



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA AND SADC

**Regional programme "Support to Peace and Security in the SADC region"
Launch event
AVANI Hotel, Gaborone, Botswana
5 April 2019**

**Remarks by H.E. Jan SADEK
Ambassador of the European Union
to the Republic of Botswana and SADC**

Dr. Jorge Cardoso - Director of SADC Organ
SADC ambassadors and high commissioners
Representatives of the Embassy of France, Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany, British Embassy
UN resident representative and representatives of UN agencies
Members of the Media
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure to be here today to officially launch the "Support to Peace and Security in the SADC region" programme. The European Union (EU) is proud to finance this programme and to have it implemented in partnership with the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. The programme is designed to strengthen the capacity of the SADC Organ, in its important work to promote peace, security and democracy across the SADC Region, and I am happy to join Organ Director Jorge Cardoso at this festive event.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Conflicts have an enormous cost in terms of human, financial and economic implications. In 2016, the estimated economic costs of violence were over 14 trillion dollars – or almost 2,000 dollars for every person on the planet. In today's world, we simply cannot understate the value of sustainable peace, built through partnership, dialogue, and mutual respect and understanding.

Development and security go hand-in-hand. There can be no sustainable development without security, stability and peace. And there will be no real and lasting peace without truly sustainable development and poverty reduction. The links between security and development are clear, and addressing them is a political imperative for the European Union.

For the European Union, the money invested into humanitarian aid, sustainable development, climate action, protection and promotion of human rights and even sometimes the money mobilised by our trade agreements, this is all also an investment in security and peace in the world of today. Because to face the security threats of today's world, investing in education and job creation might sometimes be more effective than having a tank in a battlefield

The EU is supporting peace and security all over the world. Between 2014 and 2017, the EU has spent EUR 6.9 billion from several relevant instruments on security-targeted projects.

In Africa and under the upgraded Africa-EU partnership, the European Union is engaged like no other world power to support positive change on the continent. On the economic side we are the first investment and trade partner for Africa. Our contribution to peacekeeping missions is unparalleled, as our contribution to development.

We are proud to be and remain the first donor when it comes to sustainable development, but also humanitarian aid. We invest, as the European Union, more in development cooperation and humanitarian aid than the rest of the world combined.

I was happy to see that the EU was on the ground with humanitarian efforts in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi after the cyclone Idai had struck those countries. I was in Maputo the day before yesterday and could see how European humanitarian workers were flying in to assist.

Our work on African peace and security is not new; it dates back many years. In our upgraded Africa-EU partnership, we have agreed to support Africa as the continent takes greater responsibility for peace and security. In Africa, the EU supports, at continental level, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), the actions funded under the

African Peace Facility – APF – and those under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

In the European Union, we have clearly been able to see the benefits of regional integration in many areas, not least for economic development. But let's not forget that the European Union and its precursor, the European Community was as a matter of fact a peace project, in order to make war unthinkable and materially impossible" between its members.

We would humbly see this as a success story, and we believe that regional integration is in our DNA. That is why we are happy to support other regional organisations.

During the last decade, we have allocated 300 MEUR to SADC, to assist the organisation in bringing together the countries of the Southern African region. For us, this is also a way of investing in partnerships and in multilateralism.

SADC is without doubt the region's principal organisation for security cooperation. If a region is not peaceful and stable, and its citizens do not feel secure, it will not be able to sustain its development and reap the benefits of integration. It is therefore natural that the EU also engages with SADC in the Peace and Security area. We believe that the security threats we face can only be tackled through cooperation and in the multilateral framework

Although arguably the most stable region in Africa, the SADC region is not immune to violence. The region faces a number of threats with potential impact on its security and stable democratic development; political crisis, democracy and governance deficits, uneven development and social inequality, to mention some.

SADC countries are a varied group as regards to democratic practice and governance. The region is home to six of the ten best-governed countries in Africa according to the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance. However, southern Africa also hosts two of the most poorly governed countries on the continent, namely Zimbabwe and the DRC.

The support programme to peace and security, that we are launching today, is complementary to these challenges. The programme amounts to 15MEUR, and builds on the results of a previous programme on regional political cooperation. Previous speakers have described both current and future components, so I will not repeat that, but let me point to two important ingredients.

The first is the participation of women in peace-making and conflict prevention. Owing to their particular experiences, women bring to the peace dialogue certain qualities and perspectives complementary to those of men. Women are more likely to focus on reconciliation, education, justice and economic development than the spoils of war – with all of the benefits that these bring for a more sustained and inclusive peace.

Evidence suggests that when women are involved in peace processes, the likelihood of peace lasting more than 15 years increases by over a third.

Despite many global and regional commitments and initiatives, the number of women involved in formal peacemaking processes remains low; and many peace agreements do not include gender provisions that sufficiently address women's security and peacebuilding needs.

I'm happy to acknowledge that this is one area that the SADC Peace and Security Programme will address, supporting the Organ and the SADC Gender Unit to better promote women participation in peace and security and to better target sexual and gender based violence

Secondly, SADC strategies for achieving democracy are anchored on achieving and upholding electoral standards in the region. For SADC, 2019 is and will be a very busy year in this regard, as 7 countries in the region will hold elections. I know that Dr Cardoso himself has been very busy in monitoring the elections for example in difficult environments in DRC and in Madagascar, and I would like to thank him for his commitment.

The need to strengthen SADC capacity for electoral assistance and Member States compliance is key to the democratisation process and to conflict prevention. I am pleased to note that the peace and security programme will specifically address this need.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me finally remind you again about the European Union as the single most successful peace project of the last 60 years. The EU has achieved this by promoting a model of shared economic prosperity and development for all.

As the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, says – yes, "sometimes we fight. But we fight with words. And we settle our conflicts around the table, not in trenches."

We believe that this is applicable in all regions of the world, and the Peace and Security programme reflects the EU-SADC concerted efforts to promote peace and security in your region. And I have no doubts that its results will yield great benefits for the SADC citizens.

Thanks for your attention!

(Ke a leboga. Pula!)