



## SADC Integration

### The need for implementation of regional strategies

THE SADC Chairperson, President Hage Geingob of Namibia, has said that member states can fully benefit from the integration agenda if all initiatives and strategies are implemented according to the agreed timelines, and that lack of implementation of strategic decisions by SADC Member States is hindering sustainable development and integration in the region.

During a recent visit to the SADC Secretariat, he stressed that SADC should focus more on the implementation of existing action plans instead of producing new ones.

“Sometimes we take decisions and after failing to implement them, we simply move on to another decision”.

Many SADC commitments and protocols have been ratified to advance the regional policies, but delays in domestication of agreements and implementation at national level has delayed the access to benefits for citizens belonging to a shared community in southern Africa.

More than 33 protocols have been signed by Member States since the transformation of SADC from the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in 1992, however, many of the protocols have not been rati-

fied or implemented at national level, thus derailing the integration agenda in the region.

These protocols range from trade and investment, peace and security, to transboundary natural resources and the empowerment of women and young people.

Geingob said it is critical for SADC to “walk the talk” and implement its agreed decisions since these regional commitments can promote sustainable development and deepen regional integration.

He said a “case in point is the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA), which was envisioned as a tool to augment the private sector in the region by increasing domestic production and business opportunities, as well as supporting higher regional imports and exports.”

While the launch of the SADC FTA in 2008 has seen producers and consumers in the region benefit from tariff-free trade for goods originating within the region, SADC has faced some challenges in consolidating the gains of the FTA through implementation of a Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union, and adoption of a single currency for the region.

POLICY	3
SADC COUNCIL	4-5
BUSINESS	6
AQUACULTURE	7
ELECTIONS	8-9
COOPERATION	10
CLIMATE CHANGE	11
GENDER	12
AFRICAN UNION	13
COOPERATION	14
EVENTS	15
HISTORY TODAY	16

SADC had planned the launch of a Customs Union in 2010, a Common Market by 2015, and a Monetary Union by 2016, with adoption of a single currency by 2018.

All these targets have proved elusive.

"No one can question the fact that all of these regional agreements were signed in good faith and with the best of intentions," Geingob said, adding that "the question we need to ask ourselves is whether we have done or are doing enough in terms of implementation."

He said it is now time for SADC to deal with the slow pace of implementation to ensure that the region is able to attain its longstanding goals of a united, prosperous and integrated region.

"It is imperative that as Africans, we should manage our regional economic communities as corporations.

Therefore, the core principles of corporate governance should be inculcated at all levels within the SADC Secretariat. Fairness, accountability, responsibility and transparency should constitute the DNA of our organization," he said.

"This is the only guarantor of future growth and the successful implementation of our developmental aspirations."

He said these principles should be applied to ensure the smooth and successful implementation of all agreed regional decisions, activities, programmes and projects such as the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020 and SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap.

First approved in 2003, with strategic revision in 2015, the RISDP is the blueprint for regional integration and development.

The SADC industrialization strategy seeks to achieve major economic and technological transformation at national and

regional levels to accelerate economic growth through industrial development.

Geingob said the SADC Secretariat should continue to take an active approach in coordinating the implementation of the regional integration agenda.

The SADC Secretariat, based in Gaborone, Botswana is the principal executive institution of SADC, responsible for strate-

## SADC establishes youth forum

**THE SADC Youth Forum** has been established as an official structure to advance the integration agenda of the region into the future.

This is aligned to the theme of the 38<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit – "Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development".

The SADC Youth Forum will enable the youth of the region to develop resolutions and recommendations on priority issues for consideration, first by the SADC Ministers responsible for Youth, who will then submit these to the SADC Council of Ministers for inclusion on the agenda for SADC Heads of State and Government.

The meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Youth scheduled for May is expected to consider a number of resolutions made by the youth.

These include a review of the minimum standards for youth participation and leadership, as well as the draft programme framework for youth innovation and entrepreneurship, and how to mainstream youth participation in implementing the SADC Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Framework for Orphans and Vulnerable Children and Youth.

The creation of a youth forum is a welcome development since there was no such opportunity for the youth to actively contribute to the integration agenda in the region.

gic planning, facilitation and coordination, and management of all SADC Programmes.

President Geingob visited the SADC Secretariat on 1 February as a part of a familiarization tour of the SADC

Headquarters as the SADC chairperson.

He will hand over the rotating SADC chair in August to his Tanzanian counterpart Dr John Magufuli at the 39<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit to be hosted by Tanzania. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □



SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said the forum provides a conducive environment to encourage the participation of youth in the development of the region.

"Youth empowerment remains a critical issue requiring deliberate measures by the region to ensure youth participation in socio-economic development of the region," Dr Tax said.

She said the Secretariat in collaboration with Member States has implemented a number of activities to operationalise the theme and involve youth in the integration agenda, including the development of multimedia messages, and convening SADC Youth talks.

Another activity was the holding of a youth forum in Namibia in December 2018 where there was active interactions and engagements, culminating in the decision to establish a youth forum as an official structure of SADC.

SADC also conducted the Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum hosted in Durban, South Africa, and the

SADC Youth in Fisheries and Aquaculture Event hosted in Lilongwe, Malawi.

"These activities offered the youth an opportunity to discuss technological themes such as fostering incubator activities for the disadvantaged groups in the digital economy, and the regional fisheries and aquaculture sectors."

Dr Tax said the youth should take advantage of these initiatives to ensure that their voices are heard and considered in advancing regional integration in SADC.

"I wish to assure you that the SADC Secretariat remains fully seized to ensure consolidation of efforts towards youth empowerment," she said.

"May I also call upon SADC Member States and all stakeholders to take deliberate efforts to continue mainstreaming the interests of youth in development plans, so as to ensure that the youth play their rightful role in the growth and development of the region".

The youth make up the majority of the population in SADC, and are the beneficiaries of decisions made today. □

## Towards the smooth movement of people across SADC

**THE SMOOTH** movement of people across borders is recognized as both a catalyst and a benefit of deepening regional integration in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

One of the main goals of the establishment of SADC was to allow citizens to move more easily across the region and participate fully in the integration agenda and the regional economy.

To this end, SADC has put in a place a number of legal instruments to facilitate and promote increased movement of SADC citizens within the region.

The main legal instrument is the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons adopted in 2005, which provides for the harmonization of national laws to promote free movement of people around the region.

Other legal instruments include the Protocol on Education and Training (1997), Protocol on Development of Tourism (1998) and the Protocol on Employment and Labour (2014).

The Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons calls for the harmonisation of laws and administrative practices so that citizens from any of the SADC Member States are able to enter another country in the region for a maximum period of 90 days per year without needing a visa.

Other key targets set out in the protocol include standardization of immigration forms used by travelling citizens and the establishment of dedicated SADC desks at all ports of entry to facilitate smooth processing of travel documents for SADC citizens and residents at border posts.

Although the Protocol is not yet in force, SADC Member States have made steady progress in implementing some of the activities identified, and a number of countries have adopted a gradual approach towards removing barriers to the movement of people.

Most Member States are now becoming more open to citizens from SADC. For example, more and more countries in the region have abolished visa requirements or reduced the cost and time required to acquire one.

All SADC citizens do not require visas before traveling to Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

Eight other countries have significantly eased visa requirements for citizens of other SADC Member States. These are Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

However, the citizens of most SADC Member States still require visas to travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Citizens from Madagascar, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe can travel to DRC without needing a visa.

Member States that still require visas from citizens of a number of other Member States are Angola and Madagascar.

Citizens required to obtain visas before traveling to Madagascar are those from Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.

Angola requires a visa from citizens of DRC, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi and Zambia.

Compared to other regions in Africa, SADC Member States have established more mechanisms that allow people to move freely across borders. According to Africa Visa Openness Report 2018 pub-

lished jointly by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Union Commission, SADC has the largest number of countries in the top 20 of African states with open borders.

Seychelles, a SADC Member State, was ranked as the country with the most open borders on the continent as it does not require visas from citizens of all other African countries.

Other SADC Member States in the top 20 in Africa are Mozambique (ranked number 10 in Africa), Mauritius (12), Union of Comoros and Madagascar (joint number 14), Tanzania (18) and Zimbabwe (20).

Although SADC Member States are making steady progress to promote the smooth movement of people across the region, more needs to be done to ensure citizens fully enjoy the benefits of belonging to a shared community in southern Africa. □

**Visa Openness in Africa – SADC Member States 2018**

Country	Ranking in Africa (of 55 countries)	No. of African countries whose citizens do not require Visa for entry	No. of African countries whose citizens can get Visa on arrival	No. of African countries whose citizens require a Visa to enter
Seychelles	1	53	0	0
Mozambique	10	9	44	0
Mauritius	12	27	21	5
Comoros	14	0	53	0
Madagascar	14	0	53	0
Tanzania	18	16	26	11
Zimbabwe	20	17	10	26
Malawi	22	14	12	27
Zambia	23	13	12	28
Botswana	30	17	0	36
Eswatini	30	17	0	36
Lesotho	32	16	0	37
South Africa	34	15	0	38
Namibia	38	13	0	40
Angola	42	7	0	46
DRC	45	4	3	46

## SADC Council to strategize on regional integration



**THE SADC** Council of Ministers set for Windhoek, Namibia will deliberate on a wide range of issues, including progress towards implementation of priority regional initiatives, as well as the approval of the budget to coordinate the implementation of identified action plans.

Allocation of adequate financial resources to coordinate the implementation of agreed regional activities, programmes and projects is critical in ensuring that the integration agenda of southern Africa is a success.

This is in light of the fact that more than 70 percent of the SADC budget comes from International Cooperating Partners – a situation which compromises the ownership and sustainability of the regional agenda.

In this regard, the 2019/2020 SADC budget to be discussed by the Council of Ministers is expected to consider alternative financing modalities that will allow the region to take full control of its development plan.

These modalities include the operationalisation of the proposed SADC Regional Development Fund, as well as the finalization of the development of the SADC Resource Mobilization Framework (Alternative Sources of Funding SADC Regional Programmes).

The alternative sources of funding framework identifies a number of options such as the introduction of an export and import tax; a tourism levy; a financial transaction tax; a

lottery system; philanthropy; and regional events.

It is estimated that SADC can earn in excess of US\$1.2 billion annually from these alternative sources, a development expected to remove the current dependency on external funding, and thus improve the implementation of regional priority initiatives and strategies.

According to a statement released by the SADC Secretariat ahead of the Council of Ministers meeting scheduled for 15-16 March, another key issue for discussion is progress made towards implementing decisions of the 38th SADC Summit.

Running under the theme “Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development,” the 38th SADC Summit urged Member States to involve the youth in the integration agenda as well as to promote infrastructure development.

The focus on youth empowerment is aimed at ensuring that the region harnesses its human capital dividend through the youth, who make up the majority of the population in SADC.

Furthermore, the youth are expected to reap the benefits of decisions made today, hence involving them in the regional integration agenda makes sense.

Closely linked to youth empowerment, the council is expected to deliberate on the operationalization of the SADC University of

Transformation that was approved by the 38th SADC Summit held in August 2018.

An initiative of King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Eswatini, the university will be “in the form of a virtual university, and will focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, commercialization, technology transfer, enterprise development, digital and knowledge economy, to support the industrialization agenda.”

The SADC Council of Ministers will also “receive reports on the implementation of the priority areas of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015-2020 (RISDP)”.

The RISDP is the blueprint for regional integration and development. First approved in 2003, with strategic revision in 2015, the RISDP identifies four main priorities to be pursued by the region from 2015-2020.

Priority A seeks to promote industrial development and market integration through, among other things, strengthening the productive competitiveness and supply side capacity of member states as well as improving movement of goods and facilitating financial market integration and monetary cooperation.

Priority B is on provision and improvement of infrastructure support for regional integration.

Priority D is on promotion of special programmes of regional dimension under clusters such as education and human resource

development; health, HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases; food security and trans-boundary natural resources; environment; statistics; gender equality; and science, technology and innovation and research and development.

The above three priorities will be underpinned by Priority C on the promotion of peace and security.

With one year left before the Revised RISDP comes to an end, the SADC Council of Ministers will thus review progress made in implementing the plan.

The council is expected to discuss peace and security in the region as well as preparation for elections in some SADC countries.

At least seven SADC Member States are set to hold elections this year. These are Botswana, the Union of Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.

Madagascar and Comoros – SADC newest member – will go to the polls in March, while Malawi and South Africa hold their elections in May and July respectively.

Botswana and Mozambique will have their elections in October, with Namibia scheduled to vote in November.

Agriculture and food security remains a top priority for the council following low rainfall and drought conditions that affected most parts of the region during the 2018/19 farming season.

The focus for the council will be on continued imple-



mentation of the Regional Agricultural Policy in order to improve production, productivity, competitiveness and trade in the agricultural sector, natural resources and environment.

With regard to trade, the council is expected to discuss how the region could work with other regional economic communities to conclude efforts to operationalise the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) as well as establish the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).

The TFTA is an enlarged market covering 27 countries in eastern and southern Africa, and involves the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community and SADC.

The CFTA involves all the 54 African countries and aims to facilitate the smooth movement of goods and services across borders, as well as allowing member countries to harmonize regional trade policies to promote equal competition.

When operational, the CFTA will create a combined population of more than one billion people and a combined Gross Domestic Product of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

The SADC Council of Ministers, which traditionally meets annually to review implementation of regional decisions and approve the SADC budget will be preceded by various technical and senior officials meetings from 11-16 March.

The council consists of Ministers from each member state, usually from the Ministries of Foreign Af-

fairs, Economic Planning, or Finance. It meets twice a year in February/March and immediately prior to

the Summit in August or September.

The Council of Ministers oversees the function-

ing and development of SADC, and ensures that policies and decisions are implemented. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □

**ON THE** legislative front, the council will focus be on how to establish a regional parliament after SADC leaders offered high-level support for this during the 38<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit held in Namibia August 2018.

The proposed regional parliament will be expected to facilitate the ratification and domestication of SADC protocols and other legal instruments as well as the continental and international treaties or agreements to which the region has acceded.

However, the proposed parliament will respect the sovereignty of member parliaments and will be subservient to the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which will maintain formal and legal relations with other SADC institutions under the authority of the Summit of Heads of State and Government.

Another function of the proposed regional parliament will be to strengthen and facilitate the effective implementation of SADC policies and programmes, thereby improving the capacity of the regional organization to achieve its targets.

Once operational, the proposed SADC Regional Parliament will draft and approve model laws of common interest that will assist in improving the quality of life of citizens of the region.

In terms of financial implications for the transformation of the forum into a parliament, this will not result in any increased costs for national budgets. This is because the central financing of the regional parliament will be based on the current arrangement where member parliaments

make equal contributions annually to the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), a regional inter-parliamentary body composed of parliamentarians from SADC Member States.

The proposal is that the current secretariat of the SADC PF will continue as the secretariat of the regional parliament, with its headquarters remaining in Windhoek, Namibia.

It is further proposed that the regional parliament will hold rotating sessions in the Member States. This is already happening where plenary assemblies of the SADC PF are hosted by the member parliaments. □



Parliament of Namibia

## SADC Secretariat engages private sector on gas development

**THE SADC** Secretariat has begun consultations to develop a common understanding on how best to utilize its natural gas resources.

This follows the SADC Council decision to approve plans to develop a regional master plan that will guide the exploitation of the vast natural gas resources in the region.

The decision, made ahead of the 38<sup>th</sup> SADC Heads of State and Government Summit held in Windhoek, Namibia in August 2018 will help to facilitate an increase in universal access to energy as well as promote industrial development in SADC.

Furthermore, harnessing alternative energy sources will contribute to the regional

energy mix, which is dominated by coal and hydro.

In December 2018 the Namibian Ministry of Mines and Energy hosted a Private Sector Consultative meeting convened by the Energy Division at the SADC Secretariat with the SADC NEPAD Business Foundation.

The meeting discussed and agreed on a wide range of issues which have now been submitted to the SADC Energy Subcommittee meeting for clearance before incorporating them into the draft terms of reference for development of the regional gas master plan.

These issues include institutional and regulatory frameworks, costing, pricing and tariffs, as well as environmental and other crosscutting issues. □



## SADC Business Council

### ...strengthening private sector engagement in regional integration

A REGIONAL Business Council will soon be established to address common issues of interest to the private sector in southern Africa.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said the Business Council is expected to be operational by September 2019.

"The private sector and other non-state actors are critical partners towards attaining inclusive and sustainable economic development as acknowledged in the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap," Dr Tax said when the SADC Chairperson, President Hage Geingob of Namibia, visited the Secretariat on 1 February.

"Recognizing that the involvement of private sector is critical for the successful implementation of the Industrialization Strategy, the Secretariat in collaboration with Private Sector apex bodies in the region are working towards establishing a SADC Business Council".

She said once operational, the business council is expected to strengthen the engagement of private sector in the SADC integration and development agenda, at the regional level, and national level.

"In this regard, a Plan of Action, which includes the development of a founding document and rules of engagement for both the private sector itself, and for interactions between the private and the public sectors has been developed," she said, adding that "the expectation is to have the SADC Business Council established by September".

The decision to strengthen private sector engagement in regional integration is in line with the recommendations of the SADC Strategic Ministerial Retreat on the "SADC We Want" held in Ezulwini, the Kingdom of Eswatini in March 2017.

The retreat agreed on measures aimed at strengthening implementation of the integra-

tion agenda and promoting inclusive participation by citizens in regional programmes. It was noted that the lack of direct involvement by the private sector is a barrier to economic development.

Furthermore, the 37th SADC Summit held in Pretoria, South Africa focused on exploring ways of harnessing the public and the private sector to work together to promote sustainable economic development in the region.

The theme for the SADC Summit was "Partnering with the private sector in developing industry and regional value-chains".

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are regarded as a viable model for attracting investment for public projects by allowing governments to have more access to additional capital and off balance-sheet financing.

Other initiatives to strengthen private sector engagement in regional integra-

tion include the convening of an annual SADC Industrialization Week to popularize the strategy and garner support for its implementation.

Launched in 2016 ahead of the 36th SADC Summit in Eswatini, the industrialization week provides an opportunity for member states and the SADC Secretariat to engage and network with the private sector, which is a key player in the industrialization agenda.

Since its launch, the industrialization week has been held in South Africa in August 2017, and in Namibia in July-August in 2018.

The United Republic of Tanzania is expected to host the an industrialization week ahead of the 38th SADC Summit scheduled for August.

The objective of the industrialization week is to popularize the strategy and identify industrialization projects that can be implemented jointly by public and private sector within SADC Member States.

Such projects include infrastructure development, regional trade and industrial capacity.

The main focus is on three spheres – Strengthening Value Chains, Corridor Development and Enhancing Infrastructure.

Regarding value chain projects, priority is placed on mining and mineral beneficiation, agro-processing and pharmaceuticals.

Corridor development involves various enabling factors such as standards and quality infrastructure, trade facilitation and transport infrastructure.

With regard to infrastructure development, special focus is on water and energy projects. □

## Mauritius to host regional centre of excellence for fisheries

MAURITIUS IS expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding soon with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to establish a Regional Centre of Excellence on fisheries and aquaculture.

The centre of excellence will serve as a hub for capacity building in the fisheries and aquaculture sector for least developed countries in Africa and the rest of the global community.

Policymakers from various countries will benefit from the successful experience of Mauritius in developing its fisheries sector and building the regulatory and institutional requirements for meeting international food safety standards.

The centre will also foster an active exchange of experience, best practices and knowledge to better harness the development potential of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and enhance their expertise and

knowledge with a view to strengthening domestic capacities in various countries.

The fisheries and aquaculture sector plays an important role in the social and economic well-being and livelihood of the people in the SADC region, including in ensuring food security and eliminating poverty.

Therefore the move to establish to regional centre of excellence for fisheries in Mauritius is a welcome development for the region. *Government of Mauritius* □

## SADC to profile its aquaculture sector

SADC IS in the process of profiling the regional aquaculture value chains to ensure greater economic value is derived from the sector.

Aquaculture is one of the three major sub-sectors of the fisheries industry and involves farming of fish or other aquatic organisms.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a small but growing percentage of fish in SADC comes from the aquaculture sub-sector, whose output has increased from 69,851 metric tonnes in 2015 to 95,761 metric tonnes in 2017.

The fisheries sector in southern Africa employs about 2.4 million people and accounts for an estimated 3.54 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the region, and 8.99 percent of the agricultural GDP.

Although the SADC region is endowed with vast water resources that favour the development of aquaculture, growth of the sector does not match the ever-increasing demand for fish due to various challenges.

The SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2026) identifies some of the challenges to include:

- ❖ Absence of regional aquaculture value chain;
- ❖ Lack of understanding of aquaculture sector by financial institutions;
- ❖ Weak research support structures for small-scale and community-based aquaculture in most Member States;
- ❖ Inefficient information dissemination mechanisms;
- ❖ Inadequate development strategies for commercial

aquaculture in some Member States;

- ❖ Poor brood-stock genetics; and
- ❖ Poor feed and seed supply for small scale, community based aquaculture.

To address these challenges and ensure greater economic value is derived from the sector, SADC is now profiling its regional aquaculture value chains.

It is expected that the development of regional synergies in the aquaculture sector and an integrated regional market for fish and fish-based value added products will stimulate competitiveness and create opportunities for the private sector, including marginalized groups, to reap the benefits of industrial development and trade.

The SADC Secretariat has now engaged a consultant to profile the regional aquaculture value chains.

The main objectives of the study include the need to describe the markets and marketing infrastructure for aquaculture products in the region in terms of production volumes, product forms, and price, quality and target consumers.

“A comprehensive geographic mapping exercise should be conducted to identify clusters and growth nodes that should be prioritized for value chain development,” reads part of the Terms of Reference.

During the study inception phase, all participating countries will be assessed to determine which will be targeted for detailed “on-the-ground” data collection and assessment. The objectives of the value-chain study will be to:

- Establish current developments in the sector by looking at such factors as trends in production volumes, sector growth and employment

creation, value addition, import and export markets as well as national policy and regulatory environment in support of the sector;

- Understand risk and price-setting along the aquaculture value chain. This will enable the efficient application of best practices and the use of targeted technologies to increase efficiency so that quality is improved with minimal price increases for poor consumers; and
- Evaluate key constraints and opportunities for value chain upgrading and growth inclusive of policy, regulations, quality to facilitate trade and new markets and to evaluate the potential for the sustainable expansion of aquaculture in all target countries and the extent to which this would complement or conflict with existing fisheries. □

## Seychelles to curb illegal fishing

IN AN effort to address illegal and unregulated fishing as well as other maritime vices, Seychelles has designated two new marine protected areas in the Indian Ocean.

The designation of these protection zones – whose total area covers about 26 percent of the island nation’s Exclusive Economic Zone or approximately 350,000 square kilometres – is part of a seven-year public process called the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) Initiative.

The move by the island nation to designate more water bodies as protected areas comes after the signing of a

debt-for-climate-change-adaptation swap in 2016 that converted some of foreign debt of Seychelles to target conservation and climate change adaptation in the country.

The government is rerouting its debt payments into an independent trust dedicated to measures that will reduce and restore coral reef and mangrove restoration, improve sustainable tourism and fisheries, and balancing the country’s conservation and climate change adaptation goals with its development needs.

The debt swap is an innovative financing mechanism to

assist Seychelles – a group of islands in the Indian Ocean – to address conservation and climate change adaptation.

Some countries that have successfully adopted debt-for-climate-change-adaptation swap include Belize and Costa Rica.

As part of the MSP initiative, it is expected that by 2020 nearly one-third of Seychelles’ waters will be protected under a “marine spatial plan”, which will prevent unregulated or illegal fishing, as well as oil and gas exploration and development, mining and dredging in deep waters. *Seychelles News Agency* □

# Busy electoral calendar for SADC in 2019

SEVEN COUNTRIES in southern Africa are preparing for elections this year – Botswana, Union of Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa. The SADC Election Observer Mission (SEOM), together with other regional and international observer missions, will monitor the electoral process as usual, in three phases: the pre-election, the election and the post-election. SEOM is expected to produce a report on the conduct of each poll in line with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, which encourage Member States to adhere to common political values and systems. □



## Madagascar to elect Members of Parliament

**20 MARCH** is the date for parliamentary elections in Madagascar, the first SADC Member State to go to the polls in 2019.

The National Assembly of Madagascar consists of 127 members elected for five-year terms in 119 single-member and 2 two-member constituencies. In single-member constituencies, the seat is filled by the candidate with the highest number of votes, whereas in two-member constituencies, two candidates belonging to the party that gains the highest number of votes become members of the National Assembly.

The parliamentary elections follow the presidential polls held in Madagascar in December 2018, which saw Andry Rajoelina elected as President following a run-off in which he contested against Marc Ravalomanana. □



## Elections in Malawi

**PRESIDENT PETER** Mutharika will seek re-election on 21 May when Malawians vote in Tripartite Elections to choose the president, members of parliament, and local government representatives.

According to the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC), a total of 20 candidates submitted their nomination papers to contest the presidential election. These include former President Joyce Banda and Vice-President Saulos Chilima, who has broken ranks with Mutharika to form his own party.

MEC said more than 6.8 million voters have registered in a voter registration period that ran from June to November 2018. Malawi uses the First Past the Post electoral system under which the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner in each of 193 constituencies. □



## Union of Comoros, SADC's newest Member State

**FOLLOWING THE** admission of Comoros as the 16th Member State by the SADC Summit held in Pretoria, South Africa in August 2017, attention is now focussed on how SADC's newest member will conduct its elections in accordance with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

The eligible voters of Comoros go to the polls on 24 March to choose the President. Originally scheduled for 2021, the presidential election was moved to this year after a referendum conducted in July 2018.

The elections will be held under a new Constitution, and one of the provisions allows the president to hold a maximum of two five-year terms, rather than the previous one five-year term.

The unique rotation of presidential power among the three islands of Grande Comore, Anjouan and Moheli has been retained in the new Constitution. This arrangement is aimed at promoting sustainable peace and security in the country after years of political instability that resulted in several *coups d'état* in the late 1990s.

According to the Comoros Supreme Court, a total of 13 candidates will contest the presidential elections, including the incumbent, Azali Assoumani. □



## South Africa votes

**MILLIONS OF** South Africans will vote on 30 May in the sixth national election since the apartheid system was abolished in 1994 allowing all South African citizens to vote.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is soon expected to announce the number of registered voters after the final registration period ended on 27 January 2019.

South Africa uses a system of Proportional Representation in which the electorate votes for a political party, not individuals. The political party gets a share of seats in Parliament in direct proportion to the number of votes won in the election.

Each registered political party submits a list of candidates to the IEC in advance of the election, and the IEC determines the number of seats for each party based on the election results. Half of the 400 seats in the National Assembly are elected from a single national constituency, while the nine provinces function as nine constituencies for election of the other half.

The President is then elected by the new National Assembly from among its members, usually the leader of the majority party. The candidate resigns from parliament upon election as president, and becomes the Head of State and Government and Commander-in-Chief of the defence force.

National elections follow a five-year cycle, and the African National Congress (ANC) has won all national elections since the end of the apartheid system.

The nine provincial legislatures have between 30 and 80 members each depending on the size of the province, and these are elected on a separate ballot. Each provincial legislature then elects 10 members to the National Council of Provinces. □

## Botswana prepares for elections in October

**PARLIAMENTARY AND** local government elections will be held in Botswana this year, in October.

Botswana uses a single constituency electoral system of First Past the Post for the election of Members of Parliament. Elected MPs then act as an electoral college to choose the President.

The National Assembly is a representative body elected by universal adult suffrage and consists of men and women from all sections of society. The National Assembly comprises 65 members of Parliament, including the President and the Speaker being ex-officio, 57 members elected by constituencies and 6 specially elected by Members of Parliament.

The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) has won all national elections since independence in 1966, and is now led by President Mokgweetsi Masisi, the former Vice President, who became party leader in April 2018 and must seek confirmation at the party's elective congress set for April this year.

An opposition coalition, Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) led by Duma Boko, will contest the national elections against the BDP. The UDC is an alliance of the Botswana Movement for Democratic Change, Botswana National Front and the Botswana People's Party. □



## Namibia to set date for elections

**THE DATE** is still to be set for elections in Namibia this year but is expected to be the end of November, to choose the President and Members of Parliament. Elections take place at five-year intervals in Namibia and the previous elections were held on 28 November 2014.

The South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) will be led into the elections by President Hage Geingob. SWAPO has been in power since 1990 after it won the pre-independence elections held under the United Nations following more than two decades of armed struggle against occupation of the country by apartheid South Africa.

Namibia uses a majority system for presidential elections, in which the candidate with more than 50 percent of the votes is declared the winner, and proportional representation is used for legislative elections. Under the proportional representation system, each political party submits a list of candidates and then the parties receive the number of seats that are proportional to their overall share of the national vote.

In accordance with the 2014 constitutional amendments, the statutory number of members of the National Assembly was expanded from 78 to 104, of which 96 are directly elected and eight appointed, as specified in Article 46.

The statutory number of members of the National Council also increased, from 26 to 42. The current legislature comprises two members from each of the 13 Regional Councils. The new legislature will comprise three members from each of 14 Regional Councils (Article 69). □



## Mozambique prepares for general elections

**15 OCTOBER** is the date for national elections in Mozambique, including presidential, legislative and provincial elections. This follows municipal elections held in October 2018.

President Filipe Nyusi will be the presidential candidate for the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo). The main opposition party, the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) has elected Ossufo Momade as its leader, replacing the late Afonso Dhlakama who died last year.

The Constitution of Mozambique specifies that the President of the Republic is the Head of State and Government, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, and a symbol of national unity, directly elected for a five-year term by winning more than half of the valid votes cast.

If no candidate receives more than half of the votes cast in the first round, then a second round of voting is held, contested by the two candidates who had the highest number of votes. The candidate who receives the majority of votes in the second round will be the elected President.

In the Legislative election, 250 members of the unicameral Assembly of the Republic are directly elected for a five-year term, using a system of Proportion Representation based on party lists by province. There are 11 multi-member constituencies with from 12 up to 50 representatives based on population and corresponding to the country's provinces, plus two single-member constituencies representing the Mozambican communities in Africa and Europe.

In 2019, for the first time, voters are also expected to elect provincial Governors who will have a provincial oversight role over the national public service structures in the province headed by a State Secretary, although this system was awaiting parliamentary approval. (sardc.net) □



Composition of the 2015 Assembly of the Republic (Mozambique)

■ FRELIMO 144 ■ RENAMO 89 ■ MDM 17

### Rajoelina elected President of Madagascar



**ANDRY RAJOELINA** has been sworn in as the President of Madagascar following presidential elections last year and a run-off held on 19 December. The run-off against Marc Ravalomanana was necessitated after no candidate managed to get more than 50 percent of the votes in the November 2018 elections. According to run-off results announced by the National Independent Electoral Commission, Rajoelina won 55.66 percent of the total votes cast against 44.34 percent for his opponent. In his inauguration speech, Rajoelina said all Malagasy should continue to work to ensure the country returns to stability, which is critical for sustainable development.

### Tshisekedi elected President of DRC



**FELIX TSHISEKEDI** was elected as the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in elections held in December 2018. Tshisekedi won 38.5 percent of the total votes cast in the 30 December polls, while his closest rival, Martin Fayulu garnered 34.7 percent. The swearing-in of the new president on 18 January 2019 was an important milestone in the history of the DRC, and President Tshisekedi has taken action to build unity with opponents and with the former President, Joseph Kabila. □



## Normal to below-normal rainfall for SADC in second half of season

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** is expected to receive erratic rainfall in the second half of the 2018/19 agricultural season, according to the mid-season review produced by regional climate experts.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-22) mid-season review and update was held in Maun, Botswana in December to review and update the seasonal outlook released in August 2018, as well as present a consensus seasonal climate outlook for March to May 2019.

The SARCOF forecast is divided into two parts, covering October to December 2018 and January to May 2019.

The consensus forecast produced by SARCOF-22 in August 2018 had showed that most of the 16 countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are likely to receive “normal to below-normal” rainfall for the period October 2018 to May 2019, except for Tanzania that was predicted to have “normal to above-normal”.

“Normal to above normal” rainfall is also expected in most areas of the north-western and eastern parts of the region, some south-western parts, and eastern Madagascar.

Climate experts had also forecast a possibility of an early onset of the 2018-19 season, which could be followed by prolonged dry spells that disturb the timing and spatial distribution of rainfall around the region.

The review of the first two months shows consistencies in various areas with the October-December forecast.

The mid-season forecast shows no major changes in

rainfall during the second half of the season.

Much of the region is likely to continue receiving “normal to below-normal rainfall” for the period January to March, with the exception of central South Africa, south-western Botswana, south-eastern Namibia, northern Angola, Tanzania, Madagascar, most of DRC, Mauritius and Seychelles, where normal to above-normal rainfall is expected.

For the period February to May 2019, most of the SADC region is expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall with the exception of the south-western and most of the south part of the region where normal to below-normal rainfall conditions are expected.

While developing this outlook, the climate scientists took into account oceanic and atmospheric factors that influence climate over southern Africa.

The associated agricultural risks for expected insufficient rainfall include limited water availability, poor grazing areas and heat stress that could affect both crops and livestock.

FEWSNET notes that although most parts of the region received sufficient rainfall for planting, the rainfall was insufficient to fully meet crop water needs for maize crops planted in some parts of South Africa, southern Mozambique, southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho.

In parts of southern Mozambique, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe, the moisture deficits resulted in permanent wilting of some crops at early developmental stages, which necessitated gap-filling and replanting.

Despite moderate to heavy rainfall in early and mid-Jan-

uary, poor rainfall at the end of the month led to soil moisture stress, causing some maize crops to wilt.

As below-average rainfall is likely to continue, cropping conditions are not anticipated to recover in most areas and staple food production across Lesotho, Angola, southern Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, central South Africa, and northern Namibia is expected to be below-average.

However, cropping conditions across Malawi, Madagascar, and northern Mozambique are favourable most likely leading to an average to above average harvest.

The regional forecast comes at a time when the food security situation in southern Africa has been subdued due to a lower harvest during the 2017-18 agricultural season.

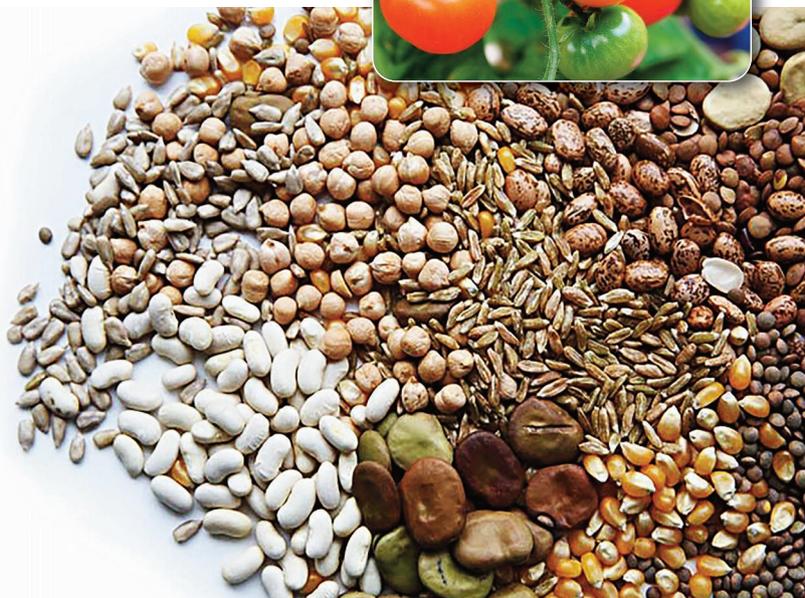
According to a report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa published by SADC in July 2018, dry spells that characterized the 2017-18 rainfall season resulted in reduced cereal harvests compared to the 2017 bumper crop that generated a surplus.

Based on the 10 SADC Member States that provided cereal balance sheets for the 2018-19 marketing year, the region is estimated to have a cereal surplus of 6.3 million metric tonnes compared to 7.5 million tonnes for the same countries in the previous marketing year.

This means that carry-over stocks in these countries and expected surpluses in Mozambique and Tanzania will be enough to offset the deficits in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia.

This will require SADC Member States to take appropriate measures to promote trading of maize and avoid taking *ad-hoc* actions that would restrict imports or exports of grains within the region.

The region has previously adopted several measures to mitigate the impacts of poor harvests, including the promotion of investment in research and improved access to financial resources for smallholder farmers, as well as investment in new technology and irrigation. □





# Climate change talks Are the negotiations beneficial to Africa?

**THE GROWING** frequency and unpredictable nature of natural disasters such as floods and droughts is a striking reminder and warning that climate change is a serious phenomenon that has the capacity to destabilize the world.

In recognition of this, the global community has put in place various initiatives to combat the impacts of climate change including negotiating for a binding agreement on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.

A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is critical, particularly for developing countries such as those in Africa who produce less emissions yet are the hardest hit by climate change due to limited financial resources to adapt to such changes.

However, since the climate change negotiations began some decades ago, these have offered very little hope for Africa as issues of climate financing for resilience remain largely unresolved.

Prior to the latest climate talks held in December 2018, the African Group of Negotiators came up with a common position where they outlined priorities and expectations to strengthen climate resilience.

One of the key priorities was the need for developed countries to provide a predictable and adequate financing mechanism to address the impacts of climate change, but the conference failed to produce a solid position on climate financing.

Industrialized countries were only "urged" to meet their existing commitment of mobilizing US\$100 billion in climate finance per year by 2020.

Climate experts in Africa are of the view that in order to keep the global temperature rise well below 2°C, industrialized countries must be held accountable and should provide a reliable flow of financial resources to

developing countries to boost their adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The *Zambezi Environment Outlook 2015* already warns that impacts of climate change are being felt across all sectors in southern Africa including on water resources, human health, food security, tourism and livelihoods.

This implies that any delay in implementing resilience measures will further worsen the impacts of climate change in the region.

Namibia, which is the current chair of SADC, has urged the wealthy nations of the north to deliver on their financial obligations in a transparent manner for developing countries to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

"In Namibia, the implementation of our country's NDC is conditioned to the provision of 90 percent of the financial resources from developed countries," Namibian Prime Minister, Dr Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said at the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 24) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Katowice, Poland.

SADC and the rest of the African continent argues that such assistance should act as a net transfer of wealth from north to south mainly in the form of grants rather than loans which would further burden developing countries.

In the Paris Rulebook, nations are allowed to count all non-grant instruments as climate finance such as commercial loans and they are only asked to report the grant-equivalence of these on voluntary basis.

The rulebook is a long-term regulatory framework agreed in Katowice that will help countries to plan, communicate, implement, report and follow up

on their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Another outcome that did not meet the expectations of Africa is that the rulebook for implementing the Paris Agreement failed to put enough emphasis on the question of loss and damage.

The rulebook only indicates that vulnerable countries will have a place to report climate-related losses and what they are doing to deal with them, including information on the kind of help they need.

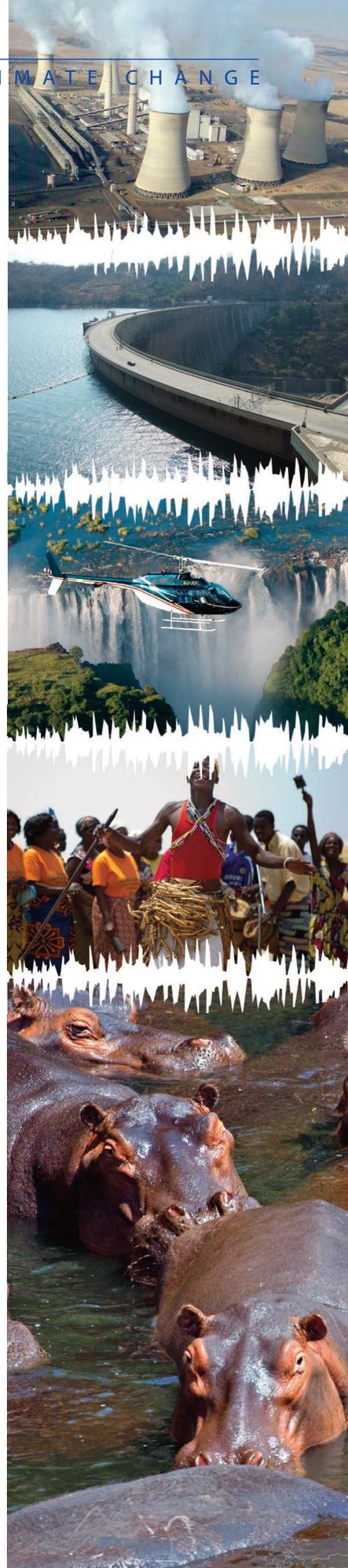
In Katowice, the issue of loss and damage became one of the sticking points as developing countries wanted loss and damage to be treated as a stand-alone while developed countries were in favour of lumping it with other adaptation initiatives.

The failure by the developed countries to consider loss and damage as a critical component means that funds for increased adaptation will remain a challenge for a long time in Africa.

Despite its major shortcomings, negotiators at Katowice, however, managed to finally agree on the rulebook which now acts as an operating manual for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The UN Climate Change Secretariat notes that the rulebook "operationalizes the transparency framework," which "sets out how countries will provide information about their NDCs that describe their domestic climate actions.

Article 4.3 of the Paris Agreement mentions that each party's successive, nationally determined contribution will represent a progression beyond the party's then current contribution and reflect its highest possible ambition, and its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □





## “Time to ratify and implement the Maputo Protocol”

**THE AFRICAN** Union has urged member states to accelerate the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

The call was made by a High-Level Consultation on the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, known as the Maputo Protocol.

The high-level meeting held in Mozambique in December 2018 coincided with the 15th anniversary of the signing of the protocol.

Chairperson of the High-Level Consultation, Helen Ilboudo said it is critical for Member States to identify bottlenecks that hinder full ratification of the Protocol to ensure that women’s rights are promoted and protected.

Ilboudo, who is Minister of Women, National Solidarity and Family in Burkina Faso, said there is need for African countries to not only ratify the protocol, but also implement the instrument to complement actions that are already taking place at the national level.

The African Union (AU) Commission said member states should work together to ensure ownership by various stakeholders in the process of ratification, domestication, implementation and reporting.

The Maputo Protocol was adopted in July 2003 in Ma-

puto, Mozambique and entered into force in 2005 after 15 member states ratified it.

However, the failure by most AU member states to ratify, domesticate and implement the Protocol on Women’s Rights has hindered efforts to promote and protect human rights.

Despite commitments by African leaders to place women at the centre of development, and poverty reduction, member states have been slow in ratifying and domesticating the protocol.

To promote the ratification and implementation of the Maputo Protocol, the African Women’s Decade (2010 -2020) was adopted and commits member states to universal ratification, full domestication and implementation by 2020.

To date, out of the 55 AU member states, a total of 40 have ratified the Maputo Protocol. Of these Cameroon, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Uganda ratified with reservations.

A total of 16 countries are yet to ratify the Protocol and these are Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Tunisia.

With only two years remaining before the 2020 deadline for universal ratification, there is a need to accelerate efforts to encourage the remain-

ing 16 member states to ratify the Maputo Protocol.

In this regard, the High Level Consultation reaffirmed the need for stronger partnerships urged countries to recommit their intention to the mission of promoting the rights of women as well as gender equality in Africa.

The meeting also adopted a roadmap for the “All for Maputo Protocol Programme” to guide and strengthen in-country advocacy missions on championing gender specific needs.

The “All for Maputo Protocol Programme” is one of the key flagship projects of the AU Gender strategy, aiming at mobilizing support and funding as well as advocating for universal ratification of the instrument by 2020.

In the SADC region, a total of 13 Member States have

signed and ratified the protocol. These are Angola, Comoros, the DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe have signed the protocol.

Mauritius and Madagascar have signed but are yet to ratify, and Botswana has not signed.

The process of approval of a regional legal instrument requires, first, signing, and then ratification, a process that differs from country to country.

A protocol “enters into force” following ratification by two-thirds of member states. This advances the regional law from being a stated intention to actual application.

Member States that join after a protocol has entered into force are said to “accede” to the protocol. □

**ONE OF** the key resolutions of the 32<sup>nd</sup> African Union Summit held in February in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was on ending child marriages.

The summit reaffirmed the commitment by the continent towards the Implementation of the Common African Position on Ending Child Marriage in Africa and recommendations from the first African Girls Summit held in Lusaka, Zambia in November 2015, and all the recommendations from the 2<sup>nd</sup> African Girls Summit on Ending Child Marriages held in Accra, Ghana in November 2018.

As such the leaders decided to take concrete actions to end child marriage in all its forms and manifestations, with firm commitment to article 21(2) of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and to have comprehensive report on the progress of ending child marriages in Africa through the reporting channel to the policy organs. □



**32<sup>ND</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**  
 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
 African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



## Africa accelerates trade liberalization, targets ending conflicts

**AFRICA'S QUEST** for a single market is fast becoming a reality after leaders endorsed a template on trade liberalization which will be used by member states in preparing schedules of tariff concessions.

The template on trade liberalization will assist African states in coming up with their positions regarding removal or reduction of restrictions or barriers on the free exchange of goods within the continent.

African leaders approved the template at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Assembly of African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government held in February in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The summit directed AU Ministers responsible for trade to submit their schedules of tariff concessions and schedules of specific commitments to the ordinary sessions scheduled for July and January 2020.

This development is expected to concretize modalities of the operationalization of the envisaged Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) as the continent targets to boost intra-regional trade from the present 10 percent to more than 40 percent.

Development of schedules of tariff concessions is one of the key steps that should be taken by AU Member States to bring the CFTA into effect. This will accelerate the liberalization process as an essential step towards African integration and

establishing a unified African market.

The schedules are expected to contain details of custom union requirements of each AU Member State, in particular 90 percent of products that are to be liberalized in the short time as well as the sensitive products that will be liberalized over a longer time period and the excluded products that are to be temporarily exempted from liberalization.

In addition, the schedules of commitments will identify how barriers to entry, such as local presence regulations, can be eased to allow the local operation of service suppliers from other African countries.

This is then expected to culminate in the review of the regulatory framework identified as an impediment to effective implementation of the CFTA.

The agreement to establish the CFTA was initially signed by 44 out of 55 AU Member States in March 2018 to promote the smooth movement of goods and services across borders, as well as allow member countries to harmonize regional trade policies to promote equal competition and increased trade.

The establishment of the CFTA is expected to enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise level through exploiting opportunities for scale production, continental market access and better reallocation of resources.

The CFTA brings together all the 55 AU Member States, creating a combined market of more than one billion people and a combined Gross Domestic Product of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

At the 32<sup>nd</sup> AU Summit, the leaders urged the continent to expedite initiatives aimed at promoting peace and security as well as create the necessary conditions for sustainable development and economic growth.

These include peace mediation in countries where there have conflicts such as Libya, Somalia and Central African Republic.

The summit requested AU Commission Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat to convene an international conference on reconciliation in Libya in the first half of this year.

The North African country has been experiencing power challenges since the ousting of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

The planned international conference, which will be held jointly with the United Nations, is expected to take "all the necessary measures for the organisation of presidential and legislative elections in October 2019".

On the UN Security Council, the leaders reaffirmed the common position of Africa to reform the council, with a strong call for the continent to have two permanent seats with all the prerogative and privileges including right of veto.

In addition to two permanent seats, African leaders are calling for an additional five non-permanent seats where the AU will reserve the right to select its representatives for election to the UN Security Council.

The council, which is tasked with the primary duty of maintaining international peace and security, continues to be dominated by a few powerful nations at the expense of the majority.

Of the five permanent members with veto power, none is from Africa yet the continent provides the largest membership of the UN.

The five permanent members are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with three of them (France, Russia, and UK) coming from Europe.

The permanent members enjoy the veto right, meaning that the council cannot implement any decision if one of the five permanent members objects to it.

In addition to this, the council is made up of 10 other non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the UN General Assembly. However, these members do not have veto powers.

This arrangement and structure where some countries are "more important than others" is what Africa and other developing regions want to be reformed. □





## SADC and Russia strengthen cooperation

**SADC AND** Russia are working on the modalities of strengthening cooperation following the signing last year of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Basic Principles of Relations and Cooperation.

The Russian Ambassador and Special Representative to SADC, Victor Sibilev met with the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, in February to discuss modalities towards operationalizing the MoU.

Sibilev said Russia is ready to collaborate with SADC in advancing its regional integration agenda, particularly in areas such as manufacturing, agriculture and infrastructure development.

Manufacturing, agriculture and infrastructure development are some of the key priority areas identified in various regional documents such as the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap, as well as the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.

Sibilev said the second Russia-Africa Summit will be held in October Sochi, Russia

and he stressed the importance for SADC to take advantage of the Summit to boost relations with Russia, which is one of the fastest growing global economies.

Dr Tax said the region is looking forward to strengthening relations with Russia, confirming that SADC will use

the forthcoming summit as a platform to share information on investment opportunities and investment climate in the SADC region.

She said SADC is keen to finalize modalities with Russia for the political dialogue and consultations as provided for in the MoU. □

## Norway to support SADC integration

**NORWAY HAS** pledged to continue supporting the regional integration agenda of southern Africa.

The Norwegian Ambassador to South Africa, Astrid Helle, said this when she paid a courtesy call on the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax in late January in Gaborone, Botswana.

Helle covers five other countries in SADC – Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Norway has provided support to various SADC initiatives through technical and financial support by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).



Some key interventions areas include technical support to the energy sector and the Southern African Power Pool.

Other areas of support are the restructuring of SADC institutions, support to the implementation of the SADC HIV and AIDS Business Plan and support to SADC in mediation capacity enhancement, especially the establishment of the Network of African Women Mediators. □

## SADC ambassadors to promote regional initiatives

**THE SADC** Committee of Ambassadors and High Commissioners in Botswana is an important structure that plays a liaison role between the Secretariat and Member States as well as facilitating information dissemination, interaction and consultation between the two institutions.

The SADC Secretariat held a meeting with the ambassadors in Gaborone, Botswana on 28 February to brief the committee on some of regional initiatives.

The committee was established in 2005 to advise the SADC National Committees on issues related to the implementation of SADC programmes and activities as well as to facilitate interaction and consultations between Member States and the SADC Secretariat. □

## SADC, Germany identify areas of continued cooperation

**SADC AND** Germany have held consultations on how to strengthen cooperation.

The consultations in Gaborone, Botswana were co-chaired by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, and the Germany Ambassador to Botswana, Ralf Breth. The meeting was held on 19-20 February to prepare for the Bilateral Negotiations between the SADC Secretariat and the Government of Germany set for November.

Speaking at the meeting, Dr Tax expressed gratitude to the

Germany for the continued support towards SADC regional integration and development agenda.

She said to ensure that the support is beneficial to both parties there is need to focus on priority programmes such as the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063; the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan, the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan and other strategies and programmes, including the Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy.

Dr Tax said as both parties prepare for the next SADC-Germany Bilateral Negotiations, it is critical to take into account other emerging developmental challenges such as climate change.

Breth said Germany will continue to support SADC in both technical and financial areas.

The meeting identified a number of priority areas for cooperation. These include:

- Regional Economic Integration;
- Peace and Security;
- Transboundary Water Management;

- Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources and Resilience to Climate Change; and
- Strengthening National-Regional Linkages and Study and Expert Fund.

The identified areas of cooperation are in line with SADC priorities outlined in the Revised Regional Indicative Development Plan 2015-2020 and the Revised Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ on Defence, Peace and Security Cooperation 2015-2020 as well as Germany's Marshall Plan with Africa. □

## February – March 2019



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**February**

2, Global

**World Wetlands Day**

This day marks the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. The 2019 theme is "Wetlands and Climate Change".

10-11, Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia**32<sup>nd</sup> African Union Summit**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union provides an opportunity for African leaders to discuss continental integration. The theme for 2019 is "Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa".

19-20 Johannesburg,  
South Africa**Africa Energy Indaba**

The indaba will bring together international and continental experts to share insights into and solutions to Africa's energy challenges while also exploring the vast energy development opportunities on offer for Africa.

28, Dar es Salaam,  
Tanzania**ZAMCOM Council of Ministers**

The Council of Ministers of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission provides policy guidance for the cooperative management and development of the Zambezi River Basin. Council approves the annual work plans and budgets, and considers recommendations from the ZAMCOM Technical Committee.

**March**

8, Global

**International Women's Day**

This is an occasion to reflect on progress made in advancing the rights of women, and discuss further changes needed. The theme for 2019 is "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change".

11-22, New York

**63<sup>rd</sup> Session of UN Commission on the Status of Women**

The UN Commission on the Status of Women meets annually and is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, taking a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

15 -16, Windhoek,  
Namibia**SADC Council of Ministers**

The SADC Council of Ministers is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are implemented to advance regional integration.

20, Madagascar

**Parliamentary Elections**

Parliamentary polls to be held following the presidential elections in December last year.

20-21, Nairobi

**TRALAC Annual Conference 2019**

The annual conference of the Trade Law Centre provides an opportunity for policymakers, researchers, academia, and others to discuss global trade issues with special focus on Africa's trade, integration and industrial development. The 2019 theme is, "Africa's Integration Agenda – from Aspirations to Pragmatic Implementation".

22, Global

**World Water Day**

World Water Day is held annually on 22 March to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

24, Comoros

**Elections Comoros**

Presidential and regional elections take place on 24 March. This marks the first time that Comoros is holding its elections as a member of SADC. The Comoros joined SADC in August 2018.

26-27, Johannesburg,  
South Africa**Water Energy Food Nexus**

The SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on the Water Energy Food (WEF) Nexus focuses this year on youth empowerment, with the theme of "Promoting the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Approach and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development". The SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue is a biennial event organised by the SADC Directorate of Infrastructure and is driven by the Water Sector.

# Heroes 50 years

## Remembering Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane

**FEBRUARY 3** is Heroes Day in Mozambique, and in 2019 this is a special commemoration.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Eduardo Mondlane, the founding leader of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo).

Mondlane was killed by a parcel bomb during the war for independence from colonial rule. He died at the age of 49 on 3 February 1969 when he opened a parcel sent by the Portuguese security police, delivered to him at his house in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

He is respected as the father of Mozambique's independence, a torch picked up and carried to completion by Samora Machel, who became the first President of Mozambique on 25 June 1975.

The date of his assassination is commemorated each year in Mozambique as Heroes Day. The day was set to honour his life as well as all men and women who fought bravely for the country's independence, for which many gave their lives, and those who have contributed to the development of the post-independence Mozambique.

Born in June 1920 in Nwadjahane, a village in the Gaza Province of southern Mozambique, Eduardo Mondlane played an important role in the struggle against Portuguese colonial rule. The well-educated Mozambican nationalist is celebrated for his selfless dedication in the fight against settler rule.

Following the independence of Tanganyika (later Tanzania) in 1961, Mondlane took up base operations in Dar es Salaam where the unification of UDENAMO, MANU, and UNAMI was realised to form Frelimo in 1962.

The independence of Mozambique did not come in isolation. Tanzania provided both technical and material support in the form of shelter for Mozambican refugees and a rear base for Frelimo guerrillas, including training and equipment as well as hosting the Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity.

The *coup d'état* in Portugal on 25 April 1974 when the Portuguese Movement of the Armed Forces overthrew the military regime in Lisbon was a breaking point in the struggle for Mozambique's independence.

This resulted from the discontent of conscripts sent to fight in Portugal's African colonies, particularly because they were losing the war against Frelimo in Mozambique, and culminated in negotiations between Portuguese and Frelimo representatives. An independence agreement was signed in Zambia on 7 September 1974, now commemorated as Victory Day as it marked the end of the liberation war.

The main Heroes Day celebration is held at the Heroes' Square near the international airport in Maputo, where various groups of people gather to honour freedom fighters and support equality for all Mozambique's citizens.

At the centre of the square stands a star-shaped monument of white marble where Mondlane is interred, as well as the country's first President, Samora Moises Machel and other heroes of the liberation struggle. □



## Malawi remembers liberation martyrs

**MARCH 3** is an important date in Malawi's liberation history, and is commemorated every year in honour of the martyrs who gave their lives in the struggle against colonialism.

The day invokes painful memories of about 40 people who lost their lives in 1959 during an uprising against British colonialism. This was a landmark in the struggle against colonial rule that eventually brought independence to Malawi on 6 July 1964 under the first President, Hastings Kamuzu Banda.

This year marks 60 years of remembering men and women who envisaged strong values and ideologies and sacrificed their lives to fight against British rule in Malawi. The British occupied the territory of Malawi in the mid-19th century and proclaimed a British protectorate in 1891, later renamed Nyasaland in 1907.

The Martyrs Day celebration is marked by speeches from different groups and prayers for the departed freedom fighters. □

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

February – April 2019

1 February	Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
5 February	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius
3 March	Martyrs Day	Malawi
4 March	Maha Shivaratri	Mauritius
5 March	Carnival	Angola
8 March	Women's Day	Angola, Zambia
11 March	Moshoeshoe's Day	Lesotho
12 March	National Day	Mauritius
	Youth Day	Zambia
18 March	Cheikh Al Maarouf Day	Comoros
21 March	Independence Day	Namibia
	Human Rights Day	South Africa
29 March	Martyrs Day	Madagascar
4 April	Peace and Reconciliation Day	Angola
6 April	Ougadi	Mauritius
7 April	Sheik Abeid Karume Day	Tanzania
13 April	Leilat al – Meiraj	Comoros
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
19 April	King's Birthday	Eswatini
	Good Friday	All SADC except ...
		Comoros, DRC, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique
20 April	Holy Saturday	Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe
21 April	Easter Sunday	Namibia, Zimbabwe
22 April	Easter Monday	All SADC except ...
		Angola, Comoros, DRC, Mauritius, Mozambique
	Family Day	South Africa
25 April	National Flag Day	Eswatini
26 April	Union Day	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa