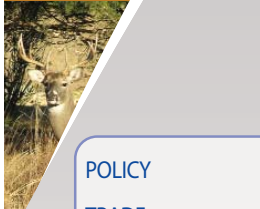
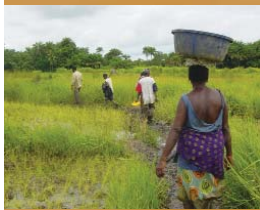




SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



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Infrastructure Development Regional Master Plan

by Joseph Ngwawi

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT has been placed at the core of the region's community-building agenda and concerted efforts are being made to ensure the availability of an integrated, efficient and cost-effective system to sustain regional economic development and trade.

The 32nd Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government set for 17-18 August in Mozambique is expected to speed up the provision of regional infrastructure, seen as a critical foundation for the realisation of regional integration objectives.

A number of key developments have taken place since the last summit in Angola in 2011, including finalisation of the regional infrastructure development master plan.

Ministers responsible for infrastructure agreed on the draft SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan at a meeting in Luanda, Angola in late June, paving the way for the document's final approval by the leaders during the forthcoming Summit set for Maputo. The SADC master plan will guide implementation of coordinated, integrated, efficient, transboundary infrastructure networks in the six priority sectors of energy, transport, tourism, information technology, meteorology and water.

Identified priority infrastructure projects will be implemented in three phases over 15 years stretching from 2012 to 2027 at a cost of about US\$500 billion, with transport, energy and water taking up the major share of the funding requirements.

The region is projected to commission power generation projects that will supply 17,000 megawatts (MW) in the next three years to 2015, while the region could attain self sufficiency in power by 2014.

An investment conference is planned between January and March 2013 to lure potential investors for the identified regional infrastructure projects while road shows are also planned in Asia, Europe and the United States for the same purpose.

The leaders are also expected to consider reports from the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration, which was tasked during the 2011 Summit held in Angola with finding ways of consolidating the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA); establishment of the SADC Customs Union and the Tripartite FTA involving SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC).

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Infrastructure development, Regional Master Plan

The task force adopted a work programme for consolidation of the SADC FTA in August 2010, which included measures to facilitate accession of Member States that are not yet participating in the SADC FTA; full implementation of the FTA; and trade facilitation, including infrastructure development.

The work programme also includes measures to address non-tariff barriers (NTBs), simplify rules of origin as well as harmonisation and effective implementation of customs documentation and procedures.

SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Augusto Salomão has during the past two years led high level missions to Seychelles and Angola, and is consulting with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) regarding accession to the SADC Protocol on Trade and participation in the FTA.

Seychelles has made a decision to accede to the Protocol and, in accordance with accession procedures, submitted a letter of intent and a market access offer to the Secretariat. The Secretariat is providing the necessary support to Seychelles.

Following high level consultations between Salomão and the political leadership in Angola in 2011, a technical team from the Secretariat visited Angola this year to assess ongoing efforts by government towards industrial rehabilitation as well as economic and infrastructure development. The mission has also assisted Angola in preparing a roadmap towards accession.

The work programme on consolidation of the FTA foresees a further review of the rules of origin to further simplify them and to ensure that they are supportive to intra-re-



Cahora Bassa dam in Mozambique

gional trade. Such a review should include reforms on the administrative aspects of the rules such as e-certification.

An expert group on rules of origin for textiles and clothing has been established to prepare specific recommendations for the reform of the rules for the sector which were not addressed during the first comprehensive review of rules of origin.

The 2011 Summit urged the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to expedite the necessary work leading to agreement and common understanding on parameters of the proposed SADC Customs Union as well as benchmarks or milestones required for the establishment of the Customs Union.

The task force was also mandated to develop a model Customs Union, and the modalities that should be followed for implementation of the union.

The Tripartite Trade Negotiation Forum (TTNF) involving COMESA-SADC-EAC has agreed to the timetable and format of negotiations to establish an integrated market covering 27 countries in east and southern Africa.

This was adopted at the first round of negotiations held in December last year following the historic launch of negotiations by the leaders of the three regional economic communities in June the same year.

The TTNF agreed to meet at least four times per year during the first phase of negotiations. The first phase of negotiations is set to complete within 36 months (until the end of 2014), and will address issues such as tariff liberalisation, rules of origin, customs cooperation and customs-related matters, non-tariff barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, trade remedies and dispute settlement.

The second phase of negotiations will focus on negotiating trade in services and trade related issues, including intellectual property rights, competition policy and trade

Political dialogue

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS has been made in terms of political stability in the region during the past year, including political dialogues in Lesotho, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

Lesotho held long-awaited general elections in May following the two-year, SADC-mediated dialogue aimed at finding a lasting solution to the country's political polarisation.

Political parties in Madagascar signed an agreement in September 2011 that allows the return of exiled leader Marc Ravalomanana and paves the way for elections to be held within one year to re-establish democracy on the Indian Ocean island.



President Armando Guebuza

development and competitiveness. Facilitating movement of business persons within the region will be negotiated in parallel with the first phase.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development is set to enter into force very soon. Only one more deposit of the instruments of ratification is required.

As of the last Summit, 13 Member States had signed the Protocol, with the exception of Botswana and Mauritius, while eight had ratified the instrument, namely Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Swaziland, and Zambia – had not yet ratified the Protocol at the time of the 2011 Summit. Zambia reported that it was at advanced stages of getting the Protocol ratified by its statutory bodies. □

Madagascar was suspended from SADC and the African Union following a 2009 coup that replaced Ravalomanana with the then mayor of Antananarivo, Andre Rajoelina.

The SADC-mediated agreement allows for the unconditional return from exile of Ravalomanana and for the establishment of transitional institutions ahead of elections. However, Ravalomanana has not yet been allowed to return.

SADC is also facilitating the political dialogue in Zimbabwe where President Jacob Zuma of South Africa is working with members of the inclusive government to develop a roadmap towards elections. □

SADC conducts audit on trade protocol

THE SADC Secretariat has commissioned an audit on implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade.

Signed in 1996, and coming into force in 2000 following a ratification process, the SADC Protocol on Trade aims to boost trade among Member States through the elimination of customs tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

A total of 12 SADC Member States signed the Protocol and are thus part of the Free Trade Area (FTA), with the exception of Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo which have asked for more time before joining the FTA. Madagascar is suspended from SADC activities.

Implementation of the trade protocol has been a protracted regional process that has continued even beyond the formal launch of the FTA in August 2008, and this year marks the final year of tariff phase-downs and final assessment.

To review the implementation process, SADC has tasked the Southern Africa Trade Hub to conduct an audit of all signatories to the SADC Protocol on Trade.

The audit – the sixth of its kind since the Protocol came into force will involve country visits to all SADC Member States that are signatories.

The country visits are aimed at collecting information for the audit report and, in particular, to gather views from a wide range of stakeholders concerning their experiences of how the SADC Protocol on Trade has been implemented.

So far, audit visits have been carried out in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

According to the Southern Africa Trade Hub, the outcome of the assessment will be an

audit report which will be reviewed by the SADC Trade Negotiating Forum, senior officials and the Committee of Ministers of Trade in Gaborone, Botswana.

The last audit done in 2011 showed that the general compliance of the 2011 tariff phase-downs was high. The table below provides a summary of the implementation status for individual Member States.

While compliance is generally good, discrepancies continue to arise for individual tariff lines. However, these tariff line discrepancies will become increasingly irrelevant as Member States complete the tariff phase-downs in 2012.

The 2011 audit report also indicates that significant progress has been made in addressing not only FTA issues but the SADC broader vision of regional integration as well.

For example, intra-SADC trade has recovered significantly since the 2008 global economic crisis and shows substantial expansion during the period of implementation of the SADC FTA.

Rules of Origin continue to be discussed in the SADC context, specifically in the Experts Working Group on Textiles and Clothing.

There has been substantial progress in the development and implementation of the monitoring mechanism for Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) as well as on the strengthening of trade facilitation initiatives within SADC.

Member States are also more aware of the impact of NTBs and are moving towards a more systematic approach to address these measures. While more needs to be done, the on-line NTB monitoring system

has progressed significantly during the course of the past year, moving from almost no resolved complaints to nearly 70 percent resolved.

On SADC broader integration agenda, Member States are preparing to actively negotiate under the Tripartite FTA. The Tripartite FTA, commonly known as the “Grand” FTA involves two other regional economic communities: the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC).

The COMESA-EAC-SADC aims to launch an enlarged Tripartite FTA covering 27 countries in eastern and southern Africa, and when fully operational the free market is expected to increase trade and deepen integration among Member States. □

Summary of 2011 tariff phase-downs

	Implemented	Method	Notes
SACU (<i>Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa</i>)	Yes	South Africa Revenue Service (SARS) website	SACU tariff phase-downs completed in 2008
Malawi	Partial	Malawi Revenue Authority website and submissions by Malawi	Malawi has phased down some SADC duties throughout the past year but, as of April 2011, Malawi was still at 2004/2005 tariff reduction levels.
Mauritius	Yes	Country visit	During country visit in April 2011, the Mauritius Revenue Authority advised that the 2011 tariff phase-downs were to be gazetted in May/June.
Mozambique	Yes	Mozambique Revenue Authority	Block approval of SADC tariff phase-downs.
Tanzania	Yes	Country visit	Block approval of SADC tariff phase-downs. Derogation requested for sugar and specific categories of paper.
Zambia	Yes	SADC Secretariat	Block approval from 2008 through 2012 gazetted through SI 103 of 2008.
Zimbabwe	No	Country notification	Zimbabwe has requested and received derogation on tariff phase-downs.

Zambia, Tanzania review Tazara operations

THE UNITED REPUBLIC of Tanzania and Zambia have agreed to set up a committee of experts to review the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Act in a move aimed at improving operations of the jointly owned railway line.

The Council of Ministers of the two countries agreed during a meeting in June that the review should result in structural changes in Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (Tazara) management.

Presently, the 1975 Tazara Act, which was reviewed in 1995, states that the position of managing director would be occupied by somebody from Zambia while that of deputy managing director is reserved for a Tanzanian.

Among other changes, the review may lead to a situation where the holders of the two positions would be appointed on merit as opposed to the current system.

Zambian Transport Minister, Yambwa Mukanga said his country was committed to injecting US\$10 million for recapitalisation of the railway firm but initially it would invest \$5 million to increase the volume of cargo and passengers.

"Among problems facing Tazara is capitalisation. We made a provision for the funds during the current financial year to enable the railway to increase passengers and cargo," said Mukanga, who is chairperson of the Tazara Council of Ministers.

Tazara is a key transporter of cargo, mostly copper and other minerals from the Zambia mines to Dar es Salaam for export to overseas markets. It also transports passengers.

Tazara is the gateway to eastern and southern African business markets covering both SADC and the Common

Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

The 1,860-kilometre Tazara railway line, stretching from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia, was constructed between 1970 and 1973 when the Chinese government extended a US\$500 million loan for its construction and supervised the work that was completed ahead of schedule.

According to Tazara Managing Director Akashambatwa Lewanika, the firm's performance has improved since 2008/09 when 383,055 metric tonnes of cargo were transported, to 533,964 metric tonnes in the 2010/2011 financial year.

The target is to increase freight traffic to one million metric tonnes a year over the next few years.



Locomotive on Tazara railway

The railway was initiated by the founding President of Tanzania, Julius K. Nyerere, and Zambia's first President, Dr Kenneth Kaunda. □

ACP calls for flexibility in EPA negotiations

THE AFRICAN, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States has called for flexibility in negotiations with Europe on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).

The ACP Council of Ministers, which met in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in June, adopted resolutions on several matters including measures to improve trade in sugar, tobacco and cotton with the EU.

The ACP ministers said they are committed to concluding negotiations with Europe on the EPAs.

"Despite the challenges, we remain committed to concluding the negotiations, but we cannot stress enough the need to place development firmly at the heart of

our agenda," said Alva Baptiste, Foreign Minister of St Lucia, the incoming chairperson of the ACP Council of Ministers.

He said that until the contentious issues are addressed "it is difficult for our regions to sign EPAs and we continue our call for flexibility on the part of our European Union partners in attaining mutually agreed and mutually beneficial agreements.

"We reiterate our appeal to the EU Commission to withdraw its proposal to amend Market Access Regulation 1528, which imposes a unilateral deadline by which to conclude trade agreements," he said, noting that the measure was "putting undue pressure on our countries to sign EPAs without properly addressing areas that may threaten the stability and growth of their countries."

He said the ACP believed that through the power of dialogue and was confident

that "in the spirit of the partnership enshrined in the Cotonou Agreement, we can find a way out of this impasse".

The Cotonou Agreement signed in 2000 put in place a trade cooperation framework aimed at liberalising trade between the ACP and EU and also specified that a new World Trade Organization-compatible regime or an EPA must be agreed by the end of 2007.

ACP is also intensifying efforts to lobby against new guidelines that will further restrict production and consumption of tobacco under a World Health Organisation (WHO)-led global treaty.

The ministers resolved to oppose approval of draft guidelines to sections of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) that deal with measures to control tobacco demand such as taxes and regulation of the contents and emissions of tobacco products.

The WHO-FCTC is the world's first global public health treaty, which entered into force in February 2005. It was signed by 168 of the 192 WHO member states and more than 170 WHO member states have become parties to the convention. □





AU targets improved intra-regional trade

THE AFRICAN Union has agreed to strengthen intra-regional trade by removing barriers that presently hinder commercial transactions among member states.

Outgoing chairperson of the AU Commission, Jean Ping, said intra-African trade presently stands at about 10 percent of the continent's total transactions with the rest of

the world, a worrying situation.

The AU Heads of State and Government exchanged views on the development agenda for the continent under the theme "Boosting Intra-African Trade".

The recently elected Prime Minister of Lesotho, Thomas Thabane, expressed the urgent need for Africa to address the

issue of poverty and underdevelopment on the continent while promoting intra-African trade as a consolidation factor of peace.

"There is no doubt that trade amongst our countries is key to the attainment of sustainable economic development, creation of jobs, particularly for the youth and to the effective integration of

Africa into the global economy," Thabane said.

The highlight of the summit for SADC was the election of the SADC candidate, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, currently the South African Minister of Home Affairs, as the new Chairperson of the AU Commission, and of Erastus Mwencha from Kenya as deputy chairperson. □

Profile

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma

THE SADC-sponsored candidate, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma of South Africa, has etched her name in history books after becoming the first southern African to head the African Union Commission.

Dlamini-Zuma, 63, defeated the incumbent, Jean Ping, in elections held at the AU Summit in July to choose the chairperson of the AU Commission, which is the secretariat of the 54-nation African Union.

Dlamini-Zuma's victory followed intense lobbying by SADC Member States, who argued that it was time for Southern Africa to lead the AU Commission since other regions in Africa have had the opportunity to occupy the top post.

West and Central Africa have already had their candidates occupying the top AU post, with Omar Alpha Konare of Mali and Ping, from Gabon.

A skilled administrator and diplomat with a pan-African vision, Dlamini-Zuma was quick to put aside partisan politics as she called for African unity following her victory.

"I am not an Anglophone, I'm a Zulu," she said in her first few remarks after winning the election.

She made it clear that she would be "implementing programmes... agreed upon by everybody" rather than "consulting the Anglophone and the Francophone."

Dlamini-Zuma has held key ministerial positions in every South African government since Nelson Mandela became president following the first democratic elections in 1994.

A medical doctor by training, Dlamini-Zuma was South Africa's first black Minister of Health between 1994 and 1999 when she showed exemplary initiative in transforming the country's health system by introducing legislation that provided the poor with access to free basic healthcare.

She scored another first in 1999 when she was appointed by then President Thabo Mbeki as the first woman foreign minister in a democratic South Africa, and she served in this post for 10 years.



She became Minister of Home Affairs on 10 May 2009, the third deployment in the Executive by three successive presidents.

Her new responsibilities are a continuation of decades of life of struggle and sacrifice that started in the 1970s when she was an activist in KwaZulu Natal, where she rose through the ranks to become vice-president of the then South African Students Organisation (SASO) led by the late Steve Biko.

Her activism did not escape the attention of the apartheid security apparatus, which, through a sustained campaign of harassment, ultimately forced her into exile in the 1970s to join the African National Congress (ANC).

Armed with a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Zoology and Botany, she continued her studies at the University of Bristol while simultaneously serving as the chairperson of the ANC Youth League in Great Britain during 1977 and 1978.

Upon graduation in 1978, she worked at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol for two years, followed by another two-year stint at the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital in Berkshire.

Between 1980 and 1985, Dlamini-Zuma was deployed by the ANC to Mbabane Government Hospital in Swaziland where she was responsible for the medical needs of ANC cadres in that country.

She was deployed to the ANC's health department in Zambia during 1989 and 1990, where she played a leading role in the healthcare of the community in exile and made a major contribution to the drafting of a post-apartheid health policy.

When the ANC was unbanned in 1990, Dlamini-Zuma returned with other ANC members from exile to help to reorganise the ANC legally inside the country and to prepare for negotiations between the ANC and the apartheid government.

Dlamini-Zuma brings this accumulation of experience over the past 40 years to the management of the African Union, and faces vast expectations from Africa, and particularly southern Africa. She is the first woman to hold the post of Commission chair. □



Upgrade of Zambian transmission infrastructure to boost SADC energy security

by Patson Phiri

REGIONAL POWER trading in southern Africa is set to improve following plans by Zambia to refurbish key transmission infrastructure that connects the country to neighbouring Namibia and the rest of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

Zambia is set to upgrade the 341km electricity transmission line between Kafue, just outside Lusaka, and Livingstone in the southern part of the country.

The upgrade is expected to increase the capacity of the line to 330kiloVolts (kV) from its current 220kV capacity. This will increase reliability and quality of domestic power transmission as well as facilitate regional power trade with countries in the 12-member SAPP.

The project will improve regional energy distribution and treble electricity transmission capacity between the Victoria Falls hydropower station and Lusaka and is a priority initiative for the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO).

The upgrade is vital for enhanced supply within Zambia and to relieve congestion on the SAPP grid to ensure that supply of energy keeps pace with economic growth in the region. It will enhance the energy link between Zambia and Namibia and enable the possible trading of electricity through the Caprivi interconnector.

The project will include construction of new substations and replacement of the 50-year-old energy infrastructure. Overall transmission capacity will be increased from 120 MW to 360 MW.

Upgrade of the transmission line will also increase the

region's access to hydropower and reduce the country's dependency on oil and coal generated power and will reduce the electric blackouts.

"Upgrading of the Kafue - Livingstone transmission line project will provide extra power to the southern and western provinces of Zambia and other countries in the Southern Africa Power Pool," said ZESCO managing director, Cyprian Chitundu.

The project is expected to cost US\$100 million, with the European Investment Bank (EIB) meeting about a third of the cost. Zambia signed a US\$30 million agreement with EIB in May to fund the upgrade of the Kafue-Livingstone transmission.

The funding agreement was signed in Lusaka by Zambian Minister of Finance, Alexander

Electricity pylons on regional grid

Chikwanda and senior EIB officials. The World Bank, EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund and ZESCO will be co-financiers for the project, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

"Access to electricity is essential to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and promote sustainable development. The European Investment Bank is committed to supporting the Zambian energy sector and contributing to global goals highlighted by the 2012 International Year of Sustainable Energy for All," said Plutarchos Sakellaris, European Investment Bank Vice President.

The original line was built in the 1970s to allow easy and cost-efficient upgrading when necessary. The upgrading scheme will use existing infrastructure and proven technology, resulting in low environmental impact and reduced investment costs.

The EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund has agreed to provide a €5.55 million (about US\$7 million) grant, split in two components.

The first is a €5.2 million (US\$6.9 million) interest rate subsidy while €350,000 (about US\$439,000) will be a technical assistance grant to support procurement and monitoring. sardc.net □

SADC lures investors for ZiZaBoNa project

SOUTHERN AFRICA has intensified efforts to lure investors to develop an electricity transmission interconnector linking Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia.

Commonly known as ZiZaBoNa, the transmission interconnector project has the capacity to increase power trading among the participating utilities, as well as provide an alternative power transmission route and help decongest the existing central transmission corridor.

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), which coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity on behalf of Member State utilities in SADC, said an investor's roundtable was held in July to lure potential financiers for the project.

The roundtable held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in July targeted funding amounting to US\$223 million for the project.

The four countries' respective utility companies – the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA), Zambia Electricity Supply

Company (ZESCO), Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) and Namibia Power Company (NamPower) – are expected to finance parts of the project that fall within their national boundaries.

The project is to be implemented in two phases. The first phase will cover the construction of a 120-kilometre 330 kiloVolt line from Hwange Power Station to Victoria Falls where a switching station will be built on the Zimbabwe side. The line will extend to a substation at Livingstone in Zambia.

The second phase, which will be financed under a special company to be called ZiZaBoNa Private Limited, will involve the construction of a 300-km 330kV line from Livingstone to Katima Mulilo in Namibia, through Pandamatenga in Botswana.

The Zimbabwe-Zambia interconnector will be built as a high voltage line with a transmission capacity of 430kV. However, it will operate as a 330kV line during the first phase. □

SADC infrastructure plan ready for approval

SOUTHERN AFRICA'S long-awaited Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan is now ready for approval by the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit set for Maputo, Mozambique in August.

This follows the finalisation of the master plan by ministers responsible for infrastructure in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), who met in Luanda, Angola in late June.

If endorsed by the southern African leaders, the master plan would guide development in key infrastructure such as road, rail and ports, and would also act as a framework for planning and cooperation with development partners and the private sector.

Speaking at the meeting of SADC ministers responsible for infrastructure, the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary responsible for regional integration, João Caholo said the master plan is a product of "deep" stakeholder consultation and, therefore, its success will also depend on collective implementation by all member states.

He said as soon as the plan is approved, the SADC Secretariat would "facilitate and coordinate the convening of a SADC Infrastructure Invest-

ment Conference between January and March 2013" to lure potential investors. Road shows are also planned in Asia, Europe and the United States for the same purpose.

The master plan will be implemented over three five-year intervals – short term (2012-2017), medium term (2017-2022) and long term (2022-2027).

This is in line with the SADC Vision 2027, a 15-year implementation horizon for forecasting infrastructure requirements in the region.

It is also in line with the African Union's Programme for Infrastructure Development of Africa (PIDA) and will constitute a key input into the proposed tripartite Free Trade Area made up of SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC).

The SADC master plan will guide implementation of coordinated, integrated, efficient, trans-boundary infrastructure networks in the six priority sectors of energy, transport, tourism, information technology, meteorology and water.



Matimba power station, South Africa

In the energy sector, it is anticipated that the plan will address four key areas of energy security, improving access to modern energy services, tapping the abundant energy resources and increasing financial investment whilst enhancing environmental sustainability.

Regarding the sub-sectors of road, rail, ports, inland waterways and air transport networks, the Transport Sector Plan will address four key areas, namely improving access to the seamless transport corridors value chain; reducing the cost of transportation; enhancing competitiveness and providing safe and secure transport services.

The Information Communication Technology (ICT) Sector Plan is designed to address four key areas: ensuring accessibility, including universal access to broadband ICT technologies;

accelerating regional integration through broadband interconnectivity within and among SADC member states; reducing the cost of doing business; and improving reliability and security of ICT infrastructure.

The Water Sector Plan prioritises five goals, which include increasing the overall

water storage in the region; irrigated land for food security; hydropower generation for energy security; increasing access to safe drinking water; and enhancing sanitation services for SADC citizens.

The Tourism Sector Plan is geared towards achieving enhanced socio-economic development; facilitating joint marketing of SADC as a single destination; increasing tourism arrivals and tourism receipts from source markets; and developing the tourism sector in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Emphasis for the Meteorology Sector Plan is put on the need to ensure the availability of timely early warning information relating to adverse weather and climate variability impacts. Another highlight of the Meteorology Sector Plan will be the development of a framework for harmonized indicators for the provision of relevant climate forecasting information to facilitate preparations of mitigation measures against droughts, floods and cyclones.

The identified priority infrastructure projects will be implemented at a cost of about US\$500 billion, with transport, energy and water taking up the major share of the funding requirements. sardc.net

World's largest solar park planned for South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA is set to become a leader in the green energy revolution with a giant solar park planned which will be the largest in the world.

The R150-billion rand park – planned for the hot, dry Northern Cape province – will be built over thousands of hectares and provide 5,000 megawatts of electricity,

which will be fed into the national grid.

The park will be built in stages over nine years, but the first sections will be operational as early as this year.

A solar park is a concentrated zone of solar plants that are built in clusters, sharing common transmission and other infrastructure.

The project is a partnership between the South African government, state power utility Eskom and the Clinton Climate Change Initiative.

An investors conference, to run from 28 to 29 October, is expected to attract additional stakeholders from the private sector. *BuaNews*

Rio + 20 outcomes: Half full or half empty glass?

by Munetsi Madakufamba in Rio de Janeiro

THE QUESTION of whether the Rio+20 Summit held in Brazil in June succeeded in producing a satisfactory outcome can be a matter of conjecture.

However, what is in no doubt is the fact that the conference produced a 49-page outcome document, titled "The Future We Want".

The outcome document contains what critics have called weak, non-binding commitments, confirmed by what China and the G77 – including most of Africa – saw as a constant watering down of the text.

Another major concern was that the declaration has no mechanism for implementation, or the means of financing it. For example, while acknowledging the need to mobilise resources, there were no specific figures committed.

Others have hailed the conference for at least reaffirming past actionable plans such as Agenda 21, a comprehensive blueprint of action agreed at the 1992 Rio Summit, to be taken globally, nationally, and locally by organizations of the UN, governments, and other stakeholders in every area in which humans directly affect the environment.

Rio+20 has further been criticized, like so many past global negotiations – the most recent being the 17th Conference of Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Durban, South Africa – for failing to reach international agreement or failing to reach outcomes that are binding, with clear action towards sustainable development.

But was the Rio declaration a glass half full or half empty?

Put simply, the task before world leaders, heads of international organizations and civil society at Rio+20 was to make decisions, announce commitments and galvanize action on how humanity can reduce poverty and inequality and ensure environmental protection on an ever more crowded planet.

Yet global consensus on the many challenges that face humanity today has never been easy.

Moreso in a world where the UN member states have, willingly or unwillingly, embraced globalization, but are now failing to govern it.

Global population has increased to seven billion – projected to hit eight billion by 2030 – and so has the pressure on the earth's natural resources. And the gap between the rich and the poor has widened.



UN member states cannot be unaware of the common responsibility before them, that is ridding the world of its current interrelated crises of an environmental, economic and equality nature.

And the previous UN conferences did well to put sustainable development discourse on the global agenda, notably from the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, credited for giving global impetus to the debate on balancing economic growth and development with ecology.

The 1972 Stockholm conference culminated in the Brundtland Commission, appointed in 1983 by the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and named after its chair, Gro Harlem Brundtland, former prime minister of Norway.

The Brundtland Commission report crafted what has now become widely accepted as the definition of "sustainable development", casting it as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

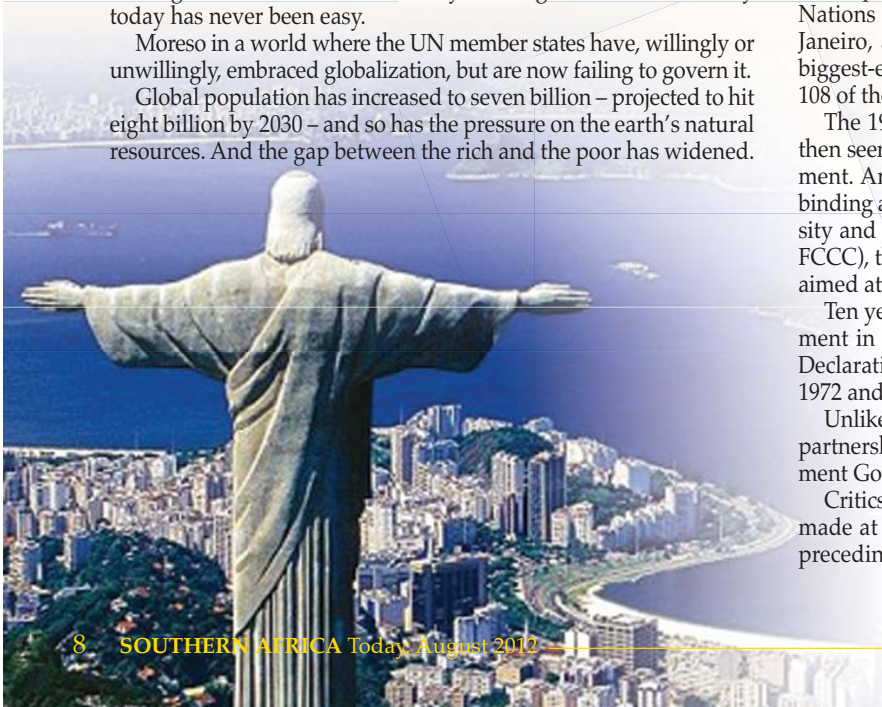
The ensuing debate on the correlation between environment and development was taken up at a much higher level at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, also known as the Earth Summit and hailed then as the biggest-ever political gathering with 172 governments represented, 108 of them sending their heads of state or government.

The 1992 Earth Summit arguably ended what was increasingly then seen as a false dichotomy between environment and development. Among other achievements, Rio 1992 was credited for two binding agreements, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the latter of which in turn led to the Kyoto Protocol of 1997, aimed at fighting global warming.

Ten years later came the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 in South Africa, which produced the Johannesburg Declaration, building on earlier declarations made at Stockholm in 1972 and Rio in 1992.

Unlike Rio 1992, the Johannesburg summit was organized around partnerships designed to give impetus to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), rather than producing new agreements.

Critics, however, have pointed out that many of the commitments made at most of the UN conferences on sustainable development preceding Rio+20 have not been realized, particularly regarding





such fundamental issues as poverty reduction and cleaning up or protection of the environment.

They cite the example of the Kyoto Protocol, the only legally

binding treaty to combat climate change the world presently has, yet some major polluters have either not acceded to, notably the United States, or pulled out, in the case of Canada.

Poverty has either become more acute or has remained largely unchanged.

From an African perspective, nowhere in the world is poverty more serious than on the continent. Further, recent studies have shown that Africa's climate is warming faster than the global average.

And sustainable development issues and priorities vary from continent to continent, and from nation to nation.

So 20 years on since the last Earth Summit in Rio, the expectations for 2012 were as diverse as the stakeholders participating either as governments, international organizations or various other groups known in UN lingo as "major groups".

There was no doubt how much of a herculean task was before the negotiators going into the conference as they faced the difficult task of balancing the enormously diverse views in more than 6,000 pages of contributions from the governments, international organizations and the major groups.

The negotiations could not have been made any easier with as many as 50,000 participants at the official conference and an estimated equal number at the parallel People's Summit (for civil society groups and business).

If the diversity of views – whether on basis of circumstances of country development levels or group interests of stakeholders – made the negotiations a charged affair, the location of the official summit and the people's summit was always going to cause the final outcome to be viewed with suspicion from a civil society perspective, with the two events pitched 40km apart.

For some, the text of the Rio declaration was rejected well before the negotiators had even landed in Rio de Janeiro – on the grounds of what was deemed a flawed process, including the selection of the conference themes.

The conference had two themes agreed upon by the UN member states:

- Green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and
- Institutional framework for sustainable development.

While Africa has grudgingly embraced the green economy concept, concerns have been perceptible, particularly on the potential abuse of it by rich nations to impose indirect trade barriers on the pretext of compliance with new requirements during the global transition to "green products".

Debate on the green economy and climate change has pitted developing countries against developed nations and has been more manifest on the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities".

The notion of "common but differentiated responsibilities", arising out of the 1992 UNFCCC, is a key principle of the Kyoto Protocol, where parties recognize the direct responsibility of developed countries in global climate change as well as the special needs and circumstances of developing countries.

However, its interpretation has been a subject of immense debate in global negotiations on sustainable development with developed countries accused of using every trick in the book to renege on their past promises.

Amidst recrimination and charges of strong arm tactics – that has become the hallmark of global negotiations – a developing countries-backed proposal for a US\$30 billion global fund for sustainable development was shot down by the EU before its merits could even be discussed.

With no financial means for implementation, it left many participants, particularly from Africa, wondering whether the lofty aspirations expressed in the 49-page outcome document will not remain a chimera.

However, Secretary-General of the Rio + 20 Summit, Sha Zukang, remained optimistic of the outcome.

"We think the text contains a lot of action ... and if follow-up measures are taken, it will indeed make a tremendous difference in generating positive global change," he said in defense of the agreement. □

the future we want



COMESA, EAC, SADC in joint climate change strategy

EASTERN AND southern African countries have established a joint climate change programme to harmonise response programmes in the regions represented by three regional bodies.

The launch of the joint five-year programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and SADC is expected to help address the impacts of climate change through common adaptation and mitigation actions that enhance socio-economic resilience.

So far, a total of about US\$90 million has been raised to fund various climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes in the two regions.

Speaking soon after signing the Tripartite Agreement for the Implementation of the Programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in eastern and southern Africa, SADC Executive Secretary, Tomáz Augusto Salomão said the joint plan has the capacity to address climate change in the region.

"The overall objective of the programme is to address the impacts of climate change through successful adaptation and mitigation actions aimed at building socio-economic resilience of communities through Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)," Salomão, who is also the chairperson of the COMESA-EAC-SADC tripartite, said in a statement.

The scale and gravity of the impacts of climate change at the global level, particularly in developing countries, is a serious challenge to sustainable development in the 21st century.

Therefore, the COMESA-EAC-SADC region, which is heavily dependent on rain-fed agriculture for food security, has embarked to this initiative to strengthen efforts to address climate change which is increasingly affecting socio-economic development.

The joint climate change programme is expected to increase investments in climate-resilient and carbon-efficient

agricultural practices and strengthen linkages between agriculture, forestry and other land uses in eastern and southern Africa.

The signing of the tripartite agreement after the Rio+20 summit held under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, demonstrates the three regional communities' commitment to address climate change in the region.

The Rio+20 summit acknowledged climate change as a cross-cutting and persistent crisis while resolving to increase agricultural production. The signing of the agreement also provides an opportunity for the inclusion of climate change as one of the areas of cooperation under the COMESA-EAC-SADC tripartite framework. □



Rio+20 falls short of expectations



DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS have said the Rio+20 summit compromise deal presented as "The Future We Want" falls short of meeting expectations of developing countries.

Instead of reaching consensus on how to rescue the planet during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June, deep divisions remained on the way forward towards a common goal.

The Africa Progress Panel (APP) has expressed disappointment at the failure of the Rio +20 summit to deliver meaningful and measurable commitments to combat climate change and its effects across Africa and other developing regions.

"The lack of commitment to defined and measurable

sustainable development goals at the Rio +20 Summit is a profoundly disturbing outcome," said APP chairperson and former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.

"We all have an obligation to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, who bear the brunt of the global ecological crisis – and to future generations, to do better."

Executive director of Greenpeace, Kumi Naidoo agreed, saying that Rio+20 had taken a step back instead of moving the sustainable development agenda forward.

"The future we want has gotten a little further away today. Rio+20 has turned into an epic failure. It has failed on equity, failed on ecology and failed on economy," he said.

"This is not a foundation on which to grow economies

or pull people out of poverty, it's the last will and testament of a destructive twentieth century development model."

The Rio+20 summit was held under two themes. These were "Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication" and "Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development".

A total of seven key areas were identified for discussion – energy, water, food security, jobs, cities, oceans and disasters. These areas considered critical towards poverty reduction and sustainable development.

"This is an outcome that makes nobody happy," Rio+20 Secretary-General, Sha Zukang, said at the conclusion of the summit. □



Leadership role of women acknowledged

GLOBAL LEADERS have acknowledged the vital role played by women in achieving sustainable development and resolved to prioritise measures to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June noted that, although there has been some progress on gender equality, the potential of women to engage in, contribute to and benefit sustainable development as leaders, participants and agents of change has not been fully realised due to persistent social and economic inequalities.

The 193 leaders who attended the conference resolved to accelerate the implementation of their respective commitments contained in the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as Agenda 21, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the UN Millennium Declaration.

"We support prioritising measures to promote gender equality empowerment of women in all spheres of our societies, including the removal of barriers to their full and equal participation in decision-making and management at all levels," the leaders said in a communiqué at the end of the conference.

They resolved to unlock the potential of women as drivers of sustainable development, including through the repeal of discriminatory laws, ensuring equal access to justice and legal support, reform of institutions to ensure competence and capacity for gender mainstreaming as well as the development and adoption of innovative measures to address informal, harmful prac-

tices that act as barriers to gender equality.

"In this regard, we commit to creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of women and girls everywhere, particularly in rural areas and local communities and among indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities," the leaders said.

They undertook to institute legislative and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men with regard to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology.

Other measures include promotion of equal access of women and girls to education, basic services, economic opportunities and health-care services, including addressing women's sexual and reproductive health, and ensuring universal access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning.

Southern Africa is one of the regions that have recorded progress in mainstreaming gender in policies and developmental processes.

There has been some progress towards gender mainstreaming in politics and an increase in the number of women in political decision-making positions in most SADC Member States since the adoption of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development by SADC leaders in 1997 following the UN Fourth World Women Conference in Beijing, China in 1995.

The highest positions in government reached by women to date have been the Presidency in Malawi and Mauritius, Vice Presidency in

South Africa and Zimbabwe, Prime Minister in Mozambique and Deputy Prime Minister in Namibia.

A Tanzanian woman has been deputy secretary-general of the United Nations for the past five years, and a South African woman has just been elected to head the African Union Commission.

There are five women Speakers of Parliament or Senate Presidents in the region, in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Southern Africa had by 2009 reached the third highest percentage of women in politics at the parliamentary level, with 20 percent, a figure sur-

passed only by the Nordic countries with 40.8 percent and the Americas at 21.4 percent.

The region's average percentage of women in Parliament is higher than the world average of 18.5 percent, the Sub-Saharan average of 18.6 percent, Asia at 18.4 percent, the Pacific at 15.2 percent, and the Arab States (9.1 percent) which is the lowest.

However, more vigorous measures are needed if southern Africa is to attain the 50-percent target for representation of women in political and decision-making positions at all levels by 2015 in line with regional and continental targets. □

Migiro appointed Special Envoy for HIV and AIDS in Africa



Asha-Rose Migiro

ASHA-ROSE MIGIRO from the United Republic of Tanzania has been appointed as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV and AIDS in Africa.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said Migiro is uniquely qualified for this job due to her "experience in responding to AIDS as UN Deputy Secretary-General, combined with her many years as an advocate for health and social justice in Africa."

Migiro served as the United Nations Deputy Secretary-Gen-

eral from 2007 to 2012, and was actively involved in promoting the UN response to AIDS, with special emphasis on reducing the vulnerability of women and girls and ensuring the rights of people living with HIV.

"I am honoured to accept this appointment at this crucial moment in the African AIDS response," she said. "Now is the time to take our efforts to a new level."

Migiro served as Tanzania's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation from 2006 to 2007—the first woman to hold that position since independence in 1961. She was previously the Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children for five years. Prior to Government service, she pursued a career in academia, and served as a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2000. □



SADC establishes committee to drive higher education development

SADC HAS established a technical committee to spearhead the revival of higher education development and training in southern Africa.

The committee, to be made up of senior education officers from across the region, was set up by ministers responsible for higher education in SADC Member States who met in Johannesburg, South Africa in June.

The ministerial meeting tasked the SADC Technical Committee on Higher Education and Training and Research and Development to develop a regional strategic plan on higher education and training, research development.

The committee is expected to, among other things, review access to higher education and participation rates in southern Africa, as well as funding and capacity-building of higher education to guide proper investments for the next 10-15 years. "This plan will outline key priorities for both the short and long term," South African Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Hlengiwe Mkhize, said.

"If all the plans made by the technical committee are effectively and successfully implemented, we would see a positive impact on the higher education and training sector within the SADC region."

The ministers noted that, due to various factors such as limited financial resources, the region is experiencing very low levels of enrolment and participation in higher education when compared to other regions in Africa and globally. The quality of the education is also deteriorating while the number of academic staff had declined.

"The leadership and management of higher education institutions are in many cases weak, while the quality of teachers and the education that is available does not always provide relevant and adequate knowledge and skills required for the labour market," the ministers said in a statement.

"As a result, many young people who complete secondary education do not proceed to higher education. It is clear that higher education is not adequately contributing to socio-economic development, improving the well-being of the majority poor citizens, and to realising the regional integration aspirations of the people of SADC."

According to a study by the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA), the region has the lowest levels

of higher education provision and enrolments in the world, despite the growing demand for higher education in African countries.

SARUA said while Member States have invested heavily in education over the past four years, most of the investment went towards primary education and less on higher education.

"As a result, higher education enrolment outcomes reflect poorly on the education investment made," reads part of the SARUA report.

The SADC ministers resolved that it was time to address the challenges facing the sector. The ministers said there is need to also look at the relevance of the programmes that are being offered in SADC institutions for the "developmental needs of our region".

The ministers urged all relevant stakeholders to mobilise and invest more into infrastructure and human resources, and improve leadership, governance and management of higher education institutions. □



SADC Protocol on Education and Training



SADC MEMBER States agreed in September 2007 to cooperate in education and training under this Protocol for purposes of achieving the following objectives:

- To develop and implement a common system of regular collection and reporting of information by Member States about the current status and future demand and supply, and the priority areas for provision of education and training in the region;
- To establish mechanisms and institutional arrangements that enables Member States to pool their resources to effectively and efficiently produce the required professional, technical, research and managerial personnel to plan and manage the development process in general and across all sectors in the region;
- To promote and coordinate the formulation and implementation of comparable and appropriate policies, strategies and systems of education and training in Member States;

- To promote and coordinate the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the promotion and application of science and technology, including modern information technology and research and development in the region;
- To work towards the reduction and eventual elimination of constraints to better and freer access, by citizens of Member States, to good quality education and training opportunities within the region;
- To work towards the relaxation and eventual elimination of immigration formalities in order to facilitate freer movement of students and staff within the region for the specific purposes of study, teaching, research and any other pursuits relating to education and training; and
- To progressively achieve the equivalence, harmonisation and standardisation of the education and training systems in the region. □



China, Africa target "new strategic partnership"

CHINA AND Africa have agreed on a new plan of action for the three years to 2015 as the two sides strive to achieve a "new type of strategic partnership".

Ministers in charge of foreign affairs and economic cooperation from China and 50 African countries resolved at the 5th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in July in Beijing, China, to deepen the strategic partnership underpinned by the val-

ues of political equality, mutual trust, economic win-win cooperation and cultural exchanges.

The Beijing Action Plan (2013-2015), which was adopted together with the Beijing Declaration, will focus on trade, investment, poverty reduction, infrastructure, capacity-building, food security, and political cooperation, among other sectors.

China pledged to implement a "special plan on trade with Africa," under which it will send investment and trade promotion missions to Africa, expand imports from Africa and support the holding of African products exhibitions to help African countries export their competitive goods to China.

This will include technical support for intensive processing of African agro-produce and industrial raw materials, and increasing value addition of Africa's primary products through investment.

Chinese companies will be encouraged to establish processing and manufacturing bases in Africa to help raise the added value of African exports.

China pledged to further open its market to African products and phase in zero-tariff treatment to 97 percent of the products from the least developed African countries, including the establishment of "a consultation mechanism on the place of origin for goods enjoying zero-tariff treatment and improving the cooperation mechanism to implement zero-tariff treatment," the ministers said.

The two sides announced that they would "consider the establishment of a China-Africa energy forum under the framework of FOCAC to promote China-Africa energy exchanges and cooperation"

while strengthening cooperation in clean energy and renewable resources projects.

"In view of the strong complementarity and cooperation potential between China and Africa in energy and resources, the two sides will encourage and support joint development and proper use of their energy and resources by enterprises of the two sides," the ministers said.

In terms of cooperation in international affairs, the two sides agreed to uphold the central role of the United Nations in international affairs and promote multilateralism and democracy in international relations.

They reaffirmed the need for necessary reforms of the UN, noting that priority should be given to increasing the representation of African countries in the UN Security Council and other institutions.

South Africa, which takes over as co-chair of the FOCAC for six years, said it would do its utmost to carry out the objectives of the Beijing Action Plan (2013-2015), deepen African countries' engagement in the activities of the forum and make the forum compatible with the proposals of the African Union.

Chinese President Hu Jintao proposed measures in five priority areas, including financial assistance to the AU's peacekeeping missions, to boost China's relations with the continent.

The new focus areas are the expansion of investment and financing to support sustainable development in Africa, increased assistance to Africa, support for Africa's integration process and strengthening of continental capacity in executing overall develop-



President Jacob Zuma with President Hu Jintao.
Inset: President Thomas Boni Yayi

ment goals, enhancement of people-to-people friendship, and promotion of peace and stability in Africa.

China will during the next three years launch the "Initiative on China-Africa Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Security" and deepen cooperation with the AU and African countries on peace and security, Hu said.

China will provide financial support for the AU peacekeeping missions and the development of the African Standby Force, and train more officials in peace and security affairs and peacekeepers for the AU.

China also said it will support the African integration process, and promote exchanges between the people, media and scholars of China and Africa to "lay a solid foundation of public support" to the relations.

Beijing pledged to provide a US\$20 billion credit line to African countries over the next three years. The loans will support infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and development of small and medium-sized businesses.

FOCAC is a collective consultation and dialogue mechanism between China and African countries launched in 2000. The 6th FOCAC ministerial conference will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2015. □

BRICS development bank on the cards

THE PROPOSED BRICS Development Bank involving five emerging economies – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – is expected to be established next year in South Africa.

The launch of the BRICS Development Bank is expected to provide developing and emerging countries with an alternative source of funding, and considerable groundwork for the bank launch was covered during the 2012 BRICS Summit held in India in April.

The proposed bank is expected to finance infrastructure and sustainable development in developing countries. This follows concerns that existing multilateral financial institutions are doing little to promote development in poorer countries.

Furthermore, existing international financial institutions are dominated by Western powers and often impose stringent conditions for accessing loans or debt relief. □



Nine parties register for Angolan elections

NINE POLITICAL parties have been cleared to participate in the Angolan parliamentary elections scheduled for 31 August while 18 others were disqualified for failing to comply with requirements of the country's Electoral Law.

Constitutional Court chairperson, Rui Ferreira said five of the parties will stand separately while the remainder are coalitions made up of 20 small parties that have expressed interest to take part in the elections.

The five main parties include the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the main opposition National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Others are the National Liberation Front of Angola (FNLA), the Party for Social Renovation (PRS) and the Popular Party for Development (PAPOD).

The coalitions include the Convergence Angola Salvation Wide-Electoral Coalition (CASA-EC), which is an umbrella for four small parties and is the brainchild of former senior UNITA official, Abel Chivukuvuku.

Other coalitions are the Opposition Political Consultative Council (CPO), New Democracy (ND) and United Front for Change of Angola (FUMA).

The ND is a coalition of seven parties while the CPO and FUMA are umbrella groups made up of four and six small parties, respectively.

Ferreira said of the 27 applications submitted to the court, 18 were disqualified as they did not meet the minimum requirement of 14,000 signatures of supporters who are registered as voters, among other reasons.

Among those rejected are the Democratic Block (BD), led by former ruling party member Justino Pinto de Andrade; and Popular Party (PP), which was formed by lawyer David Mendes.

According to the National Electoral Commission (CNE), about nine million Angolans are registered to vote in the forthcoming elections.

CNE spokesperson Julia Ferreira said more than 10,780 polling stations will be set up around the country.

These will be the third elections since Angola attained independence from Portugal in 1975. The first post-independence election was held in 1992, before the civil war was re-ignited by UNITA led by Jonas Savimbi, and the second polls were held in 2008. The conflict ended in 2002 with the death of Savimbi.

The MPLA won by more than 81 percent and has used its commanding parliamentary majority to pass a raft of new laws including a new constitution that has abolished direct presidential elections in favour of an electoral college.

Under the new Electoral Law, the President and Vice President will be elected indirectly. The head of state will be chosen from the party with the parliamentary majority. □



National Assembly of Angola

SADC urges implementation of Madagascar roadmap

SADC HAS mandated former Mozambican President, Joaquim Chissano, to facilitate a meeting between Madagascar's interim leader Andry Rajoelina and deposed president Marc Ravalomanana with a view to speeding up implementation of a peace roadmap that is key to the holding of credible elections.

The Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held in Luanda, Angola in June resolved that Chissano should urgently facilitate dialogue and convene a meeting between Rajoelina and Ravalomanana to bring back on track the implementation of a roadmap signed by Malagasy political parties in September 2011.

Chissano is the SADC mediator in the Madagascar political conflict.

The peace road-map seeks to return the country to constitutional normalcy following a 2009 coup that saw Rajoelina unconstitutionally remove Ravalomanana from power with the support of the army. Madagascar is currently suspended from SADC.

"Summit mandated the SADC mediator and the Troika of the Organ to facilitate dialogue and convene a meeting between H.E. Andry Rajoelina, president of the High Transition Authority and H.E. Marc Ravalomanana, former President as a matter of urgency in order to ensure full implementation of the roadmap and create an enabling environment for holding credible, free and fair elections," the SADC leaders said in a communiqué.

The road-map allows for the unconditional return from exile of Ravalomanana and for the establishment of transitional institutions ahead of elections.

The Extraordinary Summit noted that a SADC Liaison Office established in November 2011 to support the implementation process was fully operational, with officers from the Troika of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and representatives of the SADC chair on the ground since January 2012. □



Former President J Chissano

EVENTS

Events Diary August-October 2012

August 1-3, South Africa	Agrarian Transformation, Economic Development & Land Reform Conference The event will bring together agricultural experts, researchers, academics and parliamentarians from African countries to discuss key issues on agriculture and land reform, including access to improved seeds and women's land tenure rights.
12-18, Mozambique	SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government SADC leaders meet to discuss issues aimed at promoting regional integration and development. The summit is preceded by meetings of senior officials and Council of Ministers.
13-24, Zimbabwe	Southern African Region Climate Outlook Forum Scientists from the national meteorological services in SADC member states meet to review the regional climate outlook. The SARCOF conference 13-21 August is followed by an annual forecasting process 22-14 August when the experts use indicators of seasonal rainfall to produce a regional forecast for the 2012-2013 rainfall season.
26-31, Sweden	World Water Week World Water Week has been the annual focal point for global water issues since 1991. Commemorated in Stockholm, Sweden, each year World Water Week addresses a particular theme to enable a deeper examination of a specific water-related topic. This year's theme is "Water and Food Security".
September 4-5, South Africa	Solar Energy Africa The conference will provide information on the financial mechanisms necessary for solar energy to offer an extensive solution to current energy shortages in Africa and the infrastructure developments needed to support an effective supply chain between independent providers and the grid. It will also showcase the latest solar energy technologies available.
10-14, Tanzania	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment 14th Regular Session (AMCEN-14) will provide a platform for environment ministers from African countries to debate the key results of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and address other emerging issues related to sustainable development and the environment in Africa.
12-14, South Africa	Meeting of the Committee of Central Bank Officials The Committee of Central Bank Officials and the Committee of Central Bank Governors is a SADC regional structure that deals with the development of financial institutions and markets, co-operation regarding international and regional financial relations, and monetary, investment and foreign exchange policies.
October 8-12 Ethiopia	5th AU Ministerial Conference on Drug Control The conference will review and strengthen mechanisms for shared responsibility for illicit drugs in Africa and discuss the proposed revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2018). The ministers will also discuss an African Common Position on Controlled Substances and Pain Management.



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HISTORY TODAY

20 Years

1992 - 2012

Roots of the Southern African Development Community

THE TREATY of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was signed by Heads of State and Government in Windhoek, Namibia, on 17 August 1992, soon after Namibia's independence, replacing the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) established in April 1980 in Lusaka, Zambia.

This was based on the conclusion by Heads of State and Government that political independence was almost complete in the region, and their declaration, "Southern Africa—Towards Economic Liberation".

They pledged in the new Treaty to "strengthen and consolidate the longstanding historical, social and cultural affinities and links among the people of the region."

The Treaty states the SADC principles as:

- sovereign equality of all Member States;
- solidarity, peace and security;
- human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
- equity, balance and mutual benefit; and,
- peaceful settlement of disputes.

SADC Common Agenda

The objectives of SADC are to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development,


enhance the standard and quality of life of the people of Southern Africa and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration; promote common political values, systems and other shared values through institutions that are democratic, legitimate and effective; and, consolidate, defend and maintain democracy, peace, security and stability.


Other objectives are to promote self-sustaining development on the basis of collective self-reliance and the interdependence of Member States; align national and regional strategies and programmes; maximise productive employment; achieve sustainable utilisation of natural resources and effective protection of the environment; combat HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases; address poverty eradication; and mainstream gender in the process of community building.


The Treaty presents several initiatives intended to achieve these objectives, including harmonisation of political and socio-economic policies and plans; and encouraging the people of the region and their institutions to take their own initiatives to develop economic, social and cultural ties across the region, and to participate fully in the implementation of the programmes and projects of SADC. □


Heroes & Heritage

Five countries celebrate their heroes and heritage in this period.

 **13-14 August.** Zimbabwe commemorates National Heroes Day and Armed Forces Day to honour those who fought the war of national liberation, and those killed by Rhodesian atrocities such as Freedom Camp in Zambia and Nyadzonia in Mozambique where thousands of unarmed civilians lost their lives.

 **26 August.** Namibia marks Heroes Day (Namibia Day) when thousands of Namibians gather at different venues each year to remember their heroes on the date of the official launch of the long and bitter struggle for independence when the first bullet was fired in 1966 at Omugulu-Gwombashe in the Omusati region.

 Three days in Mozambique. **7 September, 25 September, 4 October.** Mozambique commemorates three important dates, starting 7 September, when the historic agreement was signed with Portugal in 1974 in Lusaka, bringing a ceasefire and transition to independence. Armed Forces Day on 25 September marks the start of the liberation war when the first shots were fired at in the northern Cabo Delgado province in 1964. Peace and Reconciliation Day marks the peace agreement signed in Rome in 1992 following 16 years of conflict and two years of arduous negotiations led by Armando Emilio Guebuza, now President of Mozambique and forthcoming Chairperson of SADC.

 **17 September.** Angola remembers Agostinho Neto, the founding President and symbol of Angolan nationalism, born on this date in 1922 and died in 1979 at the age of 56 after leading the liberation war that brought independence from Portugal in 1975.

 **24 September.** South Africa celebrates its cultural heritage each year on this date to encourage all South Africans to celebrate the diversity of their beliefs and traditions. The theme for Heritage Month 2011 was "Celebrating the Heroes and Heroines of the Liberation Struggle in South Africa", to reconnect the nation with its rich and diverse collective liberation heritage.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

August-September 2012

1 August	Parents Day	DRC
6 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
8 August	Nane Nane Peasant Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
13 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
14 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
17 August	SADC Day*	All
19 August	Eid Ul Fitr**	Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania
20 August	Public Holiday	Malawi, Tanzania
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia
27 August	Public Holiday	Namibia

* SADC Day is not a public holiday but a commemoration of signing the SADC Treaty on 17 August 1992

**Exact date depends on sighting of the new moon

3 September	Umdlhanga Reed Dance	Swaziland
6 September	Somhlolo Independence Day	Swaziland
7 September	Lusaka Peace Agreement Day	Mozambique
17 September	National Heroes Day	Angola
20 September	Ganesh Chaturthi	Mauritius
24 September	Heritage Day	South Africa
25 September	Armed Forces Day	Mozambique
30 September	Botswana Day	Botswana

A shared future within a regional community