



**TALKING NOTES**

**FOR**

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MINISTER OF PLANNING OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA  
AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**THE POST FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012  
SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING  
MEDIA BRIEFING**

**TALATONA CONVENTION CENTRE  
LUANDA, ANGOLA  
MARCH 02, 2012**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Distinguished members of the press, good morning and welcome to the media briefing on the outcome of the meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers that has been underway here for the past two days.

## **COUNCIL AGENDA**

The February Council meeting is normally for consideration of reports on the implementation of the SADC Corporate Business Plan and Expenditure Reports and its other previous decisions as well as to approve the SADC Corporate Business Plan and Budget presented by the Secretariat for the following year.

## **STATE OF SADC FINANCES**

In this regard, Council considered reports on the expenditure and implementation of the SADC Corporate Business Plan for the period April 2011/March 2012, noting with great pleasure, that all SADC Member States, except Madagascar have remitted their statutory Member States contributions to the SADC budget for the year ending March 2012.

Though under suspension pending its return to constitutional normalcy, Madagascar is obliged to honour its commitments to SADC but it has been in arrears since 2009 when it was suspended as follows: US\$1,338,116 for the year 2009/10, US\$1,365,000 for 2010/11 and US\$1.8 million for 2011/12.

We are engaging this Member State at the highest levels to honour its statutory commitments. Concurrently, SADC continues to vigorously assist the Malagasy people to find a solution to the challenges facing their country.. In this regard, amongst others, the SADC Liaison Office has been established and is supporting the implementation of the roadmap that is expected to lead that country to return to constitutional normalcy.

## **CORPORATE PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2012/13**

Council approved the SADC Corporate Plan, which is the policy document providing a broad overview on the environment, objectives and direction of the actions and main outcomes that the Secretariat intends to achieve during the year for 2012/13, focusing on the following *priority* sectors of intervention:

- (a) Trade/Economic liberalisation and development;
- (b) infrastructure in support of regional integration;
- (c) peace and security cooperation; and
- (d) special programmes of regional dimension under education and human resource development, health, HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases, food security and transboundary natural resources, statistics, gender equality, and science, technology and innovation and research and development

The requisite budget approved for the 2012/13 is to be funded by SADC Member States and by International Cooperating Partners (ICPs).

US\$35.3 million which represents 45% of the Total budget of US\$78.4 million is projected to be funded by SADC Member States while the ICPs will provide US\$43 million, 55% of the total budget.

The Member States contribution includes a US\$2.0 million additional contribution by the Republic of Angola, of which US\$1.0 million is earmarked for the activities of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, specifically the political mediation in Madagascar, while US\$1.0million is specifically for the reviewing of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.

Council has thus expressed its sincerest appreciation to the government and the people of the Republic of Angola for this contribution and encouraged other Member States to respond to the call the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government during its meeting of August 2011 to support Organ activities.

#### **ENABLING INSTRUMENTS APPROVED BY COUNCIL:**

- Council approved, several enabling instruments as follows:
- SADC Internal Audit Manual,
- Audit committee Handbook
- Risk Management Policy,
- Policy on the Use of Consultants,
- Policy for Strategy Development, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, &
- The revised Terms of Reference of the SADC Committee of Ambassadors/High Commissioners accredited to the Republic of Botswana and a representative of the Government of Botswana, leading to its operationalisation.

#### **STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS**

In considering the above, Council directed the SADC Secretariat, in consultation with the International Cooperating Partners, to start preparations for the 2012 SADC Consultative Conference.

Council has also received and noted an updated list of key regional stakeholders who have been created or have entered into cooperation agreements with SADC to participate in the implementation of the SADC integration agenda.

#### **COMESA-EAC- SADC TRIPARTITE FREE TRADE AREA**

Council noted progress in the preparations for negotiations on the Tripartite Free Trade Area.

Council has reiterated the importance of developing the regional work programme on industrialisation. This will contribute to the Tripartite process on the industrialisation pillar.

## **TOWARDS THE SADC CUSTOMS UNION**

Council received the report of the Ministerial Task Force outlining the strategic direction towards the SADC Customs Union, identifying, in particular the Parameters of the Future Customs Union, Benchmarks or Milestones and elements for a Model SADC Customs Union.

## **SADC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT SEMINAR**

Council urgent Member States public and private sectors to participate in the SADC Infrastructure Investment Seminar scheduled to take place in Tokyo, Japan on March 14 and 15, 2012 and to support the SADC Secretariat in presenting SADC development projects.

Council also decided that the same priority bankable projects should be packaged into a booklet to be shared with any other potential development partners.

## **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA**

Council noted that, concomitant to the Summit decision of August 2011 to show solidarity with the people of Somalia by providing moral, material and monetary support, at least six (6) SADC Member States, namely, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia provided a total of 8073 tons of perishable and non perishable, goods, food stuff and other relief supplies, while South Africa has provided some US\$4 million for airlifting and shipping of the contributions from SADC Member States to the people of Somalia.

Council commended the Member States that responded to the need of the people of Somalia.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

On the cultural front, Council noted with great please, the proud that Chipolopolo (meaning Copper Bullet), the national football team of the Republic of Zambia has done the SADC Region by winning the African Cup of Nations tournament this year. In this regard, Council congratulated the team and the People of the Republic of Zambia.

## **TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS FOR RIO + 20**

For the World Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in March 2012, the Republic of Angola and the SADC Secretariat will be hosting a technical consultative Conference in March 2012. The meeting is specifically aiming at affording the Region an opportunity to have a common understanding of the environmental issues that will be discussed at the World Conference.

Distinguished media practitioners, those are the highlights of the outcome of the Council meeting that I has been underway here since yesterday.

I thank you.