



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ELIAS M MAGOSI

SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SADC COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS MEETING**

VIRTUAL

09TH DECEMBER 2024

Honourable Professor Amon Murwira, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers.

Honourable Dr. Rasata Rafaravavitafika, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar, and Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers.

Your Excellency, Ambassador Tété António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, and Outgoing Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers.

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

Ambassador Albert Ranganai Chimbindi, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Chairperson of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials.

Senior Officials and Heads of Security Institutions from all SADC Member States;

Director of the Organ, Professor Kula Ishmael Theletsane and SADC Secretariat Staff.

Members of the Media.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very good afternoon!

It is once again an honour for me to welcome you all to this virtual extraordinary meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers. I wish to sincerely thank the Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Professor Amon Murwira, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe, for convening this extra ordinary meeting at short notice. I also wish to thank you, Honourable Ministers, for dedicating your time to participate in this extraordinary meeting, considering that most of you were also part of the just ended extraordinary meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO). There is no doubt, therefore, that your participation today signifies, again, the value that you attach to peace, security, and the development of our region.

You will recall, **Honourable Ministers**, that the Extraordinary Council of Ministers at of 18 November 2024, in Harare, Republic Zimbabwe, directed the Finance Committee and Defence Sub-Committee to meet without delay and develop a revised budget for the SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (SAMIDRC). Further, the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government held on 20 November 2024 extended the mandate of the SAMIDRC for one year, which requires additional resources for the effective execution of the Mission. I wish to report that the joint meeting of the Defence Sub-Committee and the Finance Committee was held virtually on 3rd December 2024. The revised budget was also tabled for consideration by the Extraordinary Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) earlier this morning. In line with the provisions of the SADC Treaty, which assigns the responsibility of approving

the SADC budget to the Council of Ministers, your meeting this afternoon will consider the revised budget for the SAMIDRC.

There is a foregone conclusion that peace support operations or missions by their very nature, are expensive to run, and SAMIDRC is no exception. The extension of the mandate will no doubt stretch, even more, the limited resources at our disposal, which requires us to sacrifice even further, to ensure the mission succeeds and delivers on its mandate. It is my considered view that, if adequately resourced and supported, our collective efforts and contribution to this mission can make a meaningful and lasting impact on the security and stability of our region. I therefore implore all Member States who are in arrears to redouble their efforts to close the financing gap.

Honourable Ministers,

In conclusion, I wish to thank, once more, the Chairperson of the SADC Council, Honourable Professor Amon Murwira, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe, for convening this meeting, and his leadership in delivering the mandate of the Council.

I also wish to thank Chairperson of the MCO, Honourable Ambassador Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, in leading the engagement by the MCO of the revised budget this morning.

Furthermore, our appreciation goes to the Chairperson of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials, Ambassador Albert Ranganai Chimbindi, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe for his leadership in preparing the documents for this meeting.

With these few remarks, it is my distinct honour to invite the Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Honourable Professor Amon Murwira, to deliver his remarks and officially open the meeting.

I wish you a fruitful deliberation.

I thank you! Muito obrigado! Merci beaucoup! Asanteni sana!

Tatenda! Ke a leboga!