and productive discussions.



ANNEX

List of Participants

PARTICIPANTS	CONTACTS
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