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SADC WELCOMES UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S APPOINTMENT OF MRS PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNWOMEN

SADC welcomes the appointment of, and congratulates former Deputy President of South Africa, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka to the position of Executive Director of UNWOMEN as a great achievement for the women of the world at large, African women and the women of Southern Africa.

The announcement was made through Spokesperson of the Office of the UN Secretary-General at a news briefing in New York, USA on Tuesday 10 July 2013. The statement says: "Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka brings to this position, a wealth of experience in advocating for women's issues with a combination of strategic leadership, consensus building and hands-on management experience. She was the first woman to hold the position of Deputy President of South Africa from 2005 to 2008. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka initially became a Member of Parliament in 1994 chairing the Public Service Portfolio Committee. She was Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry (1996-1999), Minister of Minerals and Energy (1999-2005) and briefly served as acting Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in 2004.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka holds a Master's degree in Philosophy in Educational Planning and Policy from the University of Cape Town (2003) and a BA in Education from the University of Lesotho (1980). In 2003, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Western Cape.

The creation of UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women by the General Assembly in 2010 came about as part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact. This was an historic step by UN Member States in accelerating the Organisation's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

SADC is indeed privileged to continue working with UN Women at both national and regional levels and to have one of its own women at the helm of the UNWOMEN.

We look forward to working with the new Executive Director of UNWOMEN.

**ISSUED BY:
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Member States:

Angola	Lesotho	Malawi	Namibia	Swaziland	
Botswana	Madagascar	Mauritius	Seychelles	United Republic of Tanzania	
Democratic Republic of Congo		Mozambique	South Africa	Zambia	Zimbabwe

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