

REMARKS

BY

H.E. DR. STERGOMENA LAWRENCE TAX

THE SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

AT

**THE EXTRAORDINARY ORGAN TROIKA SUMMIT PLUS THE REPUBLIC OF
MOZAMBIQUE**

27 MAY 2021

MAPUTO, REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

Your Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, and Chairperson of SADC.

Your Excellency, Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, and Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation

Your Excellency, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, and Incoming Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation

Your Excellency, Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, and President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation

Honourable Ministers

Distinguished Senior Officials

Allow me to express our gratitude to HE. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique for hosting this critical meeting, as Member States continue to respond to challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Your Excellencies,

This summit is a continuation of SADC efforts in addressing terrorism in the region, and specifically in Cabo Delgado Province of the Republic of Mozambique. May I extend our gratitude to H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation for his steadfast leadership in spearheading SADC's resolve to combat terrorism.

Your Excellencies,

As directed by your Summit that was held here in Maputo, Mozambique on 8th April 2021, a Technical Team was deployed to the Republic of Mozambique immediately after the Summit. The Technical Team Report was considered by the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO), and the MCO report will be tabled for your consideration during your today's Summit.

While the SADC region remains stable and generally peaceful, terrorism continues to be a serious threat that requires urgent, concrete and decisive attention. Your presence here again continues to signify the strength and commitment of the SADC Region to collectively and decisively address threats to our peace and security, in particular acts of terrorism.

Your Excellencies

Under your leadership, I am convinced that the recommendations by the Technical Team, which have also been considered by the Ministerial Committee for the Organ will enable your Summit to come up with a regional response, that will concretely address terrorism in the region, and specifically in the Cabo Delgado Province. In doing so preserve the lives and livelihoods of citizens, and also deter further destruction of infrastructure and properties.

Your Excellencies,

May I commend Members of the Technical Team for their professionalism and the job well done, notwithstanding the difficult environment that they operated in. Allow me to also commend the Ministerial Committee for the Organ for their dedication and commitment to the work of the organ.

Your Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

With these introductory remarks, may I humbly invite H.E, **Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi**, the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation, to officiate the Organ Troika Summit.

I thank you for your kind attention

Merci beaucoup
Muito Obrigada
Asante Sana