



STATEMENT

BY

DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE, SADC SECRETARIAT

AT

THE 10th MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

***Bolstering regional productive capacities for
water, energy, food security and ecosystem resilience
to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial transformation***

Lesotho, Maseru

**5-7 September 2022
AVANI MASERU HOTEL,**

MASERU, KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

**MR. MALEFETSANE NCHAKA, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY
OF WATER, KINGDOM OF LESOTHO,**

**MR. PAOLA AMADEJ, THE EUROPEAN UNION AMBASSADOR TO
THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO;**

**CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEES OF SENIOR OFFICIALS
RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY;**

SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM MEMBER STATES;

**THE HEADS OF THE SADC IMPLEMENTATION ORGANISATIONS
INCLUDING THE RIVER BASIN ORGANISATIONS;**

**OUR INTERNATIONAL AND ~~REGIONAL~~ COOPERATING PARTNERS
IN THE WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD SECTORS HERE PRESENT;**

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, MEDIA HOUSES;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND INVITED GUESTS;

DEAR COLLEAGUES FROM SADC SECRETARIAT

On behalf of the SADC Secretariat, allow me to start my introductory remarks by conveying the greetings from the SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Elias M. Magosi and the Executive Management who could not be with us this in this event due to equally pressing assignments. This important event is convened to discuss and deliberate on the issues of Water, Energy and Food. As you are aware, these three issues are critical to the advancement of the SADC Regional Agenda and they are in line

with the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme (2020-2030) which is a blue print for the implementation of all SADC Regional Programme.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I go into the magnitude of this event,

I would like to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho for accepting to host this event which demonstrates commitment to SADC regional agenda. I would like also to thank our International Cooperating Partners for providing the base funding under the European Union (EU) supported SADC WEF Nexus Dialogue Project as well as the “Support to Integrated Catchment Management (ICM)” Project in Lesotho, co-financed by the EU and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the previous years, a number of Dialogues have been convened and importantly to note that the sixth Dialogue is the one that introduced the WEF Nexus dimension to regional development, in 2013 in Lusaka, Zambia. The 6th Dialogue was held under the theme - Exploring the water, energy and food nexus for regional development. The 6th Dialogue

provided a framework for integrating WEF concept into regional programme to create an environment which will support the attainment of Water Energy Food security of the region. This was a great beginning in the adaptability of the WEF concept at SADC and Member States level.

As you are aware, the previous dialogues were held under different themes which addressed the issues of WEF, for example, the **6th Dialogue (2013)** was held in Lusaka, Zambia under the target theme – *“Exploring the water, energy and food nexus for regional development”*; the **7th Dialogue (2015)** was held in Windhoek, Namibia under the theme – *“The central role of water in driving industrialization, with the realisation that water attains its true value when it has optimised contribution to other productive sectors of the various industrial value chains”* such as energy and agro-food processing. Thereafter, the **8th Dialogue (2017)** was held in Boksburg, South Africa under the target theme – *“Fostering regional value chains and job creation through the Water-Energy-Food Nexus approaches”* Prior to this one, the **9th Dialogue (2019)** was held in Johannesburg, South Africa under the theme - *Promoting the water-energy-food nexus approach and youth empowerment for sustainable development*

The mentioned dialogues provided a strong foundation towards the implementation of the WEF initiatives at the regional and national levels. The inter-linkages between these three sectors provide opportunities for the Region to contribute to industrialization, with the realisation that water attains its true value when it has optimised contribution to other productive sectors of the various industrial value chains (e.g., energy and agro-food processing).

Chairperson
Director of Ceremony
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, the SADC Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue is a biennial event organised by the SADC Secretariat traditionally held as events driven by the Water Sector. It provides a forum for practitioners and other influencing sectors to have a dialogue on pertinent issues that need to be addressed to deepen regional integration and address poverty in the region. The underlying objective is to ensure that the region unlocks the potential of sustainable water resources development in contributing to regional integration, poverty eradication and socio-economic development. With the advent of the Water, Energy and Food (WEF) security sector integrative collaboration, SADC has once again considered it prudent that this year's event be fully integrative of these three sectors, under the Water Food-Energy Nexus concept. Increased

integration and inclusive approaches to water resources management, development and its utilisation are crucial for water to truly play its role of catalysing regional development, and to attract more investment into the sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's 10th Dialogue is being held under the theme ***“Bolstering regional productive capacities for water, energy, food security and ecosystem resilience to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial transformation”***. This theme focus on how to strengthen the productive capacity of these three sectors to ensure that a sustainable economic transformation is achieved in the SADC region. The theme itself is anchored on the theme adopted by the Heads of State and Government during the 42nd Summit themed *“Promoting Industrialisation Through, Agro-Processing, Mineral Beneficiation, and Regional Value Chains for Inclusive and Resilient Economic Growth”*., held in August 2022 in Kinshasa The Democratic Republic of Congo,. The theme takes into account the current operating environment in the Region and the urgent need to enhance the roll out of SADC industrialization and market integration programmes as contained in the RISDP (2020-2030) adopted by the Heads of State and Government at their 42nd Summit held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. These various themes demonstrate that as a region is committed to make that sure each sector contributes to the sustainability and industrial transformation. This was a call to the Region to accelerate implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063, with a special focus on enhancing regional productive capacities in order to achieve a well

balanced socio-economic development and deal with inequalities within, and between member states and reversed years of progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Strengthening of productive capacities will be critical for boosting the ability of SADC Member States to respond to a number of challenges (e.g. COVID-19, Climate change impacts etc).

In this context, we note that water is used to influence other sectors to deepen regional integration and address poverty in the region. If this is realised, the SADC region will be in a position to unlock the potential sustainable water resources development that contributes to socio-economic development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 10th Dialogue will discuss among other issues strategies and approaches aimed at maximising the utilisation of productive natural resources for the three sectors as well as enhancing ecosystem integrity. It will look at how best we can mobilise inclusive entrepreneurial capabilities around WEF Nexus in order to contribute to regional productive capacities

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The outcomes of the Dialogue will help policy makers and International Cooperating Partners to use the identified solutions and designed

programmes and projects that will significantly contribute in addressing issues of water, energy and food in the region.

Finally, with the outcomes of this event, it will strengthen SADC region capacity to build inclusive and resilient systems to sustain the three sectors to attain their productive capacities so that they contribute to regional development and industrial transformation.

With these few remarks, I wish you a very successfully meeting and your recommendations will be disseminated so that there are implemented and embedded in a number of national and regional programmes and projects.

Merci

Obrigado

Asante Sana.