



REMARKS

BY THE SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

H.E. MR. ELIAS M. MAGOSI

During the

**JOINT MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR
ENERGY AND WATER**

KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

04 November 2022

Honourable Olivier MWENZE MUKALENG, Minister of Hydraulic Resources and Electricity of the DRC, and Chairperson of the joint SADC Committees of Ministers responsible for Energy and Water;

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers ;

Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration;

Chairperson of the Senior Officials and all Senior Officials from SADC Member States;

CEOs and Executive Directors of the Regional Organisations;

Our International Cooperating Partners and Development Finance Institutions;

Members of the Media;

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning!

Let me to begin by expressing our profound gratitude to the Government and the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo for convening this joint meeting and providing the necessary support towards the organisation of this ministerial event.

Before I continue, I would like to officially introduce a new and important face in the SADC Secretariat, Mrs. Angele Makombo N'tumba, a national of the our host, the DRC. She joins the SADC family as the new SADC Deputy Executive Secretary responsible for Regional Integration, following her swearing in during the 42nd SADC Summit this past August. Mrs Makombo N'tumba takes over from the all too familiar face of Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo, whose tenure of office came to an end this past month, October 2022. As she starts a new chapter in the region, I urge Honourable Ministers to welcome her and support her to continue the SADC journey towards integration, and particularly in your sectors.

I wish to thank Member States for making the time and effort to attend this meeting, despite your busy schedules and amidst the various challenges we have faced as a region, most notably the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 and the resultant economic downturn. This reflects your true commitment in advancing the SADC regional integration and cooperation agenda, specifically in addressing energy and water security in the Region.

Chairperson

Honourable Ministers

The developments in the two sectors under your respective portfolios are extremely important as they greatly contribute to and enable regional integration, industrialisation, environmental protection, and ultimately to peace and stability, socio-economic development and reduction of poverty in the region. Your meeting today provides an opportunity to review progress made towards implementation of programmes in the SADC Energy and Water sectors. Therefore, the objective of this meeting is to deliberate on

key areas in the documents before you, based on the technical input from the Seniors Officials.

Honourable Ministers,

The mentioned 42nd SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held under the leadership of His Excellency Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, President of this Republic and Chairperson of the SADC, emphasized the need for SADC to consider and enhance implementation of policies and strategies aimed at advancing the standard of livelihoods of the SADC citizenry. Water and Energy contribute quite substantially to the accomplishment of the SADC's theme which is, *“Promoting industrialisation through, agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, and regional value chains for inclusive and resilient economic growth”*.

The SADC Summit underscored, among others, the urgent need to enhance the roll out of SADC industrialization and market integration programmes as contained in the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-30. Energy and Water are equally important pillars in our efforts to promote regional cooperation and integration, and are also priorities in the SADC Vision 2050. Energy and Water, as part of the regional strategy's Pillar II on ***Infrastructure Development in Support of Regional Integration***, are critical enablers to industrialisation and ultimate socio-economic development of our Region. These two are also essential for sustainable economic growth in all Member States. The importance of clean, reliable and affordable energy and water for our citizens in the region cannot be overstated. Failure to achieve these only spells doom for those we must serve; this can never be an option for us, for you Honourable Ministers.

**Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates**

This meeting is taking place at a time when the World economy is recovering from the challenges imposed by COVID-19. Similarly, the ongoing geopolitical tensions in other parts of the World, continue to affect socio-economic development of the SADC region, due to high crude oil prices and lack of investment in the development of energy and water infrastructure. In this regard, we need to ensure that development of energy and water infrastructure in the region is not compromised due to these challenges. We must develop and enhance security of energy supply, promote intra-regional trade by increasing power generation capacity, building regional transmission and national distribution networks, as well as oil and gas infrastructure in the Region.

I wish to indicate that the Committee of Ministers of Finance and Investment at their Ordinary meeting held in Lilongwe, Malawi in July 2022 and at their recent Extraordinary meeting in October 2022, welcomed the initiative of establishing a Regional Transmission Infrastructure Financing Facility (RTIFF), as an innovative instrument aimed at channelling and leveraging funding towards priority regional transmission projects. The proposed Facility, when in full operation, should enable national power utilities and other operating members of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and the SADC region at large, to increase trading volumes, increase access to cost-efficient generation sources, alleviate congestion on the existing networks, as well as improve national energy supply reliability. All these are

essential steps for the region and Member States to shift towards achieving energy security in the long run.

The meeting is also held prior to the 27th UN Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP-27), to be held in Egypt in the coming week, where countries of the World, individually and collectively, through the Regional Economic Communities such as SADC, are expected to review their commitments to reduce carbon emissions especially from the energy sector by 2050 and beyond. It is our hope that, while advancing energy and water programmes and projects, the emerging concepts such as the “Just Energy Transition and Green Energy” will be thoroughly considered in line with the needs of the Region. The Secretariat is also exploring a regional dialogue on the two concepts to establish a common SADC position, and guide the appropriate steps the region should take to respond adequately.

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Distinguished Delegates**

With regards to energy access, the SADC region is still facing challenges with security of energy supply, regional interconnectivity, affordability, availability and reliability, as well as limited access to electricity. The slow economic growth and other socio-economic challenges further compound the problem as Member States shy away from investing in generation and transmission projects without support from key stakeholders and traditional Cooperating Partners.

In order to address the issues around inadequate supply of power and low

access electricity, the Secretariat is working tirelessly with Member States to develop appropriate policies such as targeted subsidies for connection fees for low-income communities, institutional arrangements through establishment of dedicated rural electrification agencies and budget allocation for electrification projects. In this regard, the current initiatives intended to address some of the aforementioned challenges including, among others:

- (i) Accelerated preparation of power generation projects utilising different primary energy sources including hydropower projects such as Inga Hydropower through its designed phases (Inga III – Inga VIII) and associated transmission component;
- (ii) Preparation of priority regional transmission projects connecting Angola, Malawi and Tanzania to the regional grid; evacuating power from the newly commissioned plants to demand centres; and relieving congestion on the existing networks to enable all the mainland Member States to trade power bilaterally and through the competitive electricity market platforms coordinated by the SAPP;
- (iii) Advocating for electrification projects to ensure universal energy access through grid extension, mini-grids and off-grid solutions;
- (iv) Member States signing the Intergovernmental Memorandum of Agreement (IGMoA) and its ratification to operationalise the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE); and

- (v) introduction of energy sector regulatory principles to protect the consumers while ensuring sustainability of the energy supply industry and promoting participation of the private investors in the energy sector.

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Distinguished Delegates**

In the Water sector, the major challenge is water insecurity, which often manifests through low levels of access to clean drinking water and compromised sanitation. SADC has developed the fifth (5th) Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP V) on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management (2021- 2025) to accelerate implementation of water programmes and projects in the SADC region. Through the RSAP V, both surface and groundwater resources are being developed to meet the ever rising water demand in the SADC Region. Water resources development and management have largely focused more on surface water and less on groundwater, yet the latter is crucial for water security especially for the rural community in the region.

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It is also encouraging to note that this Ministerial meeting will deliberate on energy and water issues as a cluster. There is no doubt that the nexus and interdependencies between energy and water is very strong, unavoidable

and too ghastly to ignore. It is commendable that SADC has embraced the resource nexus approach and is rolling out a Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Security Nexus Programme. As a way forward, there is a global consideration to expand the scope of the WEF Nexus to incorporate health and ecosystems sectors, since they have a great impact in the delivery of energy and water programmes. Security also become a critical component to achieve such noble programme as the WEF Nexus.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all Member States for their continued commitment, contribution and support to the successful implementation of SADC regional integration agenda. However, we have to double our efforts and do more to transform our region and achieve integration and meaningful regional development; one that can make our citizens proud. The Secretariat stands ready to support Member States to shift the dial and facilitate this much needed transformation of our region.

Let me once more extend our gratitude to the Government and the People of the Democratic Republic of Congo for a successful week leading up to this joint meeting. I would also like to commend the Committees of the Senior Officials for Energy and Water under the leadership of the Chair, Mr. Honoré NDUSHABANDI NYAMUGUSHA (Secretary General) and the staff from the Ministry of Hydraulic Resources and Electricity for their diligent and excellent work in preparation for this meeting.

I wish you very fruitful deliberations.

Thank you very much! Merci Beaucoup! Muito obrigado!
Asante Sana!