



OPENING REMARKS

**BY HONOURABLE KENNETH MATAMBO, MINISTER OF FINANCE
AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING OF BOTSWANA AND
CHAIRPERSON OF SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

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

LUXEMBOURG

27 OCTOBER 2015

Honourable Asselborn, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Duchy of Luxembourg, representing the EU Presidency;

Honourable Nyeleti Mandlane, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique, representing the Chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ;

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

Excellencies Ambassadors and Head of Missions,

Senior Officials from the SADC Double Troika Member States and the EU;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me, first, to express my gratitude to the EU Presidency for the joint effort in convening this meeting with the objective of facilitating continued Political Dialogue between SADC and the EU, a commitment that the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the EU made under the Framework of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

The partnership between the EU and SADC is firmly entrenched in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement that is anchored on three pillars namely: (1) Political Dialogue (also known as the Berlin Initiative), (2) Trade for Development and (3) Development Cooperation. This meeting represents one of these pillars and is intended to provide an opportunity for the EU and SADC to deliberate on global, continental and regional challenges, as well as the major political factors affecting development cooperation and programming in the two Regions.

There is no doubt that Peace and Security, Democracy and Good Governance are prerequisites for the creation of an environment for economic growth, and that they provide the impetus for the acceleration

of socio-economic regional integration. The prevailing atmosphere of peace and stability in the SADC region has prepared the ground for trade, investment and infrastructure development; and has made it possible for our development partners, including the EU, to support our regional integration agenda through a number of programmes and technical assistance. We thank you for your continued cooperation and SADC will remain seized with the sustenance of peace, security and political stability in the region.

SADC and the EU have made significant gains in their cooperation through political dialogue, which include, among others, creation of a structure for enhanced and comprehensive political deliberations between the two parties. Most importantly, the EU's support to the SADC region has remained relevant coherent and oriented towards poverty reduction and economic development and integration; and has been consistent with SADC policies and priorities. We are optimistic, therefore, that our partnership will continue to deliver real benefits and opportunities, and increase visibility on both sides.

I am pleased to note that this year's meeting comes at a time when a number of developments have taken place in the SADC Region since our last meeting held in 2013. Among these is the revision of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) culminating in the approval of a Revised RISDP (2015-2020) outlining the priorities for the next five years.

The Region has adopted the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015 – 2063, that seeks to engender major economic and technological transformation at national and regional levels; accelerate the growth momentum and enhance the comparative and competitive

advantages of the economies of the SADC Region. The first phase of the Strategy, covering the next five years, focuses on frontloading of the Industrial Development and related infrastructure and services support to industrialization, with interventions to strengthen integration and competitiveness.

The region also continues to pursue the implementation of the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan which was adopted in August 2012, outlining and identifying the priority infrastructure projects to facilitate regional integration and trade. These projects are in line with the African Union's Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), as well as the COMESA/EAC/SADC Tripartite Arrangement.

You will agree with me that successful implementation of these programmes will require significant resources and investment as well as strategic partnerships. I wish to recognise the fact that the EU remains the biggest partner of SADC under the ***Development Cooperation*** pillar especially in the area of economic and institutional reforms and capacity strengthening under 10th EDF and 11th EDF.

Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

There remain some areas which need us to explore further ways of collaborating in addressing them, such challenges include migration, human trafficking, gender violence, impacts of climate change; and means to implement the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals. I am glad to note that some of these issues are included in the agenda for our discussion today.

In closing, I look forward to today's meeting, for I am convinced that it will help both sides to truly reflect on the most pressing challenges and impediments to socioeconomic and political progress, and to identify innovative solutions that promise a brighter future for the citizens of our two regions.

I sincerely hope that this dialogue will help deepen regional integration and sustainable development and further bolster the relations between SADC and the EU.

Thank you.