



**CLOSING REMARKS
BY**

**HONOURABLE NYELETI BROOKE MONDLANE
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION
ON BEHALF OF THE
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE
ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
2015 SADC-EU MINISTERIAL POLITICAL DIALOGUE**

LUXEMBOURG

27 OCTOBER 2015

Honourable Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, representing the EU Presidency;

Honourable Kenneth Matambo, Minister of Finance and Development Planning of Botswana and Chairperson of SADC Council of Ministers;

Your Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC;

Excellencies Ambassadors and Head of Diplomatic Missions;

Senior Officials from the SADC Double Troika Member States and the European Union;

Ladies and Gentlemen

All protocol observed

Allow me to begin by expressing our sincere gratitude to the EU for the warm reception and excellent hospitality extended to us since our arrival in Luxembourg.

We had lively debates on matters of mutual interest in a frank and cordial atmosphere. This is a testimony that our cooperation is robust and underpinned by a result oriented longstanding partnership.

We reflected on the most pressing challenges and impediments to socioeconomic and political progress affecting our regions and together charted directions to move our cooperation forward.

Regular engagement plays a critical role in maintaining the momentum in the quest to ensuring development, economic growth, sustainable peace, safety and security of our two regions.

Our meeting has revealed that while there has been remarkable developments and progress in some areas of our cooperation, there still remains some challenges confronting either a region, or both of our regions, which require collaborative efforts and partnership.

The commitments agreed upon during our deliberations will facilitate the achievement of the goals we set for ourselves. We reaffirmed our engagement towards strengthening Peace and Security, Democracy and Good Governance, which are all important fundamentals for the creation of

an enabling environment to accelerate regional integration that, in turn, will stimulate socio-economic development in our regions.

We have reiterated our pledge to continue building trust and fostering cooperation in addressing threats to international peace and security.

An important agreement regarding the promotion of economic development anchored on deeper regional integration processes was the confirmation of the continuous availability of the funds from the EDF. We also noted with appreciation that funds can be swiftly mobilised under regional political cooperation to support and strengthen SADC's agenda on peace and security.

Honourable Ministers,

Excellences,

Senior Officials,

The success of our meeting depended, to large extent, on the dedicated and hardworking team of Senior Officials and excellent preparatory work undertaken by the SADC Secretariat and the EU Delegation in Gaborone. We would like to commend them all for the job well done.

We equally wish to mention the commendable work of the SADC Ambassadors to the EU who tirelessly worked with their counterparts leading to a highly productive outcome. We extend to them a big thank you and ask them to continue with their excellent work.

A special note of recognition to the co chairs of this meeting for the abled manner of conducting our deliberations. Our highest appreciation Gentlemen.

In conclusion, I wish to once again extend our profound gratitude to you and your delegation Honourable Minister, for hosting us and providing the willingness to host you in SADC region in two years' time.

May I wish you all a safe journey back to your respective countries and destinations.

I thank you.