



OPENING REMARKS

**BY THE SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
H.E. DR. STERGOMENA LAWRENCE TAX**

AT THE SADC-ICP DIALOGUE PLATFORM

**11th September 2015
FAIRGROUNDS HOLDINGS
GABORONE, BOTSWANA**



**Your Excellency, Head of the European Union Delegation to Botswana
and to SADC, Ambassador Alexander Baum and Co-Chairperson;**

Distinguished, Representatives of the SADC Double Troika Member States;

Your Excellencies, Representatives of the International Cooperating Partners;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this meeting of the SADC-ICP Dialogue Platform. I take this opportunity to thank you for making time from your busy schedules to attend this meeting. May I take this opportunity to extend our appreciations to the SADC Double Troika Member States for the continued support and guidance in steering SADC Regional Integration and development agenda.

May I thank our Cooperating Partners for the support that they continue to provide to facilitate the implementation of the SADC agenda at both national and regional levels. As you are aware, cooperation between SADC and ICPS is guided by the Paris Declaration Principles on Aid Coordination, complimented by the ***Windhoek Declaration (2006) on a New SADC/ICPs Partnership***. The Windhoek Declaration outlines partnership commitments of ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability. It is therefore important that we continue to work together guided by these partnership commitments.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

A number of developments have taken place since we last met on 04th December 2014, and tremendous achievements have been recorded, as outlined in 35th Summit Brochure, which was distributed during the just ended Summit, and available on the SADC website (www.sadc.int). Among others, the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015 – 2020, was approved by Summit in April 2015, which outlines the Region's priorities for the next five years as follows:

- PRIORITY A: Industrial Development and Market Integration;**
- PRIORITY B: Infrastructure in support of Regional Integration;**
- PRIORITY C: Peace and Security Cooperation; and**
- PRIORITY D: Special Programmes of Regional Dimension.**

The Revised RISDP 2015 – 2020 has placed industrialization at the centre stage of regional integration. The SADC Summit also approved the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015 – 2063, which seeks to accelerate industrialization through beneficiation and value addition of SADC’s diverse resources. The Strategy also seeks to engender major economic and technological transformation at national and regional levels, accelerate the growth momentum, and enhance comparative and competitive advantages. The implementation of the Strategy is divided into three phases, 2015 -2020, 2021 – 2050 and 2051 – 2063, with Phase I aligned with the Revised RISDP 2015 – 2020. The industrialization strategy is available on the SADC website (www.sadc.int).

This is a long term strategic direction that SADC has embarked on, which will enable SADC citizens to reap the benefits of regional integration. **SADC regional integration is about equitable and sustainable development, and poverty eradication in SADC Member States**, it is thus a key policy toward fostering socio-economic benefits to SADC citizens.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Following the approval of the Revised RISDP and its Implementation Framework, the Secretariat and the Member States have been seized with an important exercise of determining the public coordination costs for both the Secretariat and the Member States, which are required to facilitate RISDP implementation to achieve the priority targeted outputs over the period 2015 - 2020. It should be noted that further work is still underway to determine the cost of investments required for the same period, particularly for the Action Plan for the Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap and the Regional Agricultural Policy Implementation Management Plan. It is envisaged that the investment costs will be available in the first quarter of 2016.

Since industrialization is key to achieving deeper regional integration, it is important to ensure that adequate resources are provided to enable the effective implementation of the Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap. As

you will have noted from the proposed agenda for our meeting today, among other things, we will discuss the priority milestones and the corresponding indicative resource implications including the financing gaps at both the regional and the national levels. We therefore need to work together in exploring ways of facilitating the implementation, and the realization of agreed milestones and intended objectives, including effective and efficient financing mechanism.

Allow me, on behalf of SADC to thank our Cooperating Partners for their continued support, and for accepting to work with SADC in the pursuit of technological and social-economic transformation. SADC is also in the process of exploring alternative sources to effectively and sufficiently finance SADC regional integration and Development activities. It is therefore, important that we continue to work together in implementing programmes with visible and high impact to regional integration. We are confident that the support from our partners will be aligned towards SADC priorities, and in addressing the identified resource gaps. I would like to encourage our partners to provide support to the Secretariat as well as to Member States to facilitate implementation of the targeted outcomes. This will assist in achieving the transposition of regional programmes at national level resulting in the desired national and regional linkages.

To achieve this, it will be important to endeavour and move from project approach to programme approach in order to minimise fragmentation and duplication in implementation, while creating synergies and maximising on utilisation of the scarce resources.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

You will agree with me that successful implementation of SADC priorities, and the achievement of the targeted outputs require proper coordination as well as effective and efficient utilisation of resources. As such, it is critical for us to observe the principles of additionality and subsidiarity by ensuring that interventions are implemented by stakeholders best placed to implement specific actions. We therefore need to promote and encourage the involvement of institutions, authorities, and agencies outside of the SADC Secretariat, and outside SADC structures, to initiate and implement regional programmes. Nonetheless, this must be done in a coherent and coordinated manner with clear result chains, linked to SADC priorities, with an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism, which is aligned to well-articulated national regional linkages.

Where direct ICP support is provided to other stakeholders to implement regional programmes, such support should clearly define results that are based on the Revised RISDP 2015 – 2020 and other SADC programmes, such as the Industrialization initiative. This will enable SADC to realise the desired targeted outputs and outcomes.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let me reiterate that in the area of **Regional Infrastructure Development**, SADC remains committed to addressing infrastructure development needs in recognition of the importance of Infrastructure to the SADC Regional Integration Agenda. Infrastructure development continues to be a priority, the Region continues to pursue the implementation of the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) within the context of the Revised RISDP 2015 - 2020, wherein pursuit of the regional infrastructure programme is seen as fundamental for spurring the drive towards the attainment of Priority A, **Industrial Development and Market Integration**. In this context, it is important to ensure that the RIDMP is implemented in such a way that it catalyses industrialization. The front-loading of industrialization within the Revised RISDP brought with it renewed challenges and impetus to the process of rolling out of SADC infrastructure projects. In order to respond to the urgency associated with front-loading of industrialisation, priority is being accorded to power, water, ICT and transport projects. This drive further emphasises the fact that private sector participation in infrastructure development remains key to the success of the implementation of the Master Plan and consequently the industrialization objectives.

Continued support is required for project packaging, feasibility studies and design to ensure that the region has a pipeline of bankable projects, for the partake of the private sector. There are also some projects which are now at an advanced stage of project preparation, or for which project preparation has been completed, and this calls for attention towards securing resources for undertaking the hard infrastructure. There is also a specific need to secure funding for the special Oceanic States projects to ensure that their particular requirements, which may not be catered for at sub-regional level, are indeed addressed.

In the same vein the role of Private Sector in the implementation of SADC industrialization strategy cannot be over-emphasized. We need to work with the Private Sector with a view to empowering and enabling the private sector to drive SADC regional integration. SADC regional integration agenda must be private sector driven and beneficial to SADC Member States in particular SADC citizens. **The path has been set, the direction is clear, let us work**

together as Partners to deliver on a common course. It can be done with a common purpose, commitment and determination.

Peace and security cannot be realized without economic prosperity, and economic prosperity depends on peace, security and political stability. Therefore, consolidation and enhancement of peace, security and stability continue to be at the forefront of SADC cooperation and integration agenda.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As you are aware, this meeting is taking place about three weeks after the Summit. Let me extend our appreciations to our Cooperating Partners for honouring our invitation during the opening and closing ceremonies. Major outcomes of the meeting are contained in the communiqué which was read during the closing ceremony; a copy has been distributed for ease of reference.

Let me welcome you once again and conclude by thanking you, all for your commitment and support that you continue to extend to SADC - at both the regional and national levels. I trust that this partnership and support will be extended even further.

Allow me to end by following quotes by Archbishop Desmond Tutu "Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need for one another", and by Jomo Kenyatta, I quote "Our children may learn about heroes of the past. Our task is make ourselves the architects of the future".

Finally, I would like to thank the Co-Chairperson, Ambassador Baum and looking forward for his co-facilitating during the meeting.

I look forward to fruitful discussions.

Thank you.