



**STATEMENT BY DR. TOMÁZ AUGUSTO SALOMÃO, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OF SADC**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE REVISED STRATEGIC
INDICATIVE PLAN FOR THE ORGAN (SIPO)**

ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

20 NOVEMBER 2012

- Your Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;
- The Governor of the Arusha Region
- Honourable Bernard Kamillius Membe, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO);
- Honourable Members of MCO Troika;
- Honourable Members of Parliament;
- Honourable Ministers;
- Heads of Diplomatic Missions;
- Your Excellences Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
- Senior Officials;
- Esteemed Representatives of the Civil Society;
- Esteemed Representatives of the Private Sector;
- Esteemed Members of Academia and Research Institutions;
- Distinguished International Cooperating Partners (ICPs);
- All protocol observed

It is for me an honour and privilege to make some remarks before this august assembly on the occasion of the Official Launch of the Revised Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ (SIPO).

We are honoured for having the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation to grace this special occasion. We thank you, Your Excellence President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, for making time to join us, knowing how busy your diary is.

Indeed, to officially launch the Revised SIPO here today in Arusha is of singular importance, since Arusha is part and parcel of the history of the Southern African Region in the struggle for liberation and quest for the development of political identity among countries of the Region.

As a matter of fact, the process of development of political identity among states in the Southern African region was a continuous process, based on the national liberation movement and the struggle against Apartheid, whose cooperation dynamics allowed the development of solidarity and political cohesion as well as cooperation in defence and security; which had been deepening and consolidating continuously within the 'Front Line States'.

However, the new political, economic and social context in the region poses new and enormous challenges, especially the need to preserve peace, security, stability and democracy; prerequisite for regional integration and sustainable development.

The establishment of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation by the Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Gaborone, Botswana, in June 1996, constituted a solid platform for deepening the political cooperation and cohesion in the region; a number of instruments for the implementation of the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO), as well as various legal instruments were adopted by SADC Member States, namely:

- (i) Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;
- (ii) Protocol Against Corruption;
- (iii) Protocol on Combating Illicit Drugs;
- (iv) Protocol on Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other related materials;
- (v) Protocol on Extradition;
- (vi) Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons;
- (vii) Protocol on Legal Affairs;
- (viii) Protocol on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; and
- (ix) The Mutual Defence Pact.

It is important to flashback into the history so that one can understand the long way from the genesis of the Organ to the current institutional framework and modus operandi.

A significant step subsequent to the establishment of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation was the signature by SADC Heads of State and Government, on 14 August 2001, in Blantyre, Malawi, of SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation' which provides an institutional framework through which Member States coordinate policies and activities in the areas of politics, defence and security.

Aiming at operationalizing the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation; the 'Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ' (SIPO) was developed to provide guidelines for the implementation of the Protocol for the subsequent five years. The SIPO is based on the objectives and common agenda of SADC as stated in Article 5 of the amended SADC Treaty and in the 'Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation'; in other words as translated in the SADC's vision of: ***shared future in an environment of peace, security and stability, regional cooperation and integration based on equity, mutual benefit and solidarity.***

Therefore, the SIPO seeks to identify strategies and activities to achieve aforementioned objectives.

The adoption of SIPO in 2003 and implementation in subsequent five years yield tangible results, as a matter of fact the Region remained relatively calm and stable, notwithstanding some political and security challenges. At this juncture, it is important to share some achievements, inter alia:

- Launching and operationalization of the SADC Standby Force;
- Integration of Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) into the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC);
- Establishment and operationalization of the Regional Early Warning Centre (REWC) for conflict prevention and management;

- Establishment of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC); and
- Establishment of the SADC Mediation, Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy Structures.

Although the achievements registered in the course of the first phase of the implementation of SIPO, the assessment and review of SIPO, in 2007, equally revealed the existence of challenges that needed to be addressed, as result of geopolitics and global international evolving dynamics.

The review process of the SIPO that was initiated in Dar es Salam, United Republic of Tanzania, in 2007, emphasized the need to review and re-evaluate the SIPO every five years in order to ensure adequate response to challenges posed to the Region, by the new international order.

The Revised SIPO that we officially launch today encompasses the outcome of the review of the objectives, strategies and activities undertaken by the various sectors, including the one of the police as a standalone sector of the Organ.

The SIPO review was undertaken in response to, among others, the following challenges:

- The changing geo-political environment;
- Weaknesses in the first edition of the SIPO document to adequately respond to evolving challenges;
- Inadequate provision for the coordinated monitoring and evaluation mechanism;
- Inadequate human resources to coordinate the implementation of activities;
- The need to restructure Organ sectors.

As an outcome of the review process, the Revised SIPO now comprises five sectors, namely:

- Political sector;
- Defence sector;
- State security sector;
- Public security sector; and
- Police sector.

After the official launch of the Revised SIPO, the Program envisages a training process. I am confident that the combined outcome of the debates surrounding issues pertaining to the five sectors in the two parties of the Program will enable the ownership of the SIPO by all stakeholders, since the main goal of the overall Program is to publicise and disseminate the Revised SIPO to all relevant stakeholders.

It is my view that, above all, the most important expected outcome still to come-up with a comprehensive 'Roadmap' and 'Work Plan' that will enable all relevant stakeholders to be true partners in the implementation of the Revised SIPO to the benefit of the People of the Region.

To all who rendered their support to make this event possible we would like to offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation; we could not have done this without your.

Thank you very much

Merci beaucoup

Muito obrigado

Asante sana