



## PRESS RELEASE

**His Excellency Mr Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chairperson of SADC to visit the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana**

**6<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Gaborone, Botswana** - His Excellency Mr. Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), will visit the SADC Secretariat Headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana on **10<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**.

H.E. President Tshisekedi will arrive in Gaborone, Botswana on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 for a State Visit and will have bilateral meetings with His Excellency Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, the President of the Republic of Botswana.

At the SADC Secretariat, H.E. President Tshisekedi will be received by the SADC Executive Secretary, His Excellency Mr. Elias M. Magosi, Management of the SADC Secretariat and the SADC Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to the Republic of Botswana and SADC.

H.E. President Tshisekedi became the Chairperson of SADC on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at the 42<sup>nd</sup> SADC Summit of Heads of States and Government that was held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. As is customary, Chairpersons of SADC visit the SADC Secretariat Headquarters during their tenure to appreciate the work done by the Secretariat in facilitating the SADC regional integration agenda and to provide guidance on the Secretariat's implementation of SADC Programmes.

During his visit to the Secretariat, the SADC Chairperson will be appraised on the overall Status of SADC Regional Integration, status of implementation of SADC Programmes and SADC regional priorities as derived from the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RIDSP) 2020-2030 and Vision 2050. The SADC Chairperson will also engage and interact with the SADC Secretariat staff.

Under his leadership as the Chairperson of SADC, the 42<sup>nd</sup> SADC Summit held in Kinshasa, DRC, in August 2022 adopted the 2022-2023 SADC Theme; **“Promoting industrialisation through, agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and regional value chains for inclusive and resilient economic growth”**. The Theme stresses the need for improved productive capacities of industries to develop regional value chains and in the process, creating more job opportunities for SADC citizens in pursuit of SADC's collective dream of an inclusive, prosperous, and shared future.

The SADC Chairperson oversees the highest level of the governance structure of SADC, and among others, has the overall mandate of providing policy direction, and controlling the functions of SADC.

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## **About SADC**

SADC is an organisation of 16 Member States established in 1980 as the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) and later, in August, 1992 transformed into the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The mission of SADC is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy. Member States are Angola, Botswana, Union of Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Issued by the SADC Secretariat, Gaborone, Botswana**

**6<sup>th</sup> May 2023**