

Maputo, 20 March 2013

**COMMUNIQUE**  
**SADC-EU MINISTERIAL POLITICAL DIALOGUE**  
**20 MARCH, 2013**  
**MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The SADC-EU Ministerial Political Dialogue was held in Maputo, Mozambique on 20 March 2013. The meeting marked 19 years since the commencement of the SADC-EU Dialogue. It was preceded by a preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting held on 15 February in Gaborone, Botswana. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Oldemiro Baloi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique, the Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers and Honourable Bernard K. Membe, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, Chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, accompanied by Senior Officials of the SADC Double Troika Member States (Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania) and the SADC Secretariat. The EU delegation consisted of His Excellency Joe Costello, TD, Minister of Trade and Development of Ireland representing the EU Presidency and Senior Officials from the European Union External Action Service (EEAS), the European Commission (EC) and the European Investment Bank (EIB).
2. The Political Dialogue was opened by His Excellency Oldemiro Baloi and His Excellency Joe Costello, who highlighted the importance of the Dialogue in building a common understanding and reinforcing cooperation between the two regions.

**Africa – EU Strategic Partnership**

3. The meeting discussed the SADC-EU efforts in pursuance of peace and stability in the SADC region and in Africa. The two Parties provided briefings on the political and security situation in their respective regions. The EU further updated the meeting on its foreign policy priorities with special emphasis on its policy towards Africa, including the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and the African Peace Facility. The meeting also noted the important economic linkages that exist between the EU and SADC.
4. The EU updated the meeting on the economic and political situation in Europe. On the economic front, the EU described policy measures taken and significant reforms implemented to strengthen economic governance, e.g. Single Supervisory Mechanism as a first step towards a Banking Union, the activation of the European Stability Mechanism and the Europe 2020 Agenda for a sustainable, smart and inclusive growth. The EU maintained that it is, at the same time, pursuing a social agenda with emphasis on youth unemployment. Europe's economic recovery dominates the Union's domestic political agenda whilst the enlargement of the EU and the involvement of the

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European citizen in the integration process remain priorities. It further informed the meeting that, with regard to enlargement, Croatia's accession is imminent while negotiations have started with Montenegro and Serbia has been granted candidate status.

### **Economic Integration in SADC and SADC-EU Cooperation Priorities**

5. The EU updated the meeting on the latest developments regarding negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions and on the expiry of the EU Market Access Regulation 1528/2007 adopted by the European Council in December 2007. SADC emphasised the need to conclude negotiations as soon as possible in a manner that will bring about an outcome that will assist developing countries in the long run, including market access.
6. SADC updated the meeting on the trade and economic liberalisation process in the region, in particular, progress made with regard to the implementation of the SADC Protocols on Trade and Finance and Investment. The two Parties reiterated their interest in the speedy development of a mutually beneficial trade regime and in remaining strong trading partners.
7. SADC provided an update on the recently approved SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), the Project Preparation and Development Facility (PPDF) and the Regional Development Fund (RDF). The EU informed the meeting of the funding available, in particular, leveraging and blending possibilities under the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, to support the development of cross-border infrastructure development projects and to promote trade among SADC Member States. The EU also detailed the modalities for accessing resources under the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative. The two parties expressed willingness to cooperate in these areas through their different instruments and mechanisms. SADC informed the EU about the Investment Conference held in London on 13 March 2013 and the upcoming High-Level Infrastructure Conference to be held in June 2013 in Maputo, Mozambique.
8. The meeting discussed the challenges posed by Climate Change. The EU will increase its climate change development funding as from 2014, supporting, in particular, the most vulnerable developing countries. The EU also recalled the approval of the new Monitoring of Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) programme, whose SADC node is established in Botswana. Recalling the outcomes of the Durban and Doha Conferences the parties stressed the importance of reaching a globally binding new treaty by 2015 to enter into force by 2020. In view of this, the EU emphasised the commonalities with the approach pursued by SADC and the wider African Group advocating enhanced consultation and dialogue prior to and during the upcoming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference in November 2013 in Warsaw.
9. SADC outlined progress achieved on the COMESA/EAC/SADC Tripartite arena, in particular, on the market integration, industrial and infrastructure development pillars. The goals of the Tripartite were recognised as a key step towards the vision of an Africa without borders that enjoys the benefits of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) as envisioned by the African Union (AU). The EU commended the efforts

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made in this regard and pledged its support. The two Parties agreed on the need for the speedy implementation of the process.

10. SADC provided an update on the process of the mid-term review of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) which is to be finalized by mid-2013. Both sides agreed on the importance of effective and focused implementation of the RISDP as the roadmap for the region's economic integration. SADC invited the EU and other International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) to share experiences and support the review process.
11. The EU informed the meeting about its cooperation priorities under the '*Agenda for Change*' which will provide the basis for the programming of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF and the Development Cooperation Instrument (2014-2020). The first stage of programming work at national level is now underway. In the context of programming at regional level, consultations will begin in April 2013 to identify SADC's priorities for funding in the 2014-2020 period, with the aim of concluding an agreement by the end of the year. In that respect, the EU indicated its intention to focus on the core mandate of the regional organisation and the linkage between national and regional development.
12. In order to ensure coherence and complementarity of the EU assistance to the regional integration agendas in Eastern and Southern Africa, the EU invited SADC to join in a process of reflection on how SADC and the other regional organisations (COMESA, EAC, IGAD and IOC) could develop a joint framework for the preparation of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF regional programme.
13. SADC indicated its interest to continue to benefit from an export earnings loss compensation mechanism. The EU informed the meeting that it is currently working on a shock-absorbing mechanism that should replace the FLEX mechanism under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF.

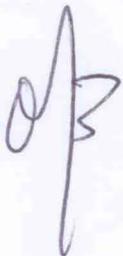
#### **SADC Regional Political Integration**

14. SADC updated the meeting on the priorities of the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO), whose revised second edition was launched in November 2012 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. The EU acknowledged SADC's achievements in this regard and noted the main lines of action to be developed in the short and medium term.
15. The meeting noted the elections scheduled to take place in the SADC region during 2013 in Zimbabwe, Madagascar and Swaziland between June and September, and underscored the importance of such elections from national and regional perspectives. The meeting emphasised the need to conduct elections in these countries in accordance with the agreed Roadmaps and in line with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections and the AU African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which provide the framework for credible elections.
16. The meeting welcomed the holding of a peaceful and credible Constitutional Referendum in Zimbabwe on 16 March 2013, which paves the way for the general elections, and commended the people of Zimbabwe in this regard. The meeting further



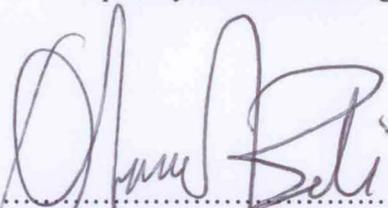
noted that SADC deployed its Observers under the auspices of the SADC Election Observation Mission (SEOM), headed by the Representative of the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. SADC reiterated its call to the EU and the International Community for the lifting of all forms of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe. The EU informed that, in line with its decision in February 2013, the EU is in the process of reviewing its policy on restrictive measures in view of suspension of the majority of all remaining EU targeted restrictive measures against individuals and entities in Zimbabwe. The EU welcomed the commitment by SADC to deploy its Observation Mission in accordance with the Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections in the Region. The EU expressed its readiness to consider any request for support to democratic elections in Zimbabwe. Both sides stressed the importance of further progress in implementing the reform agenda around the Global Political Agreement (GPA) and the SADC Roadmap, and called on the political parties to maintain their commitment to peace and non-violence. The EU and SADC reiterated their commitment to work with any Government formed as the result of a peaceful, transparent and credible electoral process.

17. The meeting recalled the constitutional crisis that has existed in Madagascar since 2009 and commended the signatories to the Roadmap and the recent decision by the two main political opponents to renounce participation in the upcoming elections in the interest of the nation. SADC and EU agreed to work together with all relevant stakeholders for the successful fulfilment of the Roadmap intended to return the country to constitutional normalcy, including among others, observation of the electoral calendar, the enactment of Amnesty Law and holding of credible elections. The EU reiterated its intention to continue supporting the upcoming elections in Madagascar. Both sides confirmed their plans to deploy Election Observation Missions and pledged to cooperate. The EU also stated its intention to consider lifting Article 96 measures under the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement after the holding of free, fair and credible elections.
18. SADC and the EU noted with satisfaction the collaboration between African Union, SADC and International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on their efforts towards finding a lasting solution to the Eastern DRC security situation. Furthermore, SADC and EU expressed support to the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013. SADC and the EU agreed that it represents an opportunity for a new start for the DRC and the Region and called on all parties to implement the agreed commitments at national and regional levels. SADC and the EU welcomed the appointment of Mrs. Mary Robinson as the UN Envoy. Expressing concern at the continuing violence in Eastern DRC, the meeting reiterated the importance and urgency of the deployment of the Intervention Brigade under MONUSCO and, in this regard, called for the early adoption of the UN Resolution on its mandate by the UN Security Council. The meeting expressed the view that military intervention needs to be supported by measures that are able to address the root causes of instability in the Great Lakes Region. SADC and the EU agreed to remain engaged in the DRC and the region together with the AU and ICGLR to contribute to the successful implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework.
19. The meeting noted the regional and international achievements in partnership with the EU in combating maritime piracy and promoting maritime security. The meeting



appreciated SADC's initiative through the development, adoption and implementation of the SADC Anti-Piracy Maritime Strategy, which has contributed to the decline in maritime piracy in the region. Both Parties agreed to continue their cooperation in this regard. The EU illustrated its "comprehensive approach" to address security and development challenges in the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean and the positive results achieved so far. The Parties acknowledged that the origin of piracy is rooted on land and recognised the efforts by the African Union in the Horn of Africa in this respect.

20. The meeting concluded with appreciation and gratitude of both Parties and their accord on continuous dialogue at the level of Senior Officials on matters of common interest. The meeting agreed that this process is to be periodically reinforced with a Senior Officials Meeting which is to take place on a yearly basis and a Ministerial-level meeting to be organised every two years, with the location of the meetings alternating between the EU and SADC regions. Therefore, the next Senior Officials' Meeting is agreed to be held in 2014 while the next Ministerial-level meeting is to take place in Brussels in 2015.
21. Ministers and Senior Officials representing SADC and the European Union witnessed the signing of a €20 million Contribution Agreement between SADC and the EU. The new programme entitled 'Regional Economic Integration Support' will assist SADC in its efforts to remove barriers to trade and to improve the business environment in the region. The Agreement was signed by Dr. Tomáz Augusto Salomão on behalf of SADC and by Ambassador Gerard McGovern on behalf of the EU.
22. SADC and EU representatives thanked the Government and people of the Republic of Mozambique for the preparations for the meeting, as well as the reception and hospitality accorded throughout the meeting.



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**His Excellency Oldemiro Baloi,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Cooperation of Mozambique  
and Chairperson of SADC Council of  
Ministers**

Date: 20.03.13 .....



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**His Excellency Joe Costello, TD  
Minister of Trade and Development of  
Ireland, representing the European Union**

Date: 20/3/13 .....