



Pretoria, 28 March 2018

**JOINT STATEMENT
SADC-EU MINISTERIAL POLITICAL DIALOGUE
28 March, 2018
Pretoria, Republic of South Africa**

1. In line with the Berlin Initiative launched in 1994, the 2018 Political Dialogue Meeting at ministerial level between the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the European Union (EU) was held in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa on 28 March 2018. The meeting marked 24 years since the commencement of the SADC-EU Dialogue. It was preceded by a preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting and was co-chaired by HE Manuel Augusto, Foreign Minister of Angola and Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the SADC Organ on Politics Defence and Security, and HE Deputy Prime Minister Ekaterina Zaharieva, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria - on behalf of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Hlangusemphi, Honourable Minister of Economic Planning and Development of Swaziland, outgoing Chair of SADC Council of Ministers, and HE Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC, accompanied by senior officials of the SADC Double Troika Member States (South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland, Angola, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia), the SADC Secretariat, the European Union External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission (EC).
2. The Political Dialogue was opened by the Honourable Manuel Augusto and the Honourable Ekaterina Zaharieva, who highlighted the importance of the Dialogue in building a common understanding and reinforcing cooperation between the two regions. The two sides reiterated their commitment to pursuing a comprehensive and broad dialogue, with the aim of establishing and maintaining a constructive and enduring partnership at global, African and regional level. In the light of the fifth African Union-European Union Summit held in Abidjan in November 2017, the two sides underlined their shared commitment to the principles of equal partnership, shared ownership, responsibility and reciprocity. The two sides recognized the importance of achieving a modern and relevant partnership, ready to address emerging and evolving issues including global governance, trade, migration, climate change, resilience and the environmental/security nexus, and recommitted themselves to effective multilateralism including rules based trade relations.
3. The two sides discussed the political and economic situation in SADC and in the European Union. Both sides reaffirmed their continuing commitment to achieve consolidated, sustainable and inclusive growth to create jobs, and endorsed the focus by SADC on industrialization, the development of value chains and infrastructure

development - with a clearly defined role for the private sector - as key pillars to sustainable growth and development.

Follow up to EU-AU Summit

4. The two sides discussed the outcome of the fifth African Union-European Union Summit held in Abidjan in November 2017. They welcomed the outcome as evidence of progress towards stronger relations between both continents which are in line with the spirit of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), SADC's own Windhoek Declaration (2006), the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) and the Busan Principles of Aid Effectiveness (2011). Both sides agreed on the need to implement the Summit decisions swiftly in the four agreed priority areas (i) Investing in People – education, science technology and skills development; (ii) Strengthening Resilience, Peace, Security and Governance; (iii) Migration and Mobility; and (iv) Mobilising Investments for African structural sustainable transformation and deliver together through concrete actions on commitments made. Both sides also emphasized the need to deliver on expectations of Youth, - the central theme of the Summit - supporting them in carrying forward their recommendations and concrete proposals for the partnership in the years to come. They further recalled the joint commitment from the Summit to promote intra-African trade, advance greater economic integration and support the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).

Mobilizing Investment for African structural transformation

5. The two sides noted the reconfirmation of SADC priorities arising from the 37th SADC Summit of August 2017 with the Theme “Partnering with the Private Sector in developing Industry and Regional Value Chains”, with a particular focus on agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, energy and pharmaceuticals. It was agreed that further analysis on the subject of inclusive and sustainable growth and decent job creation would facilitate the development of a regional strategy for support to value chains and regional markets, aligned with the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063). This work would be coherent with national EPA Implementation Plans which are being developed, and would contribute to the implementation of the European External Investment Plan (EEIP). Both sides noted the added value of strengthening economic cooperation in this context, as a means of deploying instruments in a coordinated way and reducing transaction costs to partners. Both sides further acknowledged the importance of technical dialogue focusing on productive sectors to drive the process.

EU Update on the European External Investment Plan (EEIP)

6. The European Union updated SADC on the development of the European External Investment Plan (EEIP). The EEIP was adopted in September 2017 to help boost investment in partner countries in Africa and the European Neighbourhood. The two sides discussed how the EEIP could contribute to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while tackling some of the root causes of migration, and also how it could mobilise and leverage sustainable public and private investments to improve economic and social development with a particular focus on decent job creation. It was agreed that the EEIP would help mobilising finance (through the European Fund for Sustainable Development) and help developing a favourable investment climate



and business environment. The EEIP may also foresee technical assistance to help partner countries prepare attractive investment projects.

Investing in people – education and skills development

7. The two sides agreed that joint work on education and skills development is to be seen as an essential building block toward achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and decent job creation. In addition, the review of the regional cooperation programme for eastern and southern Africa has led to strengthening the focus on job creation, substantially increasing the corresponding budget allocation. This increase will allow for jointly developing a variety of support actions in view of inclusive and sustainable job creation, in particular for the region's youth, including through seizing the full potential of EPA implementation. SADC emphasized the importance of technical dialogue on options to support skills and development in the SADC region, along with the enhancement of the regional qualification framework including mapping of future skills for industrial development.
8. Both sides also concurred that the opportunities provided by the EU programmes ERASMUS+ targeting education, training, youth and sports, and Horizon 2020 on Research and Innovation should also be looked into, and they agreed that support and guidance could be given to member states on how to participate and benefit from these prospects. Horizon 2020, as a financial instrument of the European Union, is seen as a means to drive economic growth and create jobs coupling research and innovation, with an emphasis on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. Erasmus+ proposes international actions on capacity building and mobility, which strengthen employability potential of the youth, contribute to responsiveness to the labour market needs also in terms of knowledge and skills.

Migration and mobility

9. The two sides shared experiences on their situations as destinations for various migration flows, and updated on the respective policies, strategies and programmes on migration. They underlined the importance of working together to promote a constructive and multidimensional approach to migration that takes place in a safe, orderly and regular manner. This includes effective management of migration flows in a spirit of shared responsibility and in full respect of human rights and international law; fight against trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling; addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement; capitalising on the development potential. The two sides took note of the African Union-European Union Summit of November 2017 and the ongoing development of an action plan between the European Union and the African Union.
10. The development of an EU-funded programme 'Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms for Migration Management in the Southern Africa Region' was discussed. This action would focus on migration flows in the Southern Africa / Indian Ocean region, in complementarity to other initiatives developed for the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and North Africa. The comprehensive approach proposed by this programme will address the objectives of promoting legal and regular migration and tackling irregular migration, taking into account the development-security-migration

nexus, and also identifying positive spill-over effects of migration on regional integration and regional economic development. This is in line with the initiative for the development of a comprehensive SADC Migration Policy Framework to harmonise and better coordinate the implementation of relevant regional programmes and activities. This initiative is currently being pursued in the context of the Regional Action Plan on Irregular and Mixed Migration that was adopted at the last Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa held in Swaziland in August 2017

Peace and Security, Resilience and Governance

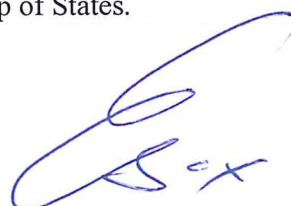
11. Both sides reiterated their commitment to work together to address global, continental and regional challenges to peace and security which must be addressed if growth and development are to be achieved. SADC welcomed the announcement by the European Union of the adoption of a €15 million new programme for Support to Peace and Security in the region including capacity building of a number of key institutions under the umbrella of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation. The programme was endorsed as an important contribution to strengthening conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution as well as promoting and maintaining democratisation across the region, notably through the deployment of long term election observation missions.
12. The two sides discussed the political and security situation in the region, taking account in particular of the mandated role of SADC as a guarantor of the Peace and Security Cooperation Framework for the Great Lakes Region and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

In this context, they underlined their commitment to the holding of elections in DRC this year, in a spirit of dialogue and in the framework defined by the Constitution, the Saint-Sylvestre Political Agreement and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2409 (2018). The importance of supporting a national dialogue process in the Kingdom of Lesotho, aimed at securing an inclusive consensus on reforms, was also noted.

13. The two sides underlined their joint commitment to enhancing democratic processes, focusing on achieving inclusive, credible and transparent elections in a conducive political environment including full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this context, both sides noted the importance to the democratization process in the region of the forthcoming elections in both Zimbabwe and Madagascar, recalling in particular the EU's declared readiness to-review the whole range of its policies towards Zimbabwe to take into account progress achieved in the country.

Post-Cotonou

14. The two sides exchanged views on the Post-Cotonou relationship and future negotiations and welcomed the European Commission adopting on 12 December 2017 the Recommendation including draft Negotiating Directives authorising the opening of negotiations on a renewed Partnership Agreement between the European Union and countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.



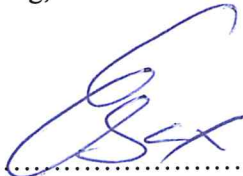
15. Both sides acknowledged the importance of preparing for a revised partnership Agreement between the European Union and countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States that reflects a comprehensive political partnership between equal partners and affirmed that the renewal of the agreement after 2020 is an historical opportunity that should be seized by both sides to better structure and formalise our mutual relations. Both sides reiterated their commitment to the important role the Regional Economic Communities should play in the future Agreement.

Ministerial and SOM next Meetings

16. It was agreed that the next Ministerial meeting will take place in the European Union, tentatively in the second half of 2019.
17. The next Senior Officials meeting will take place in the European Union in tentatively in the second half of 2018, to take stock of the progress made with in sector dialogues and in programme implementation, and to prepare future ministerial meetings.
18. SADC and EU representatives thanked the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa for the preparations for the meeting, as well as the reception and hospitality accorded throughout the meeting.

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His Excellency Manuel Augusto, Foreign
Minister of Angola and Chairperson of the
Ministerial Committee of the SADC Organ
on Politics Defence and Security


DATE:


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Her Excellency Deputy Prime Minister
Ekaterina Zaharieva, Minister of Foreign
Affairs of Bulgaria, representing the
European Union

DATE: ...28.05.2018.....