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2013

Eventful year for southern Africa

by Joseph Ngwawi

THE CURTAIN comes down on yet another eventful year for southern Africa in which the region scored some major successes in terms of its regional integration agenda and consolidation of elusive political stability.

It was a year in which SADC embarked on the process of recalibrating its integration targets as part of efforts to realign the region's development agenda with emerging global dynamics.

This included the review of its 15-year development blueprint – the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) – to ensure that the targets are realistic and more manageable.

An independent review process of the RISDP was completed during the year, with the final draft report of the consultants tabled at the 33rd Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held in Lilongwe, Malawi in August.

The review process is ongoing and is expected to be completed in 2014.

According to the independent mid-term review done so far by Trade and Development Studies (Trades) Centre of Zimbabwe, there is need for a revision of most SADC targets and protocols to align them with the new challenges

and emerging issues affecting regional integration.

SADC Member States have signed 27 protocols and a number of declarations, charters and memoranda of understanding on various matters, ranging from trade, mining and finance and investment to illicit drugs, forestry and shared water-courses.

Most of the 27 protocols have been ratified and entered into force. It was noted that this process does not have a roadmap to enable a systematic approach to implementation of protocols at both regional and national levels.

Most of the protocols do not have obligations but principles, making it difficult to enforce the instruments. In cases where obligations are clear, they are not measurable, unrealistic and unattainable and do not have time frames.

Another area of the regional integration agenda that requires attention is the implementation mechanisms and coordination, notably the non-functional SADC National Committees and the absence of a platform for policy engagement between the SADC Secretariat and non-state actors such as regional think tanks, the private sector and non-governmental organisations.



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2013 Eventful year for southern Africa

The findings of the RISDP mid-term review were presented during a validation workshop held in Johannesburg, South Africa in July where a roadmap was agreed for the process of completing the review.

The roadmap is expected to lead to the final submission of a revised blueprint to the 34th SADC Summit scheduled for Zimbabwe in August 2014.

A multi-stakeholder task force, including representatives of the SADC Secretariat, Member States and non-state actors, was formed to implement recommendations of the independent review team.

Malawian President Joyce Banda assumed the rotating SADC chair from President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique during the Summit in Lilongwe.

She set poverty alleviation as the top priority of her tenure, promising to champion policies and programmes to improve the agricultural and rural sectors.

Promising to bring SADC "closer to the people," Banda said she would target ending "the contemporary, deliberate and savage violence of poverty and underdevelopment" during the coming year.

"To win this war ...we must promote inclusive politics. In this, we cannot afford to leave the youth behind. We cannot afford to leave women behind. We cannot afford to leave the poor to look after the poor," Banda said in her acceptance speech.

She promised to push for innovative agricultural policies and programmes such as effective extension services and affordable inputs which have the capacity to promote rural development and boost food security.

The theme for her tenure is "Agricultural Development

and Agro-Industries: Key to Economic Growth and Poverty Eradication."

Another major milestone achieved during the year was the completion of the leadership transition at the SADC Secretariat in Botswana, with a new team now in place to steer the regional integration agenda.

The new SADC Secretariat leadership is headed by Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena L. Tax from the United Republic of Tanzania who will be deputized by Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo of South Africa and Emilie Ayaza Mushobekwa of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Dr Tax was appointed and sworn-in as executive secretary during Summit in Malawi, replacing Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão of Mozambique who had served his maximum two four-year terms.

Prior to her appointment as SADC executive secretary, she was permanent secretary in the Tanzanian Ministry of East African Cooperation since 2008.

Dr Mhlongo was appointed new deputy executive secretary responsible for regional integration during an Extra Ordinary Meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers held in late October in Lilongwe.

He replaced Angolan engineer João Caholo whose term ended in October after serving the SADC Secretariat for the maximum eight years set for those in top leadership positions.

Another major event during the year was the SADC Regional Infrastructure Investment Conference held in Mozambique in June.

Southern Africa presented its multi-billion-dollar infrastructure development plan to potential funders.

These projects are contained in the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan – a 15-year blueprint that will guide the implementation of cross-border infrastructure projects between 2013 and 2027.

With regard to the political situation in the region, southern Africa witnessed positive developments in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

These included the signing of a peace agreement by the DRC government and rebels who have waged an insurgency in the east of the country since 2012.

DRC slid into political turmoil early last year when anti-government rebels calling themselves the March 23 movement invaded and captured the city of Goma, causing displacement of people and loss of lives and property.

The year 2013 witnessed the successful conclusion of SADC-mediated political negotiations in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabweans voted for a new Constitution in a referendum held in March, a landmark development that shaped the destiny of the country.

The adoption of the new Constitution paved the way for the holding of harmonized elections in Zimbabwe, later held in July, which were endorsed as peaceful and credible by a 573-member SADC observer mission.

Following years of SADC mediation, Madagascar held the first round of presidential elections in October that did not produce an outright winner and resulted in a run-off on 20 December.

Former Health Minister Jean-Louis Robinson and ex-Finance Minister Hery Rajaonarimampianina led first

round presidential polls with 21 and 16 percent of the vote, respectively, but failed to win sufficient votes for an outright majority.

The winner will replace Andry Rajoelina, a former disc jockey who ousted former president, Marc Ravalomanana in a military-backed coup in 2009.

The year 2013 also witnessed the coming into force of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development following ratification by the requisite two-thirds majority of the Member States.

The objectives of the Protocol are to provide for the empowerment of women, eliminate discrimination, and achieve gender equality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

The targets include, among others, the achievement of 50 percent representation by women and men in politics and decision-making by 2015, in line with the decision of the African Union.

With the busy year now behind it, SADC can now look to yet another potentially dramatic year 2014, the last year of stock taking on social and economic gains before the UN-initiated Millennium Development Goals deadline in 2015. r



Region edges closer to conclusion of policy review

SADC IS edging closer to finalising the process to recalibrate its integration agenda in line with global dynamics and various emerging issues that influence its development trajectory.

The region has embarked on the final stages of a process started in 2011 to review the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), its 15-year development blueprint.

Following a recommendation by the Council of Ministers, the SADC Secretariat has established a task force comprising representatives from the Secretariat, all Member States, and relevant key stakeholders.

The multi-stakeholder task force is expected to implement recommendations of an independent review of the RISDP that was concluded this year. Specifically, the task force is required to propose new priorities, main focal areas, milestones, outputs, targets and timeframes for the remainder of the implementation period of the RISDP.

The task force will consider and recommend any other strategies and implementation frameworks that may enhance the implementation of the RISDP; and suggest new policy, strategy, and institutional innovations for the post-2018 period after completion of the development plan.

The team is expected to prepare a summary of key recommendations and priorities for completion of the RISDP and present these to Council for deliberation and endorsement by August 2014.

The task force is expected to commence work in January 2014 and conclude its assignment by June of the same year.

The review of the RISDP follows a similar revision of another key SADC blueprint, the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, popularly referred to as SIPO.

Launched in the United Republic of Tanzania in November 2012, the Revised SIPO is intended to address some of the new challenges facing the region, Africa and the world. It outlines interventions for regional peace and security covering five sectors – political, defence, state security, public security and police.

The first SIPO identifying strategies and activities was adopted in 2003 for implementation over five years. Discussions on revision of the plan began in 2007.

The revision of the SIPO was necessitated by challenges resulting from geopolitics and global dynamics, but also from inadequate coordination mechanisms and a

shortage of human and financial resources for appropriate implementation.

Among the new challenges cited are piracy, climate change, human trafficking, illegal immigration and economic recession.

Specific challenges, in addition to poverty, are the deteriorating situation in the Great Lakes Region, notably the con-

flict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The SIPO is to be reviewed at five-year intervals to ensure adequate response to the changing geopolitical environment, and relevance of objectives, strategies and activities in various sectors, as well as to strengthen monitoring mechanisms, human resources and structures. r

SADC-ICP partnership reviewed

SADC AND its International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) have reviewed a 2006 pact that sets out the framework for their cooperation.

The Windhoek Declaration on a New Partnership between SADC and the ICPs, signed by the two sides in the Namibian capital in April 2006, recommended, among others, the designing of effective dialogue between the two sides.

The Declaration called for the establishment of thematic groups as a platform to give attention to specific priorities in SADC on a sector basis. It was envisaged that the thematic groups would provide an opportunity to pool resources towards the realization of the main SADC priorities.

However, a review of the Windhoek Declaration initiated by SADC and the European Union in 2012 recommended the strengthening of SADC-ICP dialogue platform to facilitate enhanced and more strategic dialogue, while adhering to the priorities and interests of SADC and the ICPs.

The review recommended that all SADC sectoral thematic groups should have clear terms of reference and action plans.

The review noted that given the growing number of initiatives targeting the various sectors, thematic groups faced challenges of ensuring effective coordination and consolidation of efforts by ICPs towards the common agenda.

Four main issues were singled out as being particularly important in making the partnership commitments effective. These included:

- ensuring that SADC has ownership and leadership of donor-funded initiatives and that ICPs better align their interventions to SADC medium-term strategies and corporate plans;
- need to strengthen linkages between regional and member state development strategies, and better alignment between national and regional efforts to address the priorities;
- need to strengthen the quality and sustainability of the dialogue structures between SADC and its ICPs; and
- SADC-ICPs' partnership strategy should integrate other dialogue frameworks between the two sides based on bilateral engagement and global and continental consensus and position. r

Functions of RISDP review task force

THE MAIN functions of the task force are to:

- Review the recommendations of the desk assessment and the mid-term review of the RISDP;
- Formulate the “Final Revised RISDP (2014-2018) Report”, which will be submitted to Council for further guidance at its meeting in August 2014;
- Consolidate inputs from cluster meetings, consider the priorities for the remainder of the RISDP, and develop a strategy for implementation of the development blueprint for the period 2014 to 2018. r



Tripartite FTA: A dream soon to become reality

by Kizito Sikuka

THREE REGIONAL economic communities in Africa are expected to sign an agreement in 2014 to establish an enlarged market covering 26 countries in eastern and southern Africa.

The “grand” or Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA), with a combined population of some 600 million people and a Gross Domestic Product of about US\$1 trillion, covers half of the member states of the African Union and is intended to boost intra-regional trade, increase investment, and promote the development of cross-regional infrastructure.

The target was set just five years ago by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and SADC.

Since the historic Tripartite Summit in October 2008 in Kampala, Uganda, COMESA-EAC-SADC have made signifi-

cant progress towards realizing this dream of opening up borders to literally half of the continent, spanning the entire southern and eastern regions of Africa – from Cape to Cairo.

Chairperson of the Tripartite Task Force, Dr Richard Sezibera has indicated that negotiations are progressing according to the agreed timeframe, and that consultations will be concluded soon, paving the way for the launch of the Tripartite FTA.

“Considerable progress has been made and negotiations have intensified to ensure that we clinch the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement by June 2014,” Sezibera, who is also the EAC Secretary General, said at a tripartite meeting held in November in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania.

His counterparts, Dr Stergomena Tax of SADC and Dr Sindiso Ngwenya of COMESA have pledged to make the tripartite negotiations a success.

The on-going negotiations involving COMESA-EAC-SADC are being followed keenly by the AU as other regions want to learn from this experience.

Africa’s longstanding vision since 1963 at the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the AU, is to have a united and integrated region.

Under the African Economic Community Treaty signed in 1991, Africa aims to establish a continent-wide free trade area, and regional trade arrangements such as the Tripartite FTA are regarded as the building blocks.

Once operational, the Tripartite FTA will become a new benchmark for deeper regional and continental integration in Africa.



Standardised procedures for goods across the SADC region boost intra-regional trade

According to a roadmap adopted in June 2011, negotiations for the Tripartite FTA are to be conducted in three phases – preparatory phase, phase one and phase two.

To date, the Tripartite Trade Negotiation Forum (TTNF) has completed the preparatory phase which involved the exchange of relevant information, including applied national tariffs and trade data and measures.

It was aimed at ensuring the adoption of the terms of reference and rules of procedure for the establishment of the TTNF. This phase began in December 2011 and lasted about 12 months.

The tripartite negotiations are now concluding phase one, which covers core FTA issues of tariff liberalization, rules of origin, customs procedures and simplification of customs documentation, transit procedures, non-tariff barriers, trade remedies and other technical barriers to trade and dispute resolution.

Facilitating movement of business persons within the region is being negotiated parallel with the first phase.

The last stage of negotiations is expected to start soon and will cover trade in services and trade-related issues such as intellectual property rights, competition policy, and trade development and competitiveness.

According to the roadmap, all negotiations should be completed within 36 months. Thereafter, COMESA-EAC-SADC will launch a single FTA by 2016, building on the FTAs that are already in place. The ultimate launch of the enlarged

FTA will result in the three sub-regions coalescing into a single FTA with the goal of establishing a single Customs Union in the near future. r

Towards smooth movement of goods across SADC



SADC HAS set targets for the review and implementation of the regional transit procedures for goods as well as the establishment of data exchange and interconnectivity among customs authorities.

Member States are expected to complete the review and implementation of the SADC Transit Management System by July 2014.

The Transit Management System was developed by SADC as an instrument to harmonize and standardize procedures for goods in transit across the region to boost intra-regional trade.

However, due to various challenges such as poor technological infrastructure, most countries are not using the system, hence the need to review it.

The establishment of data exchange and interconnectivity among SADC customs administrations is expected to be completed by December 2014.

This will, among other things, ensure efficient and effective accounting for goods and revenue; simplified and efficient declaration of goods; production of reliable trade data; and better risk management and customs enforcement. r



COMESA Secretary General, Dr Sindiso Ngwenya



SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Tax



EAC Secretary-General, Dr Richard Sezibera

Construction of Kazungula Bridge to commence in 2014

by Kizito Sikuka

CONSTRUCTION OF the long-awaited Kazungula Bridge that will link Botswana and Zambia over the Zambezi River is expected to begin in March 2014.

Botswana President, Seretse Khama Ian Khama said in his State of the Nation address that completion is expected by 2018.

The Kazungula Bridge is an important transport route

for the southern African region.

The bridge is being constructed at the confluence of the Zambezi and Chobe rivers, about 65km upstream from the Victoria Falls.

The project, estimated to cost more than US\$160 million, comprises the main bridge that measures about 750m and 2,980m for the approach road.

The bridge will be unique in that it will consist of a one-

stop border post. The one-stop border initiative aims to facilitate faster trade and free movement of goods and services across borders.

Under the one-stop border post scheme, travellers are cleared once for passage into another country in contrast with the current situation where travellers have to be sanctioned on both sides of the border.

This development is expected to address issues of

delays, which are often experienced at most border posts as well as promote the smooth flow of goods through the removal of often perceived "restrictive" operational procedures at borders.

SADC approved the Kazungula Bridge project a few years ago to facilitate intra-regional trade. However, various challenges have impeded the implementation process.

For example, construction of the bridge initially involved Zimbabwe, arching over the country's territorial waters, but a new location was found after extensive consultations, a few metres upstream to Namibia.

Other challenges included the relocation of the road and rail bridge from the shorter section in Zimbabwe to upstream in Namibia, and the escalating cost of financing such a regional project.

Once completed, the bridge is expected to foster and support regional economic development and deepen integration among Member States.

It will reduce transport costs for basic commodities, and impact on other economic sectors such as tourism.

In addition, the bridge is expected to reduce pressure on southern Africa's transport system.

Ferries have been used to cross the river, causing costly delays for transporters and negatively impacting on regional trade.

Construction of the bridge is largely being funded by co-operating partners such as Japan International Cooperation Agency and the African Development Bank. However, Botswana and Zambia are required to contribute some funds towards construction. r



A pontoon ferry across the Zambezi River between Botswana and Zambia

Five SADC countries to revive Beira corridor

FIVE SADC countries have intensified efforts to revive the Beira Development Corridor in a bid to boost trade and deepen regional integration.

Initially involving Mozambique and Zimbabwe, the Beira Development Corridor has now been extended to include the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi and Zambia to ensure that benefits are shared across the region.

As part of the project, infrastructure will be developed. This includes the refurbishment of Beira port as well as the construction and repair of roads in the five partner countries.

A feasibility study for the proposed inland cargo termi-

nal has since been completed and work is expected to start soon.

A scoping study of the Sena/Machipanda railway line linking Malawi and Mozambique has also been finalized.

Zimbabwe plans to construct a new oil pipeline from Savanna in Mozambique to augment the capacity of the existing pipeline.

The new pipeline will carry about 10 million litres of fuel per day compared to the existing one, which has a carrying capacity of only 130 million litres per month.

There are plans to build a second bridge at Tete in

Mozambique. A concession agreement has already been signed for the construction of the bridge across the Zambezi downstream of the current Samora Machel Bridge in Tete.

The concession agreement includes construction of access roads. For example, rehabilitation of the Mutare-Harare-Bulawayo-Plumtree highway in Zimbabwe is almost complete.

Development of the Beira Development Corridor will also include upgrading existing border infrastructure at the Forbes Border Post between Mozambique and Zimbabwe. A one-stop border post is also earmarked at the same border. r

FACED WITH the daunting task of closing a power supply gap that has affected the region since 2007, southern Africa is taking decisive steps to guarantee energy self-sufficiency.

Several initiatives are being pursued by SADC Member States to ensure that the regional target of attaining self-sufficiency by 2019 is not missed. The region currently faces a capacity shortfall of more than 7,000 megawatts.

In this issue, *Energy in Southern Africa* highlights some of these initiatives.



Toward regional electricity supply-demand equilibrium by 2019

Grand Inga project treaty signed

SOUTH AFRICA and the Democratic Republic of Congo have signed a crucial treaty on the Grand Inga hydropower project.

This paves the way for the construction of the much-awaited hydropower station, which is expected to commence in October 2015.

The Inga project has the capacity to generate more than 40,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity, enough to meet the bulk of the power needs of the entire SADC region.

The DRC and South Africa are implementing the power project together with cooperating partners.

Initially, construction of the hydropower station was expected to involve three other SADC countries – Angola, Botswana and Namibia – in what was dubbed the Western Power Corridor (WESTCOR) project.

However, due to various challenges, the WESTCOR project failed to materialize.

Speaking during the treaty signing ceremony in October, South African President Jacob Zuma said the agreement was a major step towards the realisation of the long-cherished dream of the people of southern Africa.

“I must convey how particularly pleased and excited I am by the progress taking place towards the realisation of the

Grand Inga Hydropower Project,” he said.

“This incredible feat of human ingenuity, when completed, will have the capacity to power Africa and indeed to export electricity beyond the continent.”

He said South Africa was extremely proud to be working so closely with the DRC in realising this dream.

“This represents one of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken on the African continent, and one which will long be a resounding symbol of the rise of Africa and her people.”

The Grand Inga project will seek to harness the hydropower potential of the Congo River, one of sub-Saharan Africa's longest rivers.

“The first foundation stone” of the power station is expected to be laid in October 2015. The construction is expected to be done in different phases.

First phase will involve construction of the Inga III Low-Head, which will have a capacity of 1,800MW and does not require damming of the Congo River.

The next phase – called the Inga III High-Head – will add an additional 3,000MW and involves construction of the Grand Inga Dam.

Five other hydropower plants are expected to be built on the



Proposed Inga project to meet bulk of power needs for SADC region

same dam, eventually raising its cumulative capacity to about 40,000 MW.

When completed, the Grand Inga would surpass the Three Gorges hydroelectric project of China as the largest hydropower project in the world.

Funding for the Grand Inga project is coming from a number of investors that include the African Development Bank, World Bank, French Development Agency, European Investment Bank and Development Bank of Southern Africa. r

SADC embraces C-3E initiative



SOUTH AFRICA has been tasked to champion the SADC Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C-3E) Initiative aimed at empowering women to contribute to decision-making processes involving the uptake of renewable energy products and technologies.

The SADC C-3E Initiative is part of the global initiative launched at the first Clean Energy Ministerial Meeting held in Washington DC, United States, in July 2010.

The event brought together ministers from 20 countries and created a forum to empower women to contribute to clean energy and actively participate in the clean energy revolution.

South Africa was chosen to spearhead the initiative in Africa and already has an active C-3E programme in place.

Ministers responsible for energy and power development in SADC adopted the C-3E Initiative at their meeting in Lesotho early this year as one of the flagship projects and tasked South Africa to champion the programme in the region.



Forum empowers women to clean energy.



ENERGY AFRICA

2019



ZiZaBoNa share- holders agreement finalized

A COMMITTEE of lawyers from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia has agreed on how an electricity transmission interconnector linking the four southern African countries will be structured.

The ZiZaBoNa Lawyers Committee met in September in Windhoek, Namibia to finalise the Shareholders Agreement.

Under the agreement, the respective power utilities from the four countries will have equal shareholdings and are all expected to finance parts of the project that fall within their national boundaries.

The initial capacity of the transmission interconnector will be 300 megawatts (MW), which will later be increased to 600MW.

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

The second phase will involve the construction of a 300km 330kV line from Livingstone to Katima Mulilo in Namibia, through Pandamatenga in Botswana.

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



Crucial role for mini-grids in improving energy access

Mini-grids framework on the cards

THE REGIONAL Electricity Association of Southern Africa (RERA) is in the process of developing a framework for mini-grids to improve access to electricity in the region.

RERA chairperson Phindile Baleni told a recent meeting of the SADC Energy Thematic Group held in Botswana that technical assistance for the development of the framework started in January this year and was expected to end in December.

The SADC region faces major challenges in achieving improved access to modern energy services.

Studies show that overall household access to electricity in the region remains persistently low – as low as 14 percent in some member states. More critically, the electrification rate for rural households is as low as 3-4 percent in several countries.

It is generally agreed that grid extension alone will not suffice to meet the need for electrification.

Development of mini-grids is expected to play a significant role in improving energy access in the region. This will require the development of supportive policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

RERA with support from the SADC Secretariat has been working with the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) to develop supportive framework conditions for mini-grids employing renewable and hybrid generation in southern Africa.

The purpose of the project is to encourage development of supportive policies to enhance the framework conditions for mini-grids based on renewable or hybrid systems among SADC members.

Such policies will facilitate investment by public and private actors in mini-grids in the SADC region.

Implementation of the framework will be piloted in Namibia and Zimbabwe. r

The purpose of the C-3E initiative is to connect and inspire women to actively participate in the clean energy revolution and contribute to the creation of new technologies.

Importantly, the initiative calls for the closing of the gender gap in the education sector by promoting the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics by women and girls.

It is envisaged that the C-3E programme would enable women to advance the energy saving techniques by teaching their family members to adopt measures that save electricity consumption.

Some of the activities already being pursued in South Africa to inspire women to participate in the programme include connecting young women with peers, mentors and role models in the renewable energy field; as well as provision of scholarships or internships to pursue clean-energy-related studies. r



Women to contribute



Planet getting warmer, but lack urgency



by Egline Tauya and Neto Nengomasha

NEW GLOBAL reports on climate change have confirmed that the planet is rapidly getting warmer due to human activities, but climate negotiators have been rapped for showing little urgency.

There was not much progress at the UN climate talks held recently in Warsaw, Poland, aimed at negotiating a binding climate change agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Although the talks in early November ended with a roadmap to establish a new global treaty by 2015, there was little optimism that this would lead to real change in the dynamics as the key countries that continue to pump the so-called “greenhouse gases” into the atmosphere show little inclination to change their ways.

Rather they are offering cash to “mitigate” the impact on developing countries of the South, who bear the impact despite contributing little to the problem.

Global agreements are not so much about addressing the causes of climate change, but providing financial packages to help developing countries to “adapt” to the changes.

The language of “intentions” is used, rather than commitments, and the Reuters news agency reported from Poland that while almost 200 countries kept alive hopes for a global deal in 2015 after overcoming disputes on cuts to greenhouse gas emissions and aid for poorer nations, the meeting was “widely criticised as lacking urgency”.

Meanwhile, leading global and regional organizations have released reports saying the world is getting hotter, sea levels are rising, and there is strong evidence that neither are naturally occurring phenomena.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) says that 2013 has been one of the hottest years on record and that it is “virtually certain” that humans are driving the potentially devastating changes.

The WMO, tasked with collating global meteorological data, said in its annual statement on the Status of the Global Climate 2013, that the average global land and ocean surface temperature this year is 0.48o C higher than the average from 1961 to 1990.

The first nine months of this year were as hot as 2003, and warmer than 2011 and 2012. The two warmest years recorded to date were 1998 and 2010.

“All of the warmest years have been since 1998 and this year once again continues the underlying, long-term trend,” the WMO secretary-general said. “The coldest years now are warmer than the hottest years before 1998.”

The WMO also noted that global sea levels are at a record high and have been rising to 3.2mm a year since satellites began recording this data in 1993.

Arctic sea ice has recovered from its record low cover of 2012, but 2013 is still listed among the years when global sea ice has been at the lowest levels.

Mount Kilimanjaro in northern United Republic of Tanzania, often regarded as Africa’s barometer of climate change, has lost almost all of its famous snow cover, thus impacting severely on its ecosystem and the surrounding farming community that relies on its fresh, abundant water.

The total area covered by snow on Mt Kilimanjaro decreased by six-fold from 12 square kilometres in 1900 to two sq kms in 2000.

Evidence of climate change is starkly visible in the disappearance of glaciers on mountains near the equator in East Africa where glaciers are found on two other mountains in addition to Kilimanjaro – the Rwenzori mountains in western Uganda, and Mount Kenya in Kenya.

More than 50 percent of these glaciers have disappeared, while larger glaciers, particularly on Kilimanjaro, have been fragmented.

The anticipated five percent decrease in rainfall due to climate change will affect people and all forms of wildlife, including plants and animals, according to the last environment report issued by SADC and partners.

The *Southern Africa Environment Outlook* (SAEO) says that climate change impacts are already evident and include changes in water



at UN climate talks



availability, food insecurity, sea-level rise and the melting of snow cover.

The book says that climate change, including global warming, is well underway, with average temperatures in the region having risen by more than 0.50 C over the last century, and the 1990s deemed the warmest and driest ever. In addition, the frequency and severity of droughts and floods have increased.

With nine of SADC's 15 Member States having a total of more than 15,000 kms of coastline, the region would be severely affected by sea level rise, estimated to reach 15-95 cm by 2100. While much of the sea level rise will be due to the melting of ice cover in Greenland, mountain glaciers around the world also continue to melt.

SAEO projects crop yields to drop by as much as 10-20 percent in some parts of southern Africa as the region becomes more arid, and predicts the spread of the malaria-carrying Anopheles female mosquito to parts of Namibia and South Africa where it has not been found before.

Increasingly violent cyclones are forecast to hit the island and coastal states, especially in the Mozambique Channel. The report cautions that it is not possible to predict with any degree of certainty the exact timing, magnitude and nature of expected climate changes under the effects of global warming.

The array of adaptive responses ranges from purely technological such as sea defences to managerial such as modified farm practices, to policy including regulation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Indigenous knowledge systems play a key role in addressing these changes at community level, as these systems have been used for centuries to forecast the weather and to protect water, land, forests, animals and birds from excessive exploitation.

The topical issue of climate change as tackled in the Outlook is strategic in guiding debate and policies on this global phenomenon in southern Africa.

The impacts of climate change are already widespread in the region, ranging from social to economic and environmental. The range of malaria is expanding, while habitat for wildlife is changing, and access to water for domestic, industrial and agricultural use is becoming a challenge

due to over-extraction of underground water.

Scientists are more confident than ever that humans are causing this, and other sources stress that large corporations are mainly responsible, through burning of fossil fuels in the industrial north.

However, following 13 days of intense negotiations, the Warsaw conference produced a lukewarm outcome that did not address immediate concerns of developing countries.

The conference agreed on a multi-billion dollar framework to tackle deforestation, and the fledgling Green Climate Fund is projected to channel financing for this purpose.

While most of the causes of climate change can be far from the point of impact, deforestation, which is high in southern Africa, has a major impact on carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The UNFCCC conference, known as the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19), agreed to set "a pathway" for governments to work on a draft text of a new global climate agreement, which will be tabled at COP 20 in Peru in 2014, described as an "essential step" in a seemingly endless string of talks about talks on the global climate.

This process is expected to be completed by the time global leaders meet again for climate change talks at COP 21 in Paris, France in 2015, and could be enforced by 2020.

However, various factors are expected to influence progress towards the proposed new global climate treaty.

Developed nations promised in 2009 to increase aid to developing countries, to help cope with climate change, to \$100 billion a year after 2020, from \$10 billion a year in 2010-12. But in Warsaw they rejected calls to set targets for 2013-19.

A draft text merely urged developed nations to set "increasing levels" of aid, to be reviewed every two years.

The United Nations plans to host a Climate Summit in New York later in 2014. sardc.net



Zambezi Watercourse Commission to be fully operational in 2014

by Admire Ndhlovu

THE ZAMBEZI Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) will be fully operational in 2014 following the completion of all levels of the structure.

The Council of Ministers, the long-awaited policy organ of ZAMCOM, was constituted in 2013 thus enabling the full operations of the permanent commission.

ZAMCOM is a river basin organization established by the countries that share the Zambezi River Basin “to promote the equitable and reasonable utilization of the water resources of the Zambezi watercourse as well as the efficient management and sustainable development thereof”, as stipulated in the 2004 ZAMCOM Agreement and in accordance with the revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses of 2000.

The Zambezi River Basin stretches across part of eight SADC Member States – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

ZAMCOM is governed by three organs -- the Council of

Ministers, the ZAMTEC, and the Secretariat.

The Council of Ministers is the decision-making arm, while ZAMTEC is a technical advisory committee.

The Secretariat (ZAMSEC), headed by an Executive Secretary, provides overall management, supported by a Project Implementation Unit and working groups components.

The ZAMCOM Council is the apex of the governing bodies of the Commission. The Council’s tasks include adopting policies and decisions, providing guidance, approving and overseeing the implementation of the Commission’s plans, programmes and projects.

The Council is responsible for approving annual budgets and accounts of ZAMCOM, as well as determining the annual contribution of each Member State towards the budget.

The inaugural meeting of Council elected Angola to serve as the first Chair, with Botswana as vice-chair until the next annual ordinary session in 2014.

In acceptance remarks, Angola’s Minister of Energy and Water, Hon. João Baptista

Borges, said among the many decisions that Council is expected to take is around key issues that affect more than 40 million people who live in the river basin, particularly issues related to climate change and variability adaptation.

A highlight of the inaugural meeting was the announcement by Zambia, the only country that did not yet sign

the ZAMCOM Agreement, that it is ready to accede to the agreement. The Malawian cabinet is reportedly also considering to accede to the agreement. *The Zambezi* r



ZAMCOM Governance Structure

Youth play a key role in sustainable water management

THE EMERGING and complex challenges of managing the resources of the Zambezi and other river basins in southern Africa require innovative solutions and the youth have a key role to play, as future custodians of the resources.

Young people have participated at national, basin and regional levels, and strengthened water management skills at conferences and workshops during the last year.

The 3rd Regional Conference of the Southern African

Young Water Professionals held in South Africa in July 2013 provided a platform for young researchers and practitioners in the water sector to debate key issues on water resources management.

This was followed by a Global Water Partnership conference hosted by the Botswana Youth Water Action Team, aimed at seeking feedback from young people and preparing a post-2014 Youth and Water Strategy with clear implementation plans and mechanisms.

The African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) had recognized the youth as a key stakeholder group during its 6th Ordinary Session in Brazzaville, Congo in May 2007 and declared that it would “include all stakeholders, especially women, youth and parliamentarians in decision-making at the local level in carrying forward AMCOW’s actions.”

The AMCOW Youth and Water Strategy is to be presented soon to set a post-2015 agenda to succeed related aspects of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). r

Zimbabwe to host ZAMCOM headquarters

THE PERMANENT headquarters of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission to be established in January 2014 will be hosted by the Government of Zimbabwe in the capital, Harare.

This follows the recommendation by the technical advisory committee, endorsed by the Council of Ministers, to accept Zimbabwe’s bid to host the ZAMCOM headquarters.

The Interim ZAMCOM Secretariat has been based in Gaborone, Botswana since its inception in 2011. The main objectives of the interim secretariat, established in May 2011, were to kickstart the operationalization of the

ZAMCOM agreement, as well as to support the establishment of the Commission’s requisite organs that include the permanent secretariat.

The ZAMCOM Secretariat will be headed by an Executive Secretary (ES) who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the commission, including facilitating, coordinating and implementing the activities as approved by Council. The ES must report annually to ZAMTEC on activities, programmes and projects planned, initiated or implemented, and must also report annually to the SADC Secretariat. r

Human trafficking in southern Africa SADC crafts a regional response

by Joseph Ngwawi

TRAFFICKING IN persons is a major international issue but poor documentation in southern Africa is masking the true extent of this form of modern-day slavery.

Despite its rising profile in many parts of the world, and efforts to raise public awareness to the problem in southern Africa, the region remains a fertile ground for traffickers who capitalize on vulnerabilities created by a number of factors.

These include conflict, poverty, limited access to healthcare and education, gender inequality, high unemployment, and a general lack of opportunities, especially women.

Poverty and inequality are the major challenges facing SADC in this regard, with negative impacts on many aspects of human and social development.

The SADC International Conference on Poverty and Development noted in 2008 that poverty affects as much as 45 percent of the population in the region and is particularly acute among vulnerable groups such as rural and peri-urban households, and families headed by older persons and children.

Just what is trafficking in persons (TIP)?

According to the United Nations Protocol (2000), popularly known as the Palermo Protocol, this refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of threats or use of force for purposes of exploitation.

A distinction has to be made between TIP and smuggling, although there are linkages between the two.

Human smuggling refers to the illegal movement of an individual into a country in which she/he is not a national or a permanent resident. The smuggled individual is assisted for a fee by criminal syndicates to cross into another country.

Smuggling ends with the arrival of the migrants in the country of destination whereas trafficking involves the on-going exploitation of victims to generate illicit profit for the traffickers.

Smuggling is always cross-border whereas trafficking can take place both within and outside a country.

Exploitation of TIP victims takes several forms.

Victims, mostly women and children, are often enticed to leave their homes with false promises of jobs but are later

subjected to sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or the removal of body organs.

The modus operandi used by syndicates includes false newspaper advertisements for jobs in cities or other countries.

In other cases, young children are kidnapped or sold to work in factories, plantations or sweat shops; young men are forced to work in labour markets such as agriculture and textile industries for little or no pay; and babies or very young children are stolen or bought for illegal adoption.

Representatives of 12 SADC Member States met in Johannesburg, South Africa, in December to take stock of the TIP challenge and develop strategies to end trafficking.

The head of the SADC Gender Unit, Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela said this is “no longer just a security issue but a human rights issue that is affecting our society” and she urged southern African countries to “break the silence”.

Various initiatives have been introduced by SADC Member States, including drafting legislation to curb the vice.

Eight of the 15 Member States have specific legislations that address the issue of human trafficking. These are Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

Mozambique has been one of the champions in this area, enacting a new comprehensive law against human trafficking which prescribes penalties of 16-20 years im-

prisonment for those convicted.

Five other countries have draft laws at various stages of development – Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

Together with Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), these five currently use several pieces of legislation to address human trafficking.

Despite these positive developments, the region still faces a myriad of challenges in this regard, including the evolving nature of tactics used by the traffickers and the absence of accurate data.

To address the issue of sparse and unreliable data, the SADC Secretariat is preparing to engage a consultant to undertake research on the extent of the problem.

Representatives of Member States shared ideas and presented national action plans for the period 2014-2017 during the SADC Regional Information Exchange Conference in Johannesburg held under a regional programme supported by the European Union.

The national action plans, which include measures to improve data collection and sharing and greater cross-border cooperation, are to be incorporated into a regional five-year implementation plan to be developed by the Secretariat.

This will inform the 10-Year SADC Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children – that runs from 2009 to 2019. r



China-Africa cooperation

A partnership for the 21st century

by Kizito Sikuka

THE 21ST century has witnessed growing economic relations between China and Africa, with the former emerging as Africa's leading trading partner.

For example, two-way trade between China and Africa has increased rapidly from about US\$10 billion in 2000 to more than US\$198 billion in 2012, according to the latest white paper on China-Africa economic and trade cooperation released in August by the Chinese government.

In the same period, China's development has also accelerated at a pace faster than most developing and developed countries, overtaking Japan in 2011 as the second largest economy in the world.

This blooming Sino-Africa relationship and the remarkable Chinese socio-economic growth have attracted world attention as the global community wants to learn from this experience.

Meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, for a China-Africa symposium held in late October, scholars and policy-makers from the two regions identified a number of important lessons that could be drawn from the development experience in China to accelerate the African integration agenda.

One such lesson was the need for Africa to use its different ethnic groups in a positive way to spur development.

For example, China has 56 ethnic groups but has managed to remain united, "with cities competing against cities, and villages against villages" in a positive rather than destructive way.

This competition has allowed the country to develop

at a faster rate than most nations.

The symposium noted that Africa could gain a lot from its cooperation with China if the continent develops a clear and common policy on China-Africa cooperation. Currently, Africa lacks a common position on China, affecting its level of engagement with the Asian nation.

It was also noted that Africa must learn to address its own challenges without too much reliance on influences from outside.

This attitude has been critical in the development of present-day China, as the country has shown that development is possible using a different route to that of the West.

The role of think tanks in promoting development in China was another key lesson for Africa to emulate in its developmental agenda.

Think tanks in China closely work with the government, offering constructive criticism on government programmes and providing technical and policy advice to the authorities.

This is in sharp contrast in Africa where the bulk of the think tanks view their role as that of criticising if not antagonizing governments and not offering solutions.

Speaking during the symposium, Zimbabwean Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister,



Deputy Minister Christopher Mutsvangwa

Christopher Mutsvangwa said China and Africa have a lot to learn from each other, adding that the partnership is pivotal in shaping the new global order.

"The emergence of China on the global scene has brightened Africa's prospects in so many ways," he said.

He said the increased engagement between China and Africa in the last few decades has been mutually beneficial and has seen "Africa continuing to experience socio-economic growth at a faster rate than some continents."

This is a major milestone, especially if compared to the more than 40 years of African engagement with Europe and other Western countries, which yielded very little.

Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Lin Lin concurred, saying Africa has played a great part in Chinese development as "our African brothers and sisters carried China into the United Nations."



Ambassador Lin Lin

He, however, warned China and Africa to guard against some elements that do not want the relationship to prosper.

"There are always people observing China-Africa relations through coloured glasses with a Cold War mentality, posing groundless criticism and attacks against China-Africa cooperation," he said.

Such practices, he said, have disturbed the sound and stable development momentum of China-Africa cooperation.

However, it was noted that the two sides should see more opportunities than challenges as the relationship is "solidly based on trust and cooperation."

The China-Africa symposium held on 22-24 October was organized by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) and the Chinese Embassy in Zimbabwe.

More than 40 scholars, government officials and policy-makers from China and Africa, including men, women and youth attended the symposium.

The African scholars came from southern, eastern and west Africa, including Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal.

The symposium was funded by the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) through the China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Programme.

FOCAC was established by Chinese and African leaders at their inaugural summit in 2000 to chart a new type of strategic partnership, and they continue to meet at regular intervals to review progress and discuss future plans.

The main theme of the symposium was "Fifty Years of China-Africa Cooperation: Background, Progress & Significance - African Perspectives on China-Africa Relations and the China Development Experience." r



DRC, rebels sign peace agreement

THE DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo government has signed a peace agreement with rebels who have waged a two-year insurgency that has destabilised the eastern part of the country.

The peace deal, signed in Kenya on 12 December, is based on an earlier consensus reached during negotiations held in Uganda.

It brings to an end the most serious rebellion in the DRC over the past two decades and comes a month after the Congolese army defeated the M23

rebels in the east of the country.

A joint communique issued by the two sides said the agreement comprises two declarations and 11 points.

The documents include a pledge by the M23 to end all armed activities and transform itself into a political party.

The deal also outlines measures aimed at achieving long-term stability, reconciliation and development in the eastern DRC. These include an amnesty to M23 members

for acts of war or insurgency and the demobilisation of former M23 members.

The peace agreement follows the announcement of a ceasefire by the M23 rebels to end the conflict in the east of the country. M23 rebels announced a ceasefire in November after they were defeated by government forces backed by foreign peace-making forces from SADC, the African Union and the United Nations.

The agreement was delayed by differences between

the DRC government and the rebels over the process leading to the signing of the deal.

The DRC government insisted it would only sign the agreement on condition that the M23 made a public declaration renouncing rebellion, after which the government would make a public declaration of acceptance.

The M23, however, wanted the peace agreement signed without the declaration.

Allegedly supported by neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda, but seemingly abandoned by their sponsors due to international pressure, the M23 announced that their 18-month insurgency, which started on 20 November 2012 when they invaded and captured the city of Goma, was over.

“The chief of staff and the commanders of all major units are requested to prepare troops for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration on terms to be agreed with the government of Congo,” M23 leader Bertrand Bisimwa said in a statement.

The public admission by the M23 rebels was welcomed by the joint Heads of State and Government Summit of SADC and the International Conference for Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), which met in early November in Pretoria, South Africa.

The joint Summit urged SADC and ICGLR Member States “to handover negative forces to their countries of origin within the spirit of the UN Framework for Peace, Security and Cooperation for DRC and the Region.”

This was in reference to troops from neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda allegedly fighting alongside the rebels in eastern DRC. r

SADC condemns Renamo attacks in Mozambique

SOUTHERN AFRICAN leaders have condemned the recent armed activities of Renamo in Mozambique, which have threatened peace and stability in the region.

The Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo) -- a conservative political party in Mozambique led by Afonso Dhlakama -- has returned to the bush after laying down its weapons 21 years ago.

The insurgency is meant to overthrow the legitimate Mozambican government led by President Armando Guebuza of the Frelimo.

Since the armed activities broke out this year in the central district of Gorongosa, a number of people have been killed and injured.

Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, at the joint SADC-International Conference on the Great Lakes Region summit, southern African leaders condemned the armed activities of Renamo and urged the rebel group to stop its rebellious path.

“The joint Summit strongly condemned the recent acts of



Mozambique deploys troops to counter Renamo armed activities

violence being perpetrated by the Renamo in the Republic of Mozambique and urged Renamo to stop acts of violence forthwith,” read part of a statement issued by the leaders.

In an effort to find a lasting solution to the problem, President Guebuza has invited Dhlakama for a meeting.

However, Renamo has ignored the invitation. The meeting between the two leaders is seen as the only way of ending the impasse after months of dialogue between Renamo and the government failed to yield results.

Guebuza said he wanted to hold talks “out of respect for the strong wishes of the Mozambican people,” adding that “the solution is dialogue. It is not a military solution.”

South African President Jacob Zuma has criticized Renamo for turning down the invitation for talks.

For many Mozambicans, the crisis has uncomfortable echoes of a 16-year civil war between Renamo and the ruling Frelimo party that resulted in the deaths of many people. Peace only returned to Mozambique in 1992 when the two parties signed a peace deal. r





Mozambique local elections official results announced

THE MOZAMBIQUE electoral commission has announced official results of the municipal elections held in November, showing significant gains by a new opposition party.

The Frelimo party won 50 urban areas, but lost three of the four largest cities to the opposition who also gained council seats throughout the country, in all but two of the urban areas.

According to official results announced by the National Electoral Commission (CNE) on Friday, the Frelimo party has won the mayor and council in 50 urban areas but lost Beira and Quelimane to the Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM).

Results are not yet official for the city of Nampula where the election was repeated due to irregularities, but preliminary results show a gain by MDM, and Frelimo has conceded defeat.

That leaves the capital city, Maputo, with the Frelimo party



Mozambican President Armando Guebuza casts his ballot in Maputo

after scraping through with 37 of the 64 seats in council.

Frelimo's winning candidate for mayor of Maputo, David Simango, has a very similar name to the leader of the opposition who is mayor of Beira, Daviz Simango.

The official results are still to be validated by proclama-

tion of the Constitutional Council. Both parties have expressed satisfaction with their performance.

This is the first time MDM has entered party candidates to contest the local elections since breaking away from the Mozambique Resistance Movement (Renamo) in 2009.

Daviz Simango was first elected mayor of Beira in 2003 on a Renamo ticket, and in 2008 as an independent candidate, before forming the MDM to contest national elections in 2009. He gained 8.6 percent of the vote in the presidential election in 2009, compared to 16.4 percent for the Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, and 75 percent for incumbent President Armando Guebuza standing for his second term.

The MDM is now well-placed to contest national elections in 2014, and planned to hold its first national congress in early December. Simango has already announced that he will contest the presidency of the country in national elections set for 15 October.

President Guebuza is completing his second term in office and will not stand again, but Frelimo has not yet announced its candidate to replace him.

MDM has also declared its intention to win a majority in parliament, where it holds eight seats gained in 2009 elections to Renamo's 51 and 191 won by Frelimo.

Mozambique's parliamentary elections use a system of proportional representation by province, rather than individual constituencies and the vote in major cities will have an impact.

However, Renamo has continued to threaten stability with a spate of armed attacks in the centre of the country, most recently raiding a police post and medical centre in early December at Tica, some 75km northwest of Beira, after the defence ministry announced that 10 people have died in attacks in the last six weeks. *sardc.net* r

Madagascar set for presidential run-off, parliamentary polls

MADAGASCAR IS set to hold elections to choose a new president and members of parliament in development are expected to signal the conclusion of a long process to restore constitutional order in the Indian Ocean island rocked by instability since 2009.

Madagascar was set to hold a run-off on 20 December after no presidential candidate amassed enough votes to be declared outright winner following elections held in late October.

Former Health Minister Jean-Louis Robinson and ex-

Finance Minister Hery Rajaonarimampianina led first round presidential polls with 21 and 16 percent of the vote, respectively, but failed to win sufficient votes for an outright majority.

The Madagascar Constitution requires that a presidential candidate must amass 50 percent-plus-one of total votes cast in a national election to be declared as president.

The presidential run-off will be held simultaneously with elections to select members of National Assembly.



Madagascar was plagued by chaos following a military coup that ousted Madagascar's elected President in March 2009.

The elections were a result of the SADC mediation effort led by former Mozambican president, Joachim Chissano.

Newly appointed SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax has noted that the success of the elections would mark a "new beginning" towards national reconciliation and reconstruction, and bring stability and development in Madagascar. r

Events December 2013-February 2014

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December

1 December, Global

World Aids Day

The global theme of World AIDS Day, announced in 2011 and running until 2015, involves three messages: Zero New HIV infections-Zero Discrimination-Zero AIDS Related Deaths. Governments and non-state actors will each year choose one or all of the Zeros that best address their respective situations.

2-5, South Africa

SADC Regional Information Sharing Conference on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children

The main objective of the conference is to provide delegates an opportunity to share experiences, data and information on the scope of trafficking in persons and programmes implemented as well as lessons learnt among SADC Member States.

10-12, Botswana

SADC Regional Sustainable Development Strategy Workshop

The workshop aims to develop a comprehensive Regional Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan that includes elements of green growth and green economy taking into account the priority recommendations identified by the regional review process on sustainable development; and outcomes of the Rio+20 conference.

13-17, Mozambique

3rd Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development

Running under the theme "Leveraging the African Mining Vision for Africa's Renaissance: Towards Broader Ownership", the conference brings together ministers responsible for mining and experts to discuss several issues, among them the adoption of the business plan for the recently formed African Minerals Development Centre.

January

20-22, Abu Dhabi

World Future Energy Summit 2014 (WFES 2014)

The summit will be dedicated to renewable energies, energy efficiency and clean technologies. WFES 2014 will present energy sector stakeholders with a unique opportunity to meet with their peers, exchange technology, share best practice and form business partnerships.

24-31, Ethiopia

22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union

African Heads of State and Government will gather for the 22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union, preceded by technical meetings of officials and the Council of Ministers. The AU Assembly proclaimed 2014 as the "Year of Agriculture and Food Security" and this will also be the theme of the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

26-27, Zimbabwe

Southern African ICT for Education Summit 2014

The summit will gather the region's ICT policy-makers, regulators, and professionals from throughout the SADC region to share knowledge, network with industry leaders from around the world, and develop strategies for the coming year.

February

18-22, Kenya

27th Session of the Governing Council of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum

This will be the first universal session of the Governing Council of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum. It will review emerging environmental policy issues. It aims to promote international cooperation and provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system.

18-20, South Africa

Africa Energy Indaba

This annual conference brings together international and continental experts to share insights and solutions to Africa's energy problems, while simultaneously exploring the vast energy development opportunities on offer on the continent.

25 years on

Angola, Cuba, South Africa peace deal



TWENTY FIVE years have passed since the historic signing of a peace agreement between Angola, Cuba and South Africa that ultimately paved the way for the eventual independence of Namibia.

Following the signing of the agreement on 22 December 1988, former South African President P.W. Botha proclaimed that "a new era has begun.... We want to be accepted by our African brothers. We need each other."

South Africa military involvement in Angola began in August 1975.

From 1978 South Africa made several military incursions into Angolan territory and intensified them in 1981 in retaliation to Angola's policy of hosting nationalist forces fighting for the independence of neighbouring Namibia from South African rule.

The turning point was a massive battle in late 1987.

Cuito Cuanavale, a tiny town in the remote south-eastern corner of Angola, whose strategic importance as an airstrip and its use as a forward air defence base for southern Angola became the battle ground for a military test of wills.

The South African Defence Forces deployed 9,000 troops, including Namibian units, and committed its most sophisticated military hardware in the form of long-range artillery, tanks, armoured cars and massive air force cover.

In response to this massive military build-up, Cuban combatants were committed to the fighting in the south for the first time in 11 years.

Previously, the Cubans had been garrison troops, holding key installations in the rear and training government soldiers.

The contest between South African aggression and Angolan ability to de-

fend itself resulted in severe casualties and loss of equipment on both sides, but the heavily fortified town was held.

This historic encounter signalled the beginning of serious negotiations although fighting continued.

Talks were held between Cuba and Angola, on the one hand, and South Africa, on the other, in London in May 1988, mediated by the United States.

This was followed up with a meeting between the two-superpower, US and the Soviet Union, in Lisbon, Portugal, where a peace plan outlined the withdrawal of both Cuban and South African forces within a year.

A series of exploratory consultations continued.

On 22 December 1988 Angola, Cuba and South Africa signed a tripartite peace agreement in New York.

According to the agreement, Namibia's independence process was to begin on 1 April 1989.

The phased withdrawal of an estimated 50,000 Cuban troops was to take place up to July 1991; prisoners of war would be exchanged; and an additional requirement was the departure of some 6,000 African National Congress cadres from Angola.

The United Nations Security Council accordingly sanctioned the formation of the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) to monitor the withdrawal of Cuban troops.

The accord delicately intertwined interests among all three parties and ended two long-running conflicts: the 13 years of hostilities between South Africa and Cuban-backed Angolan forces, and a 22-year-old war between the Angolan-based freedom fighters of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and South African forces. r



"THE BATTLE of Cuito Cuanavale signalled the end of the minority white apartheid colonial regime in Africa and the total liberation of the African continent. We are extremely grateful and remain indebted to the Cuban Internationalist forces that fought side by side with us, including shedding their precious blood for the total liberation of Africa." – Namibia's first post-independence president, Sam Nujoma, in an address on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Organisation of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAAL) in 2011.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

December 2013-February 2014

1 December	Incwala Day	Swaziland
8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
17 December	Public Holiday	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
23 December	Public Holiday	Zimbabwe
25 December	Family Day	Angola, Mozambique
	Christmas	All other SADC countries
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
	Family Day	Namibia
	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
1 January	New Year's Day	All SADC countries
2 January	Public Holiday	Botswana, Mauritius
4 January	Martyrs Day	DRC
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
	Maulid Day	Tanzania
16 January	Heroes Day (Laurent Kabila)	DRC
17 January	Heroes Day (Patrice Lumumba)	DRC
	Thaipoosam Cavadee	Mauritius
31 January	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius
1 February	Abolition of Slavery Day	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola