



WELCOME ADDRESS

BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZIMBABWE AND CHAIRPERSON OF SADC,
HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. E.D. MNANGAGWA**

AT

**THE VIRTUAL EXTRAORDINARY SADC
SUMMIT ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

HARARE, ZIMBABWE

13 MARCH 2025

Your Majesty, King Mswati III, King of the Kingdom of Eswatini;

Your Excellency, Mr. Andry Rajoelina, President of the Republic of Madagascar and Incoming Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellency, Mr. Joao Lourenco, President of the Republic of Angola and Outgoing Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellency, Dr. Samia Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;

Your Excellency, Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi and Incoming Chairperson of the Organ;

Your Excellency, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia and outgoing Chairperson of the Organ;

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

Honourable Ministers;

Your Excellency, Mr. Elias M. Magosi, SADC Executive Secretary;

Excellencies,

I welcome you to this critical meeting to once again reflect on, and assess progress with regards to the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Following our last gathering in Harare, we convened in the historic joint SADC and the East African Community (EAC), Summit, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. During that meeting, we adopted clear resolutions towards finding common ground on the concerning security and humanitarian situation in the eastern parts of DRC.

At continental and global levels, both the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council, respectively, reiterated our calls for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and cessation of hostilities.

As we convene today, we remain cognizant of the fact that repercussions of the instability extend beyond the DRC borders, affecting the broader region at large. It is noteworthy that the implementation of the resolutions of the Joint SADC-EAC Summit is now underway.

We look forward to an update report from the Chair of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, on the specific milestones realised so far. It remains crucial going forward, that we infuse a greater sense of urgency in our respective work plans.

Emphasis must be on collaborative strategies to improve peace and security in the DRC. SADC thus, welcomes efforts by the International Community to end the conflict, particularly, the adoption of Resolution 2773 by the United National's Security Council. This resonates with the ongoing initiatives by our African Regional bodies.

As SADC, we reaffirm our commitment to play our part to promote lasting and sustainable peace. In this regard, an inclusive and comprehensive dialogue process is essential; to strengthen security mechanisms that safeguard the human rights and dignity of the affected communities.

Undoubtedly, there have been many setbacks and challenges in our quest for peace in eastern DRC. Our shared goal is to see a secure and prosperous DRC. To achieve this, we must constantly take stock of the decisions we have adopted from time to time.

The review of the SAMIDRC mandate that is expected of this meeting, is therefore timely, the outcome of which must contribute to the attainment of peace and stability in eastern DRC and ultimately, the entire region.

In conclusion, I urge all of us to engage in meaningful dialogue as we formulate actionable plans that reflect our

commitment to peace in the eastern DRC. Together, we can make a difference.

I thank you.