



SADC SECRETARIAT

STATEMENT BY THE SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DR. TOMAZ AUGUSTO SALOMAO

AT THE

**33RD ORDINARY SUMMIT OF SADC HEADS
OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

17-18 AUGUST 2013

REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

- **Your Excellency Armando Emilio Guebuza, Chairperson of SADC and President of the Republic of Mozambique,**
- **Your Excellency Joyce Banda, Deputy Chairperson of SADC and President of the Republic of Malawi,**
- **Your Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and President of the United Republic of Tanzania,**
- **Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government or their Representatives,**
- **Your Excellencies the First Ladies and Spouses,**
- **Your Excellency Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,**
- **The Chairperson of Council, Honourable Ephraim M. Chiume,**
- **Honourable Ministers,**
- **Your Excellencies the Secretary-General of COMESA, the Secretary-General of the EAC and the Secretary General SADC Parliamentary Forum,**
- **Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **My Dear Colleagues the Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration and the Deputy Executive Secretary for Finance and Administration,**
- **Colleagues from the Secretariat,**

- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Friends from the Media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

All Protocol Observed.

I am humbled to take this gracious opportunity to welcome you all to this august Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government.

Your presence here, Excellencies, is a clear testimony of your commitment to our shared values, vision and goals.

The Chairperson,

Your Excellencies,

Allow me, from the outset, to express our sincere gratitude to you, Your Excellency, President Joyce Banda, and, through you, to the Government and People of Malawi, for the legendary hospitality extended to all of us since our arrival and for the excellent facilities made available in order to support the smooth running of our business.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the outgoing Chairperson of SADC, His Excellency Armando Emílio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique, for having steered the Region for the past twelve months, and for the immense support rendered to the Secretariat, through which we managed to overcome some daunting challenges. The Secretariat now looks forward to working closely with, and enjoying the same support from the Incoming Chair.

We are honoured to be joined today by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Her Excellency Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, whose presence signifies the importance of regional integration and development, towards the achievement of the greater African Goal of continental unity in diversity and purpose of action, as set out in the draft framework of the African Union Agenda for 2063.

The presence in our midst of the Secretary-General of the East African Community and Chairperson of the Tripartite Task Force, Dr. Richard Sezibera, and the Secretary-General of COMESA, my brother Sindizo Ngwenya, is a symbol of our joint commitment and cooperation within the Tripartite Framework.

The Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Last year was characterized by a number of achievements, but also challenges in some of our Member States, particularly in Madagascar and Eastern DRC. However, under your clear and purposeful leadership, the Region remained largely peaceful and stable. Accordingly, in order to address some of the challenges resulting from geopolitics and global international dynamics, the revised Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ was launched in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in November 2012, by the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation and President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. It was in this context that the Regional Early Warning centre was established.

Moreover, as part of the process of consolidation and enhancement of democracy and democratic institutions as well as good governance in the Region, the Republic of Angola held General Elections in August 2012, while the Republic of Zimbabwe also held a successful Constitutional Referendum in March 2013 and Harmonized Elections on 31st July.

As per your Summit Decisions, the Region and SADC Member States pursued a number of efforts and committed considerable resources to the Eastern part of D.R. Congo and to assist Madagascar to return to constitutional normalcy.

After all SADC is a product of Solidarity.

The Chairperson,

Excellencies,

The Region continues to recover from the global financial and economic crisis of 2008-2009, albeit at a slow but steady pace. On average, the Region recorded a growth rate of 4.4% in 2012, which is still below the regional target of 7%.

On the investment side, the Region recorded a total investment of 26% of the GDP in 2012, a slight improvement from 25% of the GDP recorded in 2011. However, most of the SADC economies are still reliant on the export of raw materials, hence continuing to be significantly vulnerable to external shocks. This calls for policy measures by the Region and individual Member States aimed at diversifying their economies in order to mitigate

the effects of external shocks and instability emanating from the global markets.

It is in this context that your Council of Ministers approved the SADC Industrial Development Framework as an important tool to address these challenges in an innovative and programmatic manner.

Member States are also encouraged to take advantage of the good prospect existing in the agricultural sector to invest more in order to capture the gains that will accrue with time. Continued global demand for food will be on the increase for, at least, another 40 years as indicated and confirmed by different studies. It is, thus, imperative to boost investment, both public and private, in this sector.

Despite the challenging environment globally, Member States continue to carry out reforms in order to improve their investment and business climate so as to attain a better performance in the global competitiveness index.

The Chairperson,

Excellencies,

The consolidation of the SADC Free Trade Area, the launching of the COMEAS-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area, the operationalization of the SADC Regional Development Fund and the implementation of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan, coupled with the review of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), are the key activities to take the SADC Region to greater heights and, in the long term, ensure the attainment of our main goal of social and economic development in order to eradicate poverty.

In order to facilitate your deliberations on these and other issues of paramount importance for our Region, your Council of Ministers, supported by the Secretariat, has prepared the relevant submissions.

The Chairperson,

Excellencies,

During your Summit sittings in 2005, in Gaborone, and, subsequently, in 2009, in Kinshasa, you entrusted me with the responsibility of leading the executive arm of our Organization. My tenure as your Executive Secretary is coming to an end, and I wish to seize this opportunity to express my profound and sincere gratitude to you, Your Excellencies, for the opportunity, honour and privilege granted to me to steer the SADC Secretariat.

With the support of my Management Team and Staff at large, I did my best to deliver on my mandate. I am aware, though, that there is still a lot to be done, in particular on how to continue to build an efficient and effective institution that is able to discharge the responsibilities entrusted by you.

We have come a long way together and during my years at the helm of the Secretariat, I also learnt to shift from my financial and economic technocratic background to become a diplomatic player.

I enjoyed some of the most exciting moments of my life working for our Region but I have also faced difficulties and daunting challenges.

Among other things, we managed to conclude, in 2009, the SADC Headquarters in order to bring together, under the same roof, all Directorates and Units as approved under the current SADC Secretariat Structure, which led to an improved facilitation of our operations. But, more importantly, we have been working since 2007 in a very demanding process aimed at putting in place the right systems, processes and procedures, which were scrutinized by Institutional Audits every year. These efforts led to the passing, in 2011, to a stage where the SADC Secretariat signed the first Contribution Agreement with the European Union.

I can now safely say that the systems in place are robust enough to give comfort to our Member States and ICPs because they conform to internationally accepted standards. The challenge will always be to keep the systems updated and continually improve on their implementation.

The Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Before I conclude, let me, on my own behalf and on behalf of my family, express my gratitude to the Government and People of Botswana for the hospitality accorded to us during our stay in the country. Botswana became home for us and Botswana are our brothers and sisters with whom we shared wonderful moments. **Re a leboga.**

To my colleagues at the SADC Secretariat, the Management Team and Staff in general, thank you for your support and for the ability to appreciate and understand our cultural and background differences while at the same time, being able to build and work together as a team. You will always be in my heart for years to come. My special gratitude goes to Eng. João Caholo, who deputised me for eight years providing the necessary advice and support, having been later joined by Mrs. Emilie Mushobekwa, to whom I also extend my gratitude. I urge that the same support rendered to me by all of you during my tenure in office, be extended to the incoming Executive Secretary.

To our ICPs, I also extend my word of gratitude and appreciation for their support.

To my family, I am forever grateful to them for being very supportive throughout, in particular during very demanding times.

Finally, and now in Portuguese:

Senhor Presidente,

Excelências,

Dirijo-me a si, Excelência, Senhor Presidente Armando Emílio Guebuza, para expressar a minha profunda gratidão pelo apoio que me foi prestado por Vossa Excelência e o seu Governo, a mim e à minha família.

Em si, encontrei sempre o conforto, o carinho e a palavra amiga, em particular nos momentos em que mais dela precisei.

Quero, pois, agradecer a confiança, a oportunidade e o privilégio que me foram proporcionados por Moçambique e o seu Governo para exercer a função de Secretário Executivo da

SADC durante oito anos, tarefa que procurei executar com o máximo do meu empenho.

O meu sincero **MUITO OBRIGADO**.

To conclude, I hope I will to be able to travel, one day, around the Region, where I feel at home, from Kasumbalesa to Cape; from Goma to Dar; from Walvis Bay to Maputo; from Durban to Lilongwe, via Kazungula; from Beit Bridge to Victoria falls; from Santa-Clara to Harare; from Maseru to the graet Okavango Delta via Maun; from Mbabane to Katima Mulilo in Caprivi, and from Tana to Victoria via Port Louis, this time around, without any pressure to attend meetings or respond to calls but, instead, to visit brothers, sisters and friends with whom I share the common vision of our joint destiny, which is to ensure that this part of the great Mother Africa, the SADC Region, is the best place to live in this world.

I Thank You for your kind attention!

Merci Beaucoup!

Muito Obrigado!

Zikomu Kwambiri!

