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"SADC – 40 Years Building Peace and Security, Promoting Development and Resilience to Face Global Challenges"



SADC holds first virtual Summit

by Kizito Sikuka

THE 40TH SADC Summit scheduled for Maputo, Mozambique in August will for the first time in history be held in a virtual format.

This is due to health measures and travel restrictions imposed by most Member States in response to the novel coronavirus that causes the disease commonly known as Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Described as the most serious health emergency in generations by the World Health Organisation, the pandemic has affected the global socio-economic landscape and resulted in the loss of many lives.

In response to safety measures, the 2020 SADC Summit will be coordinated from Mozambique with other Heads of State and Government linking up via Video Conferencing Technology from their various capitals.

The fact that the region has managed to convene the 40th SADC Summit in a virtual format is commendable, and a demonstration of SADC's ability to move in unison and conquer challenges no matter the magnitude of a challenge.

Running under the theme "SADC: 40 Years Building Peace and Security, Promoting Development and Resilience to Face Global Challenges", the virtual summit will be held under a reduced agenda to allow the leaders to focus on the critical issues in the region.

This article looks at some of the major issues to be discussed by the 40th SADC Summit.

Coordinated response to COVID-19 pandemic

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures.

As such, one of the priorities at Summit will be how SADC Member States can combat the coronavirus which has not only disrupted the implementation of various regional activities and projects, but also caused the loss of lives.

In this regard, the Summit is expected to explore ways on how Member States could invest more resources in strengthening their public health systems, and implement measures to curtail the spread of the virus.

For example, Member States that are beginning to reopen their economies as well as air travel and land borders should observe and enforce strict anti-coronavirus standards such as social distancing at workplaces, regular health screenings and wearing of masks at all times.

It is also critical for countries to put in place vibrant social protection measures to cushion the population from the effects of loss of income, particularly due to the economic lockdown imposed by a number of countries in response to the pandemic.

continued on page 2...

POLICY	3
SADC FOUNDERS	4
GENDER	5
AGRICULTURE	6-7
SADC@40	8-9
TRADE	10-11
PEACE & SECURITY	12-13
CLIMATE CHANGE	14
EVENTS	15
HISTORY TODAY	16



Post-2020 SADC agenda

The current SADC development plan, the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020, is coming to an end in December.

Therefore, the 40th SADC Summit is expected to review progress towards the development of a post-2020 SADC agenda.

A new 30-year vision has been developed that will set a strategic direction for the region to implement its programmes and activities until 2050, and this will be presented to the Heads of State and Government for deliberation.

The proposed SADC Vision 2050 is aligned to the African Union's Agenda 2063 for "The Africa We Want", and this vision informs the development of the next 10-year plan to 2030.

In a departure from the previous regional strategic plans, the RISDP 2020-30 is expected to combine interventions previously presented under both the Revised RISDP and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation (SIPO).

The decision to include peace, security and governance matters in the RISDP 2020-30 is an important forward-looking development as the two strategic plans are complementary and seek to achieve the same common objective.

State of regional food security

The 2020 Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in southern Africa released in July indicates that about 44.8 million people across 13 SADC Member States are food insecure this year.

This is due to various factors, including the low rainfall during the 2019/20 agriculture season, resulting in a poor harvest.

The impact is further exacerbated by the current effects of COVID-19.

The 40th SADC Summit is expected to discuss measures to address the food insecurity.

Possible strategies include a combination of short-term measures such as social protection programmes to support those immediately affected, as well as more medium- to long-term strategies focused around areas such as the maintenance of domestic and international supply chains and incentives for the diversification of agricultural production.

Taking stock of the industrialization agenda

Summit will review the implementation of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063, which was adopted in 2015 to unlock the industrial potential of the region.

Industrialization is a top priority for southern Africa, and Member States are implementing various measures to accelerate economic growth through industrial development.

Summit is expected to receive a progress report on the implementation of the industrialization strategy.

The SADC Protocol on Industry was adopted in 2019 to provide a legal framework for the attainment of unified goals by Member States in terms of their industrialization policies and strategies.

The protocol is a binding instrument that gives legal effect to the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap and seeks to ensure adequate coordination, monitoring and evaluation of implementation.

Strengthening peace and security

SADC leaders will remain seized with the political and security situation prevailing in

the region since stability is a key condition for sustainable development and regional integration.

The SADC region has generally enjoyed stability despite some pockets of volatility in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kingdom of Lesotho, and in northern Mozambique.

Summit is expected to take stock of interventions undertaken to promote peace and stability in these and other Member States, as captured by the theme of the Summit – "SADC: 40 Years Building Peace and Security, Promoting Development and Resilience to Face Global Challenges".

40 years anniversary

The SADC regional integration journey has been long but worthwhile.

Following a series of consultations on regional cooperation held in the late 1970s by the Frontline States, nine independent countries in southern Africa formed a tentative regional organization, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980, when Namibia and South Africa were still under the yoke of apartheid. SADCC was later transformed to SADC in 1992, at a Summit held in independent Namibia.

SADC turned 40 years in 2020, and as part of its celebrations, the Summit will take stock of its integration journey.



President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana took over the chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation from President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.

New SADC leadership

The 40th SADC Summit will see President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique becoming the SADC chairperson, taking over from President John Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The SADC Summit is responsible for the overall policy direction and control of the functions of the Community and is the supreme policy-making institution of SADC.

It is made up of all SADC Heads of States or Government of Member States, and is managed on a Troika system that comprises the current SADC Chairperson, the next Chairperson (the Deputy), and the immediate previous Chairperson.

President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana becomes chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, taking over from President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.

The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation is responsible for maintaining peace and security in the SADC region, and is also managed on a Troika basis, consisting of the Chairperson, the next designated Chairperson (Deputy), and the Outgoing Chairperson. The Organ Troika reports to the SADC chair.

The SADC Summit and the Organ Troika are mutually exclusive, and the Chairperson of the Organ does not simultaneously hold the chair of Summit. □

Protocol on firearms control to be reviewed

SADC PLANS to amend the Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials as part of regional efforts to strengthen the regulatory environment and combat the proliferation of illegal weapons in southern Africa.

The Draft Agreement Amending the Protocol was endorsed by ministers responsible for peace and security during a meeting of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation (MCO) held via video conference on 26 June.

The agreement was submitted to the Committee of SADC Ministers of Justice for legal clearance, after which it is considered by the SADC Council of Ministers before being submitted to the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit for approval and signature.

The draft agreement seeks to broaden the scope of application of the protocol to include conventional weapons.

It also aims to align the protocol with international conventions as well as to incorporate contemporary threats of proliferation of small arms and light

weapons in the region and best practices and standards for prevention and combating the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of firearms, ammunitions and related materials.

Signed in 2001, the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials came into force in 2004, and aims to prevent and eradicate the illicit manufacturing, trafficking, possession and use of firearms.

This is in recognition of the fact that illegal firearms are commonly used in the perpetration of violent crimes, a situation which threatens regional peace and security.

The SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said in her address to the 22nd Meeting of the MCO, chaired by Zimbabwe, that there is need to combat the increase in illegal firearms in the region.

"This is particularly worrying as the majority of the firearms are either unmarked, unregistered, or are stolen. In view of this, the implementation of the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials is very pertinent," Dr Tax said.

Policy gaps were identified following a review of the protocol by the SADC Secretariat, necessitating the proposed amendment that is designed to strengthen the existing firearms control framework.

The review process was a directive from the MCO meeting held in Lusaka, Zambia in July 2019.

"It is important that we ensure that the gaps that necessitated the review are adequately addressed while enhancing our capacity in firearm marking and control, so as to ensure the safety of our citizens," Dr Tax said. □

Poll observation guidelines during natural disasters

THE SADC Secretariat has been tasked to develop guidelines for the observation of elections that may take place during outbreaks and pandemics such as the coronavirus.

The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has, for example, led to the closure of borders, hampering the deployment of SADC Electoral Observation Missions (SEOMs) to observe elections in those Member States that have had polls during the past few months.

Other outbreaks such as cholera and ebola have claimed the lives of SEOM personnel.

In this regard, the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation that met on 26 June directed the Secretariat to work with the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) to develop guidelines to be used to observe elections during times when there are natural outbreaks and pandemics.

"Noting the impacts of COVID-19 on SADC Electoral Observation Missions, the MCO directed the Secretariat in collaboration with the SADC Electoral Advisory Council to develop guidelines on electoral observations during outbreaks

and pandemics such as the COVID-19," reads part of a statement released by the MCO.

The SEAC is a regional body mandated to advise SADC on electoral matters and issues pertaining to enhancement of democracy and governance.

The 15-member SEAC, which was inaugurated in April 2011 is also tasked with encouraging adherence to principles and guidelines governing the conduct of elections.

Adopted in August 2004 at the Summit of SADC Heads

of State and Government held in Mauritius, the principles and guidelines contain procedures to be followed by the SEOM and minimum standards that a Member State should follow if its election is to be declared credible and fair.

The SEOM is an ad hoc team of elections observers from Member States who are assigned to observe the conduct of polls in three phases: the pre-election period, election day, and post-election. □

Revised guidelines on cross-border transportation

NEW GUIDELINES to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services during the COVID-19 pandemic are now in place following approval by an extraordinary SADC Council meeting held on 23 June.

The Revised Regional Guidelines on Harmonization and Facilitation of Cross Border Transport Operations incorporate amendments designed to remove transport bottlenecks and expedite regional trade while maintaining the necessary public health measures required to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus.

In March, most SADC Member States imposed nationwide lockdowns and travel restrictions including the closure of borders as part of unprecedented measures meant to contain the spread of COVID-19.

According to a statement released by the SADC Business Council, this development had the unintended effect of curtailing intra-regional trade through delays in the movement of cargo across national boundaries.

As Member States begin to reopen their economies, the revised guidelines are expected to provide a framework for the

safe movement of people and goods across borders, enabling the region to increase economic activity in the post-lockdown period.

The revised guidelines will also facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive road transport monitoring system mainly targeted at haulage transport operators.

It is envisaged that such a system will help keep track of the health condition of drivers, monitor vehicle loads, enable contact tracing and improve traffic management efficiencies required to expedite trade. □

Ministers endorse mechanism to honour SADC Founders

THE FOUNDERS of SADC, including Julius Nyerere, Seretse Khama and Kenneth Kaunda, could soon be honoured through an official process.

A mechanism for this purpose was endorsed by Ministers responsible for peace and security at a meeting of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation on 26 June.

According to SADC procedure, the proposal is presented to various regional structures for consideration before recommendation for approval by the 40th SADC Summit in August in Mozambique.

The establishment of a mechanism to honour the legacy of SADC Founders is expected to appreciate and acknowledge the vision and actions of the leaders who initiated the journey towards regional integration in southern Africa more than 40 years ago.

This generation of visionary leaders included the founding presidents of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, respectively Dr Agostinho Neto, Sir Seretse Khama, Samora Machel, *Mwalimu* Julius Nyerere, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, and Robert Mugabe.

These were the leaders of the Frontline States which in 1980 established the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) together with the leaders of three other independent countries in southern Africa – Eswatini, Lesotho and Malawi.

After supporting the independence of Namibia which joined in 1990, the SADCC was transformed into SADC in 1992.

Now at 40 years since the Lusaka Declaration on “South-



The Presidents of Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique and United Republic of Tanzania (seated) and the Prime Minister-designate of Zimbabwe (standing, second left) with representatives of the leaders of Malawi, Swaziland and Lesotho at first SADCC Summit 1980.

ern Africa: Toward Economic Liberation”, SADC has achieved a number of milestones in advancing political and economic freedom.

However, little has been done to pay tribute to those leaders who sacrificed and dedicated their lives to the ideals of attaining political freedom and deepening regional integration.

The approval of a mechanism to honour their work will encourage the region to uphold the ideals of these leaders for the benefit of future generations.

In an outcome statement released after the virtual meeting chaired by Zimbabwe, the MCO said the mechanism to honour the Founders will include renaming some buildings as well as the production of publications.

“The MCO endorsed the Mechanism in Honour of the Founders of SADC, which will include naming of rooms at the SADC Secretariat, its Satellite Offices, and other strategic places such as Government buildings and Parliament offices in different countries; SADC Essay Competition and Curriculum reforms to include

the legacy of SADC Founders; Commissioning research leading to publications focusing on all the founders (individually and collectively); and Awarding Medals,” reads part of the statement.

To date, some efforts have been made both at national and regional levels to honour the Founding Fathers of the regional community.

One of these was the introduction of the Seretse Khama SADCC Medal during the 1985 SADCC Summit in Arusha, Tanzania.

The medal is conferred to those considered to have made outstanding contributions towards the formation and development of SADCC/SADC as well as in the struggle for economic liberation of the region.

Tanzania’s founding President *Mwalimu* Julius Nyerere became the first recipient of the medal in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the region.

Other recipients of the medal are President Samora Machel of Mozambique (posthumously in 1987); President Dr. Agostinho Neto of Angola (posthumously in 1995); Sir Ketumile Masire of

Botswana (1998); President Nelson Mandela of South Africa (2000); President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, President Sam Nujoma of Namibia, and the Executive Secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee Brigadier-General Hashim Mbita of Tanzania, all in 2010.

An illustrated book was launched in 2015 on the life of *Mwalimu* Nyerere that includes a range of his speeches and statements. The book, titled *Julius Nyerere: Asante Sana, Thank You Mwalimu*, was co-published by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), the African Publishing Group and the House of Books in Zimbabwe as well as Mkuki na Nyota of Tanzania.

Another important initiative is the convening of the annual SADC Public Lecture, where a former SADC Head of State or Government delivers a lecture on important institutional issues.

The idea to define a mechanism to honour the SADC Founders was agreed at the 35th SADC Summit of Heads of States and Government held in Gaborone, Botswana in August 2015.

The MCO also discussed the general peace and security situation in the region, and pledged to remain “seized with the political and security developments” in southern Africa.

The MCO has responsibility for the work of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and its structures in promoting peace and security in the region.

It comprises ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Public Security and State Security from the 16 SADC Member States. sardc.net □



Assessment of gender mainstreaming in the integration agenda

by Nyarai Kampilipili

SINCE ITS inception more than 40 years ago, SADC has embraced gender mainstreaming as a strategy towards the involvement of women in the economy and society alongside men, and in the planning and development of the region.

The achievement of women empowerment and gender equality is firmly rooted in the Declaration and Treaty that established the shared community of SADC, and Member States have agreed that equality and empowerment of women and men is essential for the attainment of sustainable development.

This is clearly reflected in the constitutions of most SADC Member States that provide for the creation of legal frameworks that prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender and other differences.

Notable milestones have been achieved due to these efforts of ensuring that women are involved in all development activities.

To accelerate these efforts, SADC embarked on an assessment of gender mainstreaming in the SADC regional integration agenda.

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the extent of alignment and harmonization of national policies and strategies to regional, continental and international instruments and to take stock of the extent to which gender has been mainstreamed in SADC institutions.

The assessment which was carried out in 2019 and completed in 2020 revealed that there is significant progress in

constitutional and legal reforms amongst SADC Member States with all Member States having specific provisions in constitutions and statutes that forbid discrimination on the basis of gender.

However, Member States are still struggling with the inherent contradictions between customary and general laws with customary laws often rooted in patriarchal values that discriminate against women.

For example, the *SADC Gender and Development Monitor 2018* reveals that access to land is determined by customary laws, which favour men, thus the majority of women have limited access to productive resources.

The majority of Member States have dual legal systems which, even though seem to be progressive, customary laws are a contradiction and found to be more prevalent, thus entrenching patriarchy and making civil law less effective.

Women can have sustained livelihoods through benefiting from the land which they occupy and can use their property or land as collateral for credit or other income-generating ventures.

The SGDM noted that national gender machineries do not have sufficient capacity and resources to mainstream gender, as a result the establishments of gender focal points is not being effectively supported and are non-existent in some Member States.

The results of this assessment are intended to inform the capacity gaps to be addressed.

The SADC Secretariat has commenced the review of the Regional Gender Mainstreaming Resource Kit as a tool that will be updated for use in building technical capacity for gender mainstreaming at both regional and national levels as well as the Secretariat.

The resource kit is a guide to Member States on how to effectively mainstream gender into sectoral policies, programmes and activities at national and regional level through initiatives for gender-responsive planning and budgeting, policy development and implementation, capacity-building and training, and the collection of gender disaggregated data.

The revised resource kit was intended for presentation to the SADC Ministers responsible for gender and women affairs during their annual

meeting this year, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting has been postponed to 2021.

The efforts to ensure gender issues are mainstreamed in development processes of SADC Member States are in line with the revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development which aims to provide for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination, and attainment of gender equality and equity through enactment of gender-responsive legislation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects.

SADC Member States are falling short of attaining gender equality in a number of sectors, and it is therefore critical to for them to create a conducive environment and supporting structures that will enable women to participate in all sectors. □

New Malawi cabinet short of regional gender threshold

THE NEW Cabinet announced by President Lazarus Chakwera in Malawi falls short of the regional gender threshold, as only four women have been appointed ministers in the 23-member Cabinet, just 17.3 percent.

The four women are responsible for the portfolios of Forestry and Natural Resources; Community Development and Social Welfare; Education; and Health.

Representation of women in cabinet has been erratic in



Malawi, with women accounting for eight percent, 24 percent, 27.3 percent, 15 percent and 22.2 percent in 2000, 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2020, respectively. Of the appointed deputy ministers, women make up 100 percent. □



SADC strengthens mechanisms on food security

by Egline Tauya

THE SADC region is strengthening mechanisms for agricultural development as the coronavirus continues to spread with a potential risk to food security and nutrition.

The Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture have reviewed the guidelines developed by the SADC Secretariat in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of these sectors.

The guidelines, to be presented to the Council of Ministers, provide SADC Member States with measures that can be implemented to avoid disruption to food supply chains and associated livelihoods from the impact of COVID-19.

The guidelines provide measures to minimize disruption to farming operations and enable access to production inputs, including critical veterinary drugs.

The measures include ways for farming households to reach markets with their produce.

The Ministers noted that the impact of COVID-19 can lead to a decline in the nutritional status of vulnerable populations due to a reduction in household food security and access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene services, which may result in increased sickness.

Disruption to supply chains through blockages on transport routes, transport restrictions and quarantine measures are resulting in significant increases in food loss and waste.

This effect is significant in perishable agricultural produce such as fruit and vegetables, fish, meat and dairy products.

Labour shortages caused by a restriction on movement of key stakeholders in production and transport, are impacting on food supply, resulting in food shortages in some markets. This contributes to food loss and to waste of supplies.

The need for guidelines to turn these challenges into opportunities becomes imperative to boost food security and maintain health.

The move by SADC to set out guidelines on food security is supported by

the UN Food and Agriculture Organization which has proposed strategies to reduce food loss and manage harvest gluts in traditional local supply chains.

The strategies include supporting labour migration to ensure the uninterrupted harvesting of crops. Another strategy is to promote appropriate measures that increase shelf-life and improve packaging and storage to reduce food loss.

Other measures include exempting transporters of bulk food and certain food distribution networks from curfew hours to facilitate the transport of perishable foods during the cooler times of the day and at night, to maintain quality and reduce food loss.

To facilitate and ease the process of transporting essential goods and services, including food items within the region, SADC has set guidelines on transport.

As part of the guidelines, Member States have agreed to establish national transport and trade facilitation committees or use existing structures comprising officials from the ministries responsible for transport, health, police/army, and trade to coordinate the implementation of the guidelines, and resolve operational issues at borders or road blocks.

To assist and coordinate Member States and corridor groups in implementing the transport guidelines, a Regional COVID-19 Trade and Transport Facilitation Cell has been created at the SADC Secretariat.

This move is critical in supporting the transportation of food items across the region.

The Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture met through video-conferencing in May 2020. sardc.net □

SADC increases aquaculture production

AQUACULTURE IN the SADC region, though still emerging, has seen tremendous growth in a short period of time.

Production in the region has increased from 56,000 metric tonnes of farmed food fish in 2014, to 69,851 metric tonnes in 2016 and 92,773 metric tonnes in 2018. Production in 2020 is estimated at more than 100,000 metric tonnes.

The SADC aquaculture sector is diverse, with about 87 percent of food fish coming from freshwater operations (tilapia, common carp, rainbow trout), and 13 percent from marine operations (6 percent prawns, 5 percent bivalves and gastropods, and 2 percent marine finfish).

Most countries in the SADC region have prioritized aquaculture and are already either having policies and strategies to support the sector, or are developing.

This is in line with the SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan (2016 – 2026) and the SADC Aquatic Animal Health Strategy (2016-2026) which were approved by the SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security, and Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2017.

Guided by the Protocol on Fisheries of 2001 supporting strategies and other initiatives such as the SADC Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme of Work, the overall production of fish in the region has seen a steady increase. sadc.int □



Subdued SADC food security situation in 2019/20 season

by Admire Ndhlovu

A **REGIONAL** food security assessment indicates an increase in the number of people who are food insecure in SADC this year following a subdued 2019/20 farming season.

This is according to a Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa approved by the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme Steering Committee on 9 July.

Based on available data, food insecurity increased by almost 10 percent in 13 SADC Member States to 44.8 million from 41.2 million people reported last year.

Significant increases in the number of food-insecure people were recorded in Eswatini (58 percent), Malawi (140 percent) and Zimbabwe (40 percent).

Factors that contributed to food and nutrition insecurity included climate change-induced drought, COVID-19 pandemic as well as economic challenges.

The report noted that the cropping season was characterised by the late onset of the agricultural season, erratic rainfall and a long mid-season dry spell in most parts of the region.

The period October to December 2019 was regarded as one of the driest since 1981.

Although favourable rainfall was received in most parts of the region in February, an early cessation of rains affected late planted crops, resulting in low yields.

Southern Africa has experienced normal rainfall in only one of the last five cropping seasons, and has since been designated as a climate “hotspot” by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.



The food security situation in the region is made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. While its full impact cannot yet be ascertained, the synthesis report noted a reduction in income and food availability for urban and rural households who rely on remittances, tourism, and school feeding programmes.

To address the situation in the short term, SADC Member States are putting in place measures to avert food insecurity.

These include assisting food- and nutrition-insecure populations with food and cash-based transfers and ensuring harmonization with national shock-responsive, social protection programmes.

Other measures include the expansion of safety net programmes as these have a significant role in ensuring food and livelihood security.

Due to COVID-19, Member States are urged to consider adopting a regional response approach by sharing information and jointly managing the pandemic through dedicated national response centres coordinated by the SADC Secretariat.

Member States should also strengthen mechanisms to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the food supply chain and associated livelihoods by minimizing disruption to farming operations, and enabling access to production inputs, critical emergency veterinary drugs and produce markets by farming households.

For the medium- to long-term, the Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in

Southern Africa called on SADC Member States to encourage crop diversity through the promotion of diversified diets, especially indigenous foods.

This includes species diversification in livestock production, especially small ruminants that are adapted to harsh weather conditions.

Member States were encouraged to stimulate the establishment of community irrigation schemes and rainwater harvesting facilities to ensure year-round agricultural production.

The agricultural sector is regarded as an engine for socio-economic development in most SADC Member States.

The 2020 Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa was compiled by the SADC Secretariat's Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme.

The SADC RVAA Programme was established in 2005 to strengthen the capacity of Member States to undertake and utilize vulnerability assessments to inform policy formulation and emergency interventions that lead to a reduction in vulnerability in the region.

Since its establishment, the SADC RVAA Programme has made significant progress in providing timely and credible information that has influenced policies, and its products are now a vital reference point for decision makers in addressing food and nutrition security issues. □



SADC has achieved significant progress in its 40-year history

THESE ACHIEVEMENTS are visible in different areas of cooperation ranging from industry and trade, gender and health to environment and infrastructure development.

The milestones are underpinned by more than 30 legal instruments as well as key strategic documents such as the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) that have been crafted by SADC Member States to drive forward the integration agenda.

This article presents some of the achievements and milestones achieved by SADC since its formation in 1980 and its transformation from the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) to SADC in 1992..

The achievements are contained in the *SADC@40* publication produced by the SADC Secretariat in partnership with the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC).

The objective of the publication is to show how far SADC has progressed as a region, with a focus on how regional integration has benefitted citizens, thus promoting greater awareness and participation by the people of the region and their institutions in the process of regional integration.

Establishment of the SADC Secretariat

One of the major milestones was realized in July 1981 when regional leaders agreed to establish a Secretariat to be based in Botswana. The Secretariat, which became operational in July 1982 is headed by an Executive Secretary, and is the Secretariat is the principal executive institution of SADC, responsible for strategic planning, facilitation and coordination and management of all SADC Programmes.

Growing membership

Since its establishment in 1980, SADC has witnessed an increase in its membership to 16, following the admission of the Union of Comoros as the newest member in 2018. The growth of SADC is an indication of the confidence shown in the regional organisation. The Table show the dates when each of the 16 Member States joined SADC.

SADC Member States

Member States	Joined SADC
Angola	April 1980
Botswana	April 1980
Union of Comoros	August 2018
Democratic Republic of Congo	September 1998
Kingdom of Eswatini	April 1980
Kingdom of Lesotho	April 1980
Madagascar	August 2005
Malawi	April 1980
Mauritius	August 1995
Mozambique	April 1980
Namibia	August 1990
Seychelles	September 1998
South Africa	August 1994
United Republic of Tanzania	April 1980
Zambia	1 April 1980
Zimbabwe	April 1980



Celebrating 40 years of re

Unwavering regional solidarity and unity

SADC has continued to speak with a common voice on continental and global socio-economic issues. The region has always stood with each other in addressing challenges facing Member States. Evidence of this are the regional interventions in addressing the political situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho and Western Sahara.

Global campaign against the then apartheid South Africa

The SADC region was at the forefront of the global campaign to end apartheid in South Africa. The culmination of the regional pressure led to the collapse of the apartheid system and the independence of Namibia (1990) and South Africa (1994).

Adoption of 33 regional protocols to guide regional cooperation

Following the signing of the SADC Declaration and Treaty in 1992, the region has shown commitment to deeper regional integration through the signature of 33 protocols as well as several strategic plans, which include the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan; Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation; SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063); SADC Regional Agricultural Policy; and SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan. These instruments have laid a strong legal and institutional base for promoting regional cooperation.

Launch of SADC Free Trade Area in 2008

The SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) was achieved in August 2008, when a phased programme of tariff reductions, which had commenced in 2001, resulted in the attainment of the minimum conditions for the FTA – 85 percent of intra-regional trade amongst the partner states attained zero duty.

While the minimum conditions were met, maximum tariff liberalisation was only attained by January 2012 when the tariff phase down process for sensitive products was completed. As a result, intra-SADC trade has substantially increased by more than 20 percent since launch of the FTA.

Frontloading of industrialisation in integration agenda

One of the main milestones over the past 40 years was the decision by the region to frontload industrialisation in the regional economic integration agenda.





Regional integration

The decision was taken following realisation that previous efforts to increase intra-regional trade were being hampered by the fact that there was little capacity in Member States to produce goods that can be traded with other countries.

This led to the adoption of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063, which seeks to achieve major economic and technological transformation at national and regional levels to accelerate economic growth through industrial development.

Establishment of the SADC Project Preparation Facility

The establishment of the SADC Project Preparation and Development Facility (PPDF) became a reality in August 2018 following the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the SADC Secretariat and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).

To date, the SADC PPDF supports a total of nine projects, two of which are in the transport sector and seven in the energy sector.

The first disbursement by the SADC PPDF allocated US\$3.5 million towards the development of the multi-country regional interconnector transmission line linking three SADC Member States namely Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Relative peace and security in the region

The region is regarded as one of the most stable and attractive regional economic communities in Africa. It has handled some of the political and security challenges in Member States well and has been able to solve its own problems without much outside interference.

Cooperation in the energy sector

The adoption of the Protocol on Energy in 1995 has led to cooperation in the area of energy supply where Member States with generation surpluses are able to share with those in deficit. This has been made possible through the establishment of such institutions as the Southern African Power Pool and the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa.

Establishment of a SADC Real Time Gross Settlement System

The SADC Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) multi-currency platform went live in October 2018 to facilitate quicker and effective payment transactions in the region.

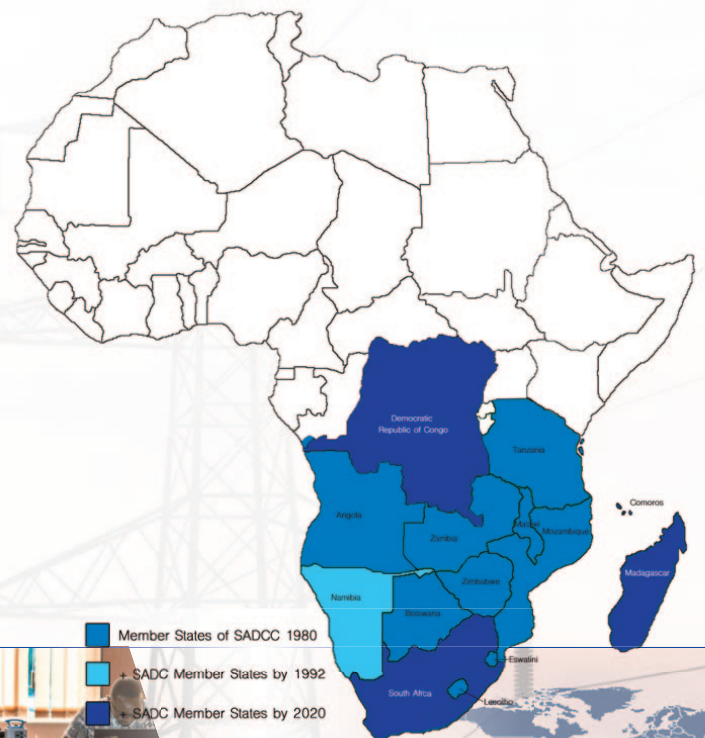
All Member States (except Comoros) are participating in the SADC-RTGS and a total of 85 banks (central banks and commercial banks) are also participating in the system. The SADC-RTGS has performed impressively since it went live, with more than 1.7 million transactions settled as at end of March 2020, representing ZAR 6.87 trillion.

Transboundary cooperation in water and other natural resources

Cooperation has improved transboundary cooperation and management in the region, thereby reducing conflicts over shared resources. Examples of such cooperation include the establishment of river basin organizations and transfrontier conservation areas across the region.

Promotion of gender equality and equity

Through various legal instruments and programmes adopted, the region has witnessed a general improvement in the status of both women and men. This includes a general increase in the participation of women in decision-making positions. □



COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite adopts harmonised trade

by Innocent Gore

THE SPIKE in COVID-19 cases across southern Africa and other parts of Africa has necessitated a change in the way business is conducted in the region and the rest of the continent.

Figures from the World Health Organisation show that the number of cumulative COVID-19 cases within the SADC region has increased rapidly since March when the first cases were reported.

In response to the rising number of cases, the Tripartite region involving the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and SADC has adopted common guidelines to govern the movement of persons and goods across the three Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The Harmonised Guidelines for Movement of Persons, Goods and Services across the Tripartite Region during the COVID-19 Pandemic, which were adopted by the Tripartite Taskforce Meeting on 29 July, aim to contain the spread of coronavirus while facilitating trade and movement of goods and services within the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA).

The TFTA stretches from Cape Town to Cairo, creating an integrated market with a combined population of almost 600 million people and a total gross domestic product of about US\$1 trillion.

The guidelines aim to safeguard the existing trading arrangements between the three RECs, with a view to minimising disruptions to crossborder trade in goods and services while striking a balance between public health and the

need to sustain national economies, livelihoods of citizens and food security.

They seek to ensure the smooth and uninterrupted movement of goods and services during the COVID-19 pandemic by balancing, aligning, harmonizing and coordinating COVID-19 response measures with the requirements for trade and transport facilitation.

In addition, the guidelines aim to facilitate and encourage local production and trading in essential goods and services within the Tripartite region during the pandemic.

To increase their availability within the territories represented by the three RECs, the following goods and services would be allowed, subject to national legislation, to flow between member states while observing public health measures on safe trade:

- ❖ Food, agricultural inputs and supplies, perishable products and veterinary supplies;
- ❖ Medical equipment and medicines, including hospital supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- ❖ Cleaning and hygiene products such as face masks, face shields, hand sanitizers, disinfectants, soap, alcohol for industrial use, household cleaning products and personal toiletries;
- ❖ Chemicals, packaging, equipment, spares, maintenance materials, raw materials and ancillary products used in the production and processing of food products, medicines and other essential goods and services;
- ❖ Security, emergency and humanitarian relief services, and
- ❖ Fuel, including coal and gas.

Other goods and services that a member state considers as critical during the COVID-19 pandemic would also be allowed to move freely within the Tripartite area.

Member states would be required to conduct regular screening and testing of truck drivers and frontline personnel at border crossings, as well as to ensure that there are adequate PPEs and other medical supplies and equipment at the entry points.

Transport operators are required to ensure there is a maximum of three-person crews per truck and that no passengers are carried in their trucks.

The guidelines stipulate screening and testing of all drivers and pilots as well as their crew before departure at designated/accredited testing facilities in order to ensure continued safe movement of goods and services in the region while observing the WHO recommended measures.



facilitation guidelines

Should a driver or crew member test positive or show signs or symptoms of COVID-19, the truck would be disinfected before it is allowed to continue to its final destination, and the driver or crew member must be referred to a treatment centre at the transport operator's cost (unless the costs are waived by the host Member State).

The driver or crew would be isolated at the government designated facilities at the operator's cost.

As part of the measures, the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite is considering introducing an electronic surveillance monitoring system for management of cross-border trips and monitoring of driver wellness, including medical test results and contact tracing for communicable diseases such as COVID-19.

The guidelines also call upon member states to urgently establish a Tripartite Regional Transport and Trade Facilitation Committee comprising experts in transport and trade facilitation and logistics, customs, immigration, public health and security.

The committee would assist and coordinate efforts by countries and corridor groups to implement the provisions of the harmonized guidelines during COVID-19 pandemic.

In his remarks at the opening of the Tripartite Council of Ministers meeting, Egyptian Assistant Minister for Foreign Trade, Agreements and International Relations Tarek Shalaby said the harmonisation of guidelines presented an opportunity towards the realisation of the TFTA, which was signed by the Tripartite Heads of State and Government in June, 2015.

Shalaby said there is need for collective action among all member states to promote intra-regional trade, while reducing the cost of goods and services within the Tripartite area.

He added that the attainment of tripartite and continental integration can only be realised with the harmonisation of regional initiatives and overcoming the challenges of overlapping and multiple membership of COMESA, EAC and SADC.

Chairperson of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Task Force and SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax concurred, noting that the overlapping nature of membership

and sharing of traffic among the three RECs have necessitated the urgent need for harmonised guidelines.

Dr Tax noted that mobility restrictions that have been imposed by member states to contain COVID-19 have affected regional trade and transport, and resulted in shortage of goods, and long queues at ports of entry and exit, translating into increased cost of doing business and consumer prices. □

Strengthening financial mechanisms to facilitate trade

THERE IS need for SADC to create a conducive business environment to attract investment in the region.

This was one of the resolutions made at a recent meeting of the SADC Ministers of Finance and Investment and the SADC Peer Review Panel held on 15 June.

Tanzanian Minister of State Union and Environment, Mussa Zungu said attracting investment in the SADC region remains the region's common aspiration.

He said the region can create a conducive business and investment climate through the harmonization of regional investment frameworks and policies including Bilateral Investment Treaties (BIT) model will generate unprecedented benefits to Member States.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax commended SADC Member States for the progress made in the implementation of the

SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment which aims to foster harmonization of the financial and investment policies in the region.

She said the harmonisation of the regional payments and clearing systems through the SADC Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) is one of the major milestones made in transforming payments and clearing systems in the region.

As such, it is critical for the region to introduce all regional currencies to the SADC-RTGS multi-currency platform which has already facilitated the settlement of 1.7 million transactions, translating into ZAR6.87 trillion since July 2013 when it was launched.

Currently, the settlement currency for the regional payment system is the South African Rand.

The ministers also noted progress on the implementation of the SADC Regional Development Fund, a facility through

which Member States will mobilize development resources as a group.

To ensure the full implementation of the Fund, the meeting urged Member States that have not yet signed and ratified the Agreement on the Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Development Fund to do so expeditiously.

The meeting also considered progress on the development of the Regional Transmission Infrastructure Financing Facility, which is aimed at enabling SADC Member States maximize the benefits from the regional electricity trade.

In order to expedite the finalization of the enabling measures for RTIFF viability, the Ministers directed the Secretariat to continue engagement with the International Cooperating Partners and the regional organisations in the energy sector in mobilizing concessional funding. sadc.int □



SADC seized with resolving DRC-Zambia border dispute

by Innocent Gore

THERE IS a close nexus between peace and security and economic development for there cannot be peace and security without development, and vice versa.

Cognisant of this important linkage, SADC has prioritized the maintenance of peace and security as a prerequisite for its overall regional integration agenda.

It is for this reason that Pillar C on Peace and Security anchors the other three priority pillars in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which is the development blueprint for SADC.

Using mediation and other forms of conflict resolution, SADC has over the years been able to intervene in potentially destructive conflicts between and among Member States.

One of those conflicts is that one involving the border dispute between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia.

SADC deployed a team of technical experts in July to investigate the dispute. The team is expected to submit a detailed report to the chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.

The report is expected to be part of the agenda of the virtual Organ Troika summit scheduled for 15 August. The Organ Troika comprises Zimbabwe as chairperson, Botswana as incoming (deputy) chairperson and Zambia as immediate past chairperson.

The Technical Experts Border Issue Team Mission was deployed following a clash of security forces on the DRC-Zambia border in the Lake Tanganyika and Lake Mweru/Mwero region in March this year.

The mission was led by a representative of the chairperson of

the Organ and comprised experts from Botswana, DRC, Zambia and Zimbabwe, supported by the SADC Secretariat.

The mission was constituted after the two countries in May sent special envoys to President Mnangagwa, seeking mediation to resolve their long-standing border dispute.

The Organ chairperson then directed SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, to facilitate the deployment of the team of technical experts to conduct a mission to the affected border areas.

The team was deployed on 23 July at Chibanga, Kibanga, Kalubamba, Musosa, Luchinda and Pweto towns along the border of the two countries.

SADC said the objective of the mission was "to conduct sensitization campaigns for various target groups in order to secure full cooperation of the local population, facilitate the adoption of common system for determination of the border coordinates, and a phased approach for the border demarcation and identification of key reference beacons along the border."

The neighbouring countries were locked in a bitter wrangle for nearly two months this year

over the control of a territory along the border.

The dispute erupted when the DRC accused Zambia of moving to occupy part of its territory in Moba region.

The Congolese government resultantly beefed up its military presence in the area, leading to clashes between soldiers from the two countries, and sparking fears of conflict.

The DRC-Zambia border dispute dates back to the colonial era and has flared on and off since the British and the Belgians divided up Zambia and the DRC for themselves.

Zambia's northern border was legally signed in the Anglo-Belgian Treaty of 1894, long after the 1884 Berlin Conference.

This showed that the triangle of land at the north-western point of eastern Zambia from Pweto to as far south as the Luchinda River was under Zambia although the Belgian colonisers in the Congo had administered the area for many years as a matter of local convenience under a gentleman's agreement.

There was an attempt to settle the issue in 1989 when a treaty was signed between former Presidents Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Mobutu Sese

Seko of DRC when beacons were placed along the border.

The treaty has, however, not been very effective as evidenced by the frequent disputes.

The DRC and Zambia have had misunderstandings over a part of their common 1,600km border, the latest arising from a late 1980s attempt to demarcate the frontier with beacons.

The DRC-Zambia issue is not the first time that SADC has been approached to discuss border disputes between two Member States.

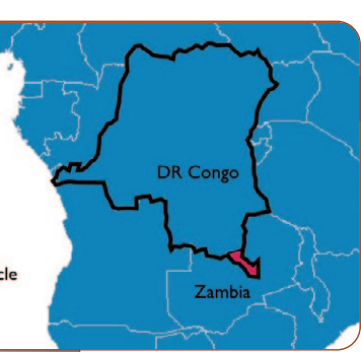
In the 1990s, the regional organisation was asked to intervene in a dispute between Botswana and Namibia over ownership and control of Kasikili/Sedudu Island on the Chobe River, which forms part of their border.

The matter was subsequently referred to the International Court of Justice, with the court ruling in 1999 that the island belonged to Botswana.



Congo Pedia





These and other mediation efforts are part of the quest by SADC to resolve disputes amicably among the 16 Member States and create conducive conditions for deeper regional co-operation and integration.

This is provided for in the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Defence, Politics and Security (SIPO) whose objective is to create a peaceful and stable political and security environment through which the region will realise its objectives of socio-economic development, poverty eradication, and regional integration.

SIPO is key in the implementation of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

This Protocol is based on the over-arching objectives and Common Agenda of SADC as stated in Article 5 of the SADC Treaty, and is directly linked to the RISDP.

Essentially, in planning for development in the SADC region, policy makers must consider that an enabling environment of peace and security is required for regional integration and development to take place.

Economic growth and development cannot be realised in conditions of political intolerance, security and absence of the rule of law. *sardc.net* □



Red flag over proposed DRC brigade reconfiguration

by Innocent Gore

SADC HAS expressed concern at the unilateral decision by the United Nations to reconfigure the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) in the Democratic Republic of Congo so as to include non-SADC countries.

The United Nations Security Council last year adopted Resolution 2502 to reconfigure the FIB, which falls under the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) mandate.

The resolution also extended the mandate of MONUSCO by another year to 20 December 2020.

However, in implementing the new mandate, the UN has indicated its intention to undertake a reconfiguration of FIB by replacing some of the SADC troops with those from non-SADC countries, a move that has not gone down well with the region.

The FIB is a part of MONUSCO, but is the first UN peacekeeping operation specifically tasked with carrying out targeted offensive operations to "neutralize and disarm" groups considered a threat to state authority and civilian security in DRC.

At its formation in 2013, its main target was the M23 militia group and other Congolese and foreign rebel groups.

It works closed with the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) to disarm rebel groups.

The concern by SADC is that the inclusion of non-SADC troops in the FIB could undermine the operational effectiveness of the brigade and unity of command.

There are concerns in the region that the UN appears determined to proceed with the

reconfiguration without taking into account the concerns by SADC.

The SADC Troika of the Organ on Defence, Politics and Security Cooperation convened a virtual summit on 5 August to deliberate on this issue and called on the UN to reconsider its position.

Organ Chairperson, Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa chaired the virtual summit, which was attended by President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana (incoming chairperson of the Organ), Zambian President Edgar Lungu (immediate past Organ chairperson) and DRC President Felix Tshisekedi.

The summit was also attended by the leaders of the SADC Member States that have contributed troops to the FIB, namely President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi and United Republic of Tanzania Foreign Minister Prof. John Kabudi who represented President Dr John Magufuli.

SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax also attended the summit.

The meeting reiterated SADC's position that the FIB should not be tampered with, with President Mnangagwa noting that the stability of DRC remained a matter of great concern for the region.

"The SADC region stands ready to continue the engagement with the UN under the framework of the UN-SADC Joint Task Team towards a mutually agreed strategy for strengthening the FIB-MONUSCO efforts in the DRC," Mnangagwa said.

Dr Tax added that SADC has consistently emphasized that the FIB should not be tampered with, but should rather be strengthened to enhance its combat capabilities.

She said in its engagements with the UN, SADC has on a number of occasions presented its concern that the inclusion of non-SADC troops in the FIB had the potential of undermining the brigade.

"This notwithstanding, it appears that the United Nations is determined to proceed with the reconfiguration without taking into account SADC's position," she said.

Dr Tax hoped that the outcome of the Troika Summit would strengthen SADC's position and enable the region to move in cohesion and find effective ways of implementing the UN Security Council's Resolution 2502 and participating in the forthcoming review of the MONUSCO mandate in December 2020.

In a communique released at the end of the summit, the SADC leaders, while commending the FIB and the countries that have contributed troops to the force to fight "negative forces" in the DRC, called upon the UN Secretary General to convene a consultative meeting with SADC to engage on the region's position on the reconfiguration of the FIB. □





Managing marine litter in southern Africa

by Admire Ndhlovu

MARINE LITTER is posing a serious risk to ecosystems, human health, tourism and fisheries, and southern Africa is making efforts to address the challenge.

The litter consists largely of plastic waste discarded into rivers and beaches, which then enters the ocean through storm water runoff or directly discharged at sea from ships.

An estimated eight million metric tonnes of plastic is at present estimated to end up in oceans every year, according to UN Environment Programme.

Plastic has a lifespan of approximately 450 years and never fully degrades but rather shrinks into smaller pieces of plastic called microplastics.

Global figures show that production of plastic is expected to double over coming decades, with envisaged severe impacts across ecosystems and societies.

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to further exacerbate the scourge of plastic pollution as the production of hand sanitisers, face masks and other personal protective equipment involves the use of plastic.

According to the United Nations Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution, it is estimated that land-based sources account for up to 80 percent of the world's marine pollution, with 60 to 95 percent of the waste being plastic debris.

A major producer of plastics in southern Africa is South Africa, where only 25 percent of waste is recycled, according to the *Plastics Material Flow and End of Life Management in South Africa report*.

As a result, it is estimated that as much as 250,000 tonnes of plastic enter the sea as marine litter every year making the country one of the top ocean polluters globally, as noted in a 2015 study on land to ocean plastic discharge.

In the United Republic of Tanzania capital Dar es Salaam, the amount of plastic in the total municipal waste composition increased from 16 percent in 2012 to 22 percent in 2014. This was primarily due to an increase in beverage bottles, packaging of food stuffs and plastic bags used by vendors.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo capital Kinshasa generates an average solid waste of around 1.2 kilograms per person per day, making the city one of the highest waste producers in the region.

Other major cities in the region have comparable figures.

To address the challenge, SADC Member States are strengthening laws and building capacity for management of marine litter.

South Africa in 2019 embarked on a review of the effectiveness of its plastic bag policies to assess implementation gaps and identify possible areas of improvement and

new options, including a possible ban on single use plastic bags.

Tanzania enacted Plastic Bags Prohibition Regulations in June 2019 that prohibit import, export, manufacture, sell, storage, supply and use of all plastic carrier bags, regardless of thickness. The ban only exempts plastic packaging for medical services, industrial products, construction industry, agricultural sector, food-stuffs, and sanitary and waste management.

The country has also increased recycling efforts in the last five years. A recently formed Tanzania Recyclers Association is promoting growth of the plastic recycling industry and the use of eco-friendly packaging and bags.

Member States are at various stages participating in global efforts to curb marine litter.

Seven SADC Member States, namely Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and Tanzania, participate in the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of Coastal and Marine Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

The convention, first signed in 1985 and entered into force in 1996, covers 10 African countries extending from Somalia in the north to South Africa in the south.

Through its Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of

the WIO from land-based sources and activities, the convention provides the legal framework where contracting parties work together towards the protection of the rivers, coasts and oceans of the region.

Angola, Namibia and South Africa are parties to the Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa region.

The convention provides an important framework through which national policy makers and resource managers implement measures for the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the West and Central African region.

At global level, other commitments include the resolution of the third UN Environment Assembly meeting in December 2017 that called for an increase in activities to prevent marine litter and microplastics.

Beyond the aesthetic impact, marine litter bears potential economic implications to maritime activities, such as fisheries and the aquaculture sectors.

The slow rate of degradation of marine litter items and the continuously growing quantity of the litter and debris disposed are, therefore, leading to a gradual increase in plastic found at sea and on the shores. sardc.net □

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August 17, Virtual	40th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government SADC leaders meet annually in August to discuss issues aimed at promoting regional integration and development. The summit is preceded by meetings of senior officials and Council of Ministers. Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi will take over the SADC chair from his Tanzanian counterpart, President John Magufuli in the first virtual SADC Summit.
25-27, Virtual	Digital Africa Conference and Exhibition This is Africa's premier consumer technology show and is held annually to provide a platform for participants to engage in diverse technical and innovation discussions, and showcase their brands.
26-28, Virtual	Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum Climate experts from SADC Member States meet to review the regional climate outlook, using indicators of seasonal rainfall to produce a regional forecast for the 2019/20 rainfall season.
September 1-3, Virtual	55th SAPP Management Committee Meetings The meeting brings together leaders of power utilities and government representatives in the 12 member states of the Southern African Power Pool to discuss key management issues related to the regional electricity grid and regional power supply.
TBA, Virtual	SADC Joint Energy and Water Ministers' Meetings The SADC Energy and Water Ministers will meet to review the regional water and energy programme. The meeting presents an opportunity for Member States to share progress on the implementation of regional commitments.
15-30, United Nations	75th Session of the UN General Assembly The General Debate of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly takes place at UN headquarters in New York. The General Assembly is preceded by a series of meetings. The General Assembly is the main representative and policy-making organ of the United Nations.
October TBA, Botswana	SADC ETG Meeting The Energy Thematic Group (ETG) is a coordination meeting of SADC and its subsidiary organizations with cooperating partners and experts to review the energy situation in the region. The meeting could take place via video conference should current travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic remain in force.
TBA, Botswana	SADC Water Strategic Reference Group Meeting The SADC Water Strategic Reference Group (WSRG) will meet in Botswana or via video conference if travel restrictions remain. The WSRG is a forum for stakeholder collaboration in water sector development and conservation in southern Africa.
28, Tanzania	General Elections, United Republic of Tanzania Tanzania will hold presidential, legislative and local government elections on 28 October. The last elections were held in October 2015.
28-30, Zimbabwe	Final AfriAlliance Conference The conference to be held at Victoria Falls is part of the 21st WaterNet Symposium and will draw from the experiences of the entire AfriAlliance project to showcase innovations to meet the needs of African stakeholders, encourage mainstreaming of innovation in water and climate governance and through appropriate financing mechanisms. The meeting is expected to identify communication and coordination mechanisms to strengthen engagement between Africa and Europe for water and climate.
29-30, Virtual	IWRA Online Conference The International Water Resources Association is organising an online conference to address the challenges and priorities on climate-change resilience in the management of groundwater resources, including the exchange of scientific and policy knowledge, and will contribute to discussions and activities in the framework of COP26 in 2021, and UN Water's theme in 2022 dedicated to groundwater.



SADC@40

SADCC ➡ SADC

THE SIGNING of the SADC Treaty on 17 August 1992 transformed the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) into the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The SADCC was established on 1 April 1980 by the leaders of nine independent countries in southern Africa meeting in Lusaka, Zambia. These nine founding members of SADCC were Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, which was preparing for independence two weeks later on 18 April.

SADCC was formed to coordinate and integrate the economies of the member states to strengthen economic development and reduce dependence, particularly but not only on the then apartheid South Africa.

The Lusaka Declaration approved at the founding Summit was titled *Southern Africa: Toward Economic Liberation*.

By 1992, the SADCC had grown to 10 Member States with the addition of Namibia, which had won independence in 1990.

The historic decision by the SADCC Heads of State and Government meeting in Windhoek, Namibia on 17 August 1992, Namibia to sign a Declaration and Treaty establishing the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is now celebrated in the region as the SADC Day.

SADC Day commemorates the signing of the SADC Treaty, a shift from coordination of development projects to a more regional assignment of integrating the economies of Member States.

In his SADC Day message for 17 August 2020, the outgoing Chairperson of SADC, President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania said,

"Our region is now, more than ever, enjoying unparalleled peace and security compared to any other regions on the continent; intra-regional trade is increasing, extreme poverty is declining, income is rising and the level of our international competitiveness has been enhanced."

He emphasised the need to honour the founding fathers and work together as a region to address the spread of the coronavirus that causes the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

"I call upon all SADC Member States to continue to work together not only in addressing the COVID-19 impacts but also in preparing the post-pandemic situation of our Community. This, I believe, would be a nobler way to celebrate this SADC Day."

President Magufuli leaves the post of SADC chair in August, handing over to the Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi who will run his term under the theme "SADC: 40 Years Building Peace and Security, Promoting Development and Resilience to Face Global Challenges".

The commemoration of SADC Day 17 August usually coincides with the annual SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, and this year marks the 40th anniversary since the formation of SADCC in 1980.

The SADC Day encourages the region and its citizens to reflect on the progress made in the implementation of the SADC regional integration agenda and the region's future.

Many milestones have been achieved in advancing regional integration and economic development, infrastructure development, trade and industry, and peace and security, among many other areas of regional cooperation.

The notable recent achievements include the signing of the Protocol on Industry by 12 Member States, following its approval by Summit in August 2019, and the commissioning of a total of 3,595 Megawatts of new electricity to the regional grid.

The SADC region continues to drive economic development as one of the building blocks of the African Economic Community, inspired by a common history and socio-economic ties across the region. □



Late President Mkapa... in the footsteps of Mwalimu

Tanzania's founding President Julius Kambarage Nyerere (left) in the 1970s with his Minister of Foreign Affairs, Benjamin William Mkapa, later the 3rd President of the United Republic of Tanzania (1995-2005). President Mkapa continued the national ethic, the common vision, and the values which form the bedrock of Tanzanian society. "Mwalimu Julius Nyerere was undoubtedly the greatest influence on my personal growth as a leader and on my career," Mkapa said in his memoirs. "I definitely owe an immense debt to Mwalimu for teaching me the importance of listening." President Mkapa, who passed away in Dar es Salaam on 24 July, was a passionate supporter of regional integration, and his voice will be missed throughout the region. Like Mwalimu, he taught others the importance of listening and the value of unity.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

August - October 2020

1 August	Ide el Kabir Holiday	Comoros
	Parents Day	DRC
3 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
8 August	Nane Nane Peasant Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
10 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
11 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Seychelles
20 August	Muharram	Comoros
17 August	SADC Day*	All
22 August	Ganesh Chaturthi	Mauritius
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia
31 August	Umhlanga Reed Dance**	Eswatini
7 September	Independence Day / Somhlolo Day	Eswatini
	Victory Day	Mozambique
17 September	National Heroes Day	Angola
24 September	Heritage Day	South Africa
25 September	Armed Forces Day	Mozambique
30 September	Botswana Day	Botswana
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
	Peace and National Reconciliation Day	Mozambique
14 October	Mwalimu Nyerere Day	Tanzania
15 October	Mother's Day	Malawi
18 October	National Day of Prayer	Zambia
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia
29 October	The Prophet's Birthday	Comoros
	Maulid Day	Tanzania

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

**Umhlanga Reed Dance cancelled 2020 due to COVID-19