



## **ORDINARY MEETING OF SADC MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENDER/ WOMEN'S AFFAIRS**

**29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015**

**HARARE, ZIMBABWE**

### **COMMUNIQUÉ**

1. The Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Gender/ Women's Affairs was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015.
2. The Meeting was attended by Ministers and Senior Officials from:

Kingdom of Swaziland: Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Paul DLAMINI

Republic of Angola: State Secretary, Ministry of Family and Women's Affairs, Ana Paula da Silva SACRAMENTO NETO

Republic of Botswana: Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Hon. Edwin J. BATSHU

The Democratic Republic of Congo: Minister of Gender, Family and Child, Hon. Bijou Mushitu KAT

Republic of Namibia: Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Hon Doreen Nampiyé SIOKA

Republic of South Africa: Minister in the Presidency Responsible for Women, Hon. Susan SHABANGU

Republic of Zimbabwe: Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development and Acting Minister of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Hon Sithembiso G. G. NYONI

United Republic of Tanzania: Deputy Minister of Community Development, Gender and Children, Hon. Dr. Pindi Hazara CHANA

Republic of Zambia: Deputy Minister of Gender and Child Development, Hon Dorothy Mupeta KAZUNGA

Republic of Mozambique: High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, Mr. Pedro DAVANE

Kingdom of Lesotho: Permanent Secretary of Gender, Youth, Sport and Recreation, Dr Majara MOLAPO

Republic of Malawi: Principal Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Dr. Mary SHAWA

Republic of Seychelles: Special Advisor, Ministry of Social Affairs,  
Community Development and Sports, Mrs  
Marie Josee BONNE

3. Also in attendance were representatives from:
  - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women);
  - Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS);
  - SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF);
  - Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC);
  - SADC Gender Protocol Alliance; and
  - Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe.
  
4. The Ministers Meeting was officially opened by Hon Emmerson D. Mnangagwa, Acting President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, who commended the significant progress that has been made in the SADC region since the adoption of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, particularly the implementation of the 50:50 campaign by Member States, and highlighted the challenges faced by women in the SADC region that include, among others, limited access, control and ownership of productive resources; limited access to credit and entrepreneurship skills; and continued discrimination on the basis of culture and religion.
  
5. The Meeting was chaired by Hon Sithembiso G. G. Nyoni, Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development and Acting Minister of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe.
  
6. The Chair highlighted the progress made by the SADC region, particularly identifying the women from SADC region who have occupied positions of leadership across the continent and globally, in particular the Chairperson of the African Union, the Executive

Secretary of SADC, Vice President of the Pan African Parliament, and the Executive Director of UN Women.

7. Ministers noted the remarks read by the Acting Head of SADC Gender Unit, Ms Elizabeth Kakukuru, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, who thanked the Ministers responsible for Gender/ Women's Affairs for their tireless effort on women empowerment and gender equality that are producing visible achievements. The Executive Secretary also expressed her gratitude to the SADC Heads of State and Government for their commitment in women empowerment.
8. In his vote of thanks, the Incoming Chair of SADC, Hon Edwin Bashu thanked UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP, for their generous financial support, thanked the Guest of Honour, Hon Emmerson Mnangagwa, Acting President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, for officially opening the meeting, and the Republic of Zimbabwe for hosting the meeting.
9. Ministers noted progress made in the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and noted the need to review the targets in the Protocol. The review will be done in accordance with the presented Roadmap.
10. Ministers strongly called for the increased budgetary allocation for the implementation of the SADC Gender Programme at both regional and national levels.
11. Ministers also acknowledged the progress in initiatives by the Member States to mainstream gender in different sectors, particularly in the water, and science and technology sectors. Ministers urged Member States to promote gender mainstreaming and facilitate knowledge sharing and research on effective gender mainstreaming in different sectors.

12. Ministers recommended that Member States, in consultation with Ministers of Trade, Investment and Industry develop a Regional Multi-Dimensional Women's Economic Empowerment Programme and explore ways of enhancing women's access to financial resources and markets, and establish mechanisms and instruments to facilitate their access to finance for women's economic empowerment.
13. Ministers noted and commended Member States that have achieved high representation of women in politics and other decision making positions, while encouraging those Member States lagging behind to adopt appropriate measures to facilitate the achievement of gender parity as outlined in the Protocol on Gender and Development.
14. Ministers noted the strides made by Member States in developing legislation to criminalise trafficking in persons, and urged Member States to share experiences and information on effective practices in combating trafficking in persons; strengthen existing psycho-social programmes to include services for victims/survivors of trafficking in persons; and collaborate in dealing with cross border trafficking in persons.
15. Ministers in regard to the United Nations Security Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, welcomed the development of a training course for peace support operations on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in conflict and post-conflict situations by the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC). Ministers urged Member States to develop comprehensive strategies for addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV), which should include sexual violence in conflict situations as GBV is amplified during conflict; and undertake and intensify activities to combat SGBV in conflict and post-conflict situations.
16. Ministers directed the Secretariat to form a Task Team, in collaboration with Ministers of Health, Education and Legal Experts, to review the

SADC Sponsored Resolution on 'Women, the Girl Child, HIV and AIDS' that SADC has sponsored since 1999 at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in preparation for its submission at the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of CSW in March 2016.

17. Ministers welcomed the initiative by the SADC Ministers responsible for science, technology and innovation to establish a subsidiary organisation to address challenges faced by women in science, engineering and technology. Ministers commended the SADC Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SADC WISSET) process and recommended the inclusion of Mathematics as another priority for SADC WISSET.
18. Ministers expressed their appreciation and commended the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe for successfully hosting the 2015 Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Gender/ Women's Affairs.
19. Ministers thanked the Republic of Botswana, as the Incoming Chair of SADC, for offering to host the next meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Gender/ Women's Affairs.

**Harare, Zimbabwe**

**29<sup>th</sup> May 2015**