



OPENING REMARKS

BY

**H.E. DR. STERGOMENA LAWRENCE TAX,
SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

AT THE SADC/GERMANY NEGOTIATIONS

SADC HEADQUARTERS

9 July 2015

GABORONE, BOTSWANA



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Mr. Alois Schneider, Head of BMZ Southern Africa Division and Head of the German Delegation;

Your Excellency, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Botswana and to SADC, Mr Rolf Ulrich;

Your Excellency, Ambassador Alexander Baum, Head of the EU Delegation to Botswana and to SADC;

Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo, SADC Deputy Executive Secretary Regional Integration;

Mrs Emilie Mushobekwa, Deputy Executive Secretary Finance and Administration;

SADC Secretariat Staff;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my honour and pleasure to welcome you all to this important occasion of bilateral consultations on development cooperation between the SADC Secretariat, and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. Let me take this opportunity to welcome our visitors from abroad, I trust that you travelled safely and that your stay in Gaborone will be comfortable.

I would like to express the SADC Region's gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the continuous support that we have received since the beginning of our partnership. The SADC-German Cooperation has

contributed to substantial achievements in the implementation of the SADC Development and Integration agenda.

The objective of SADC is to promote sustainable economic growth, socio-economic development and poverty eradication through Regional co-operation and integration. These objectives are to be achieved through the implementation of the Region's strategic frameworks, that is, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) and the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

The RISDP, the SIPO and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 provide a strategic development framework for the realisation of SADC Regional Integration and Development Agenda. Based on these strategic instruments, the region has identified and is implementing priority programmes towards achieving sustainable and equitable development, being major objectives of SADC regional development and integration agenda. We appreciate the support that we have received and we continue receiving from the Federal Republic of Germany towards the implementation of these strategic plans.

I am gratified to inform you that the review of the RISDP was successfully completed and, in April 2015, the SADC Summit approved the revised RISDP covering 2015 to 2020. The priorities in the Revised RISDP 2015 - 2020 are:

Priority A: Industrial Development and Market Integration;

Priority B: Infrastructure in support of regional integration;

Priority C – Peace and security cooperation; and

Priority D – Special programmes of regional dimension, which, among other issues, include natural resources and food security.

I am also happy to inform you that at the same sitting in April 2015, the SADC Summit also approved the SADC Regional Industrialisation Strategy, and Roadmap 2015-2063. The Strategy's long term vision is aligned to the African Vision Agenda 2063, with a three-phased approach covering 2015 – 2063. The primary orientation of the Strategy is the importance of technological and economic transformation of the SADC region. The Strategy is anchored on three pillars namely; industrialization as champion of economic and technological transformation; competitiveness as an active process to move from comparative advantage to competitive advantage; and regional integration and geography as the context for industrial development and economic prosperity.

We are now in the process of preparing the Implementation Plan for the Industrialisation Strategy and determining the cost of the Implementation Framework of the Revised RISDP.

One of the critical success factors in implementing the Revised RISDP is to build the requisite sustainable capacity at the Secretariat to be able to deliver on its mandate in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the SADC Regional Integration and Development Agenda. In this context, we are in the process of developing a commensurate organisational structure of the Secretariat, and we will soon present this to the SADC Council of Ministers for consideration.

Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,

As we are aware, implementation of the SADC programmes takes place at national level. It is therefore, critical to ensure that regional priorities are transposed and mainstreamed into the national plans and budgets. In order to facilitate this, we need to institutionalise effective regional and national linkages. Just as it is important to create adequate strategies, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation capacities at the Secretariat, it is also imperative to promote

regional integration with a view to enabling Members States integrate regional integration priorities and programmes in national priorities, plans and budgets, while enhancing coordination and implementation capacities at the national level. At the same time, it is critical that the Private Sector participates in the implementation of the SADC programmes. To facilitate this, the region needs to develop the necessary frameworks to involve the private sector and take SADC activities to SADC citizens, and develop SADC's capacity to develop bankable projects and as such, attract investment.

We have no doubt that that our Partners, including the German Development Cooperation and the European Union, will continue to support us in the implementation of the Region's priority programmes. We are pleased to note that you are in the process of finalising a new BMZ-Regional Strategy for SADC. We note that this is timely and gives us an opportunity to ensure that as we continue to align our cooperation to our priorities.

In our last bi-lateral consultations of November 2014 held here in Gaborone in preparation for today's negotiations, we identified the following priority areas for SADC-German Development Cooperation:

- Regional Economic Integration;
- Transboundary Water Management;
- Peace, Security and Good Governance;
- Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources and Resilience to Climate Change; and
- SADC Organizational Capacity Development.

Our negotiations today give us an opportunity to ensure that the programmes to be implemented under these focal areas are aligned to our strategic documents.

As you already know, we have just concluded the negotiations under our cooperation with the European Union which has culminated in the signature of

the 11th EDF Regional Indicative Programme for Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean, on 4th June 2015 in Brussels. We are also aware that the Federal Republic of Germany is part of the European Union, and we express our gratitude and appreciate the participation of the EU Delegation, as an observer, in our negotiations today. We recognise the importance of synergies between the support under EDF and the support under SADC/Germany Cooperation, as well as from other partners, this will enable the avoidance of duplication and overlaps, while maximising on complementarities to make the most effective use of resources.

In conclusion, let me assure you of SADC's commitment, and once again state our appreciation to our cordial relations with the German Embassy here in Gaborone and beyond. We look forward to the continuation of our friendly relationship.

Let me welcome you to SADC Secretariat, once again, and I look forward to our open discussions in an effort to enhance the SADC-Germany cooperation. I also hope that before you return to Europe, you will spare some time to visit some of the important programmes, and the tourist attractions in our Region and enjoy the SADC hospitality.

I THANK YOU!