



PRESS RELEASE

Committee of SADC Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General to meet and consider related draft legal instruments

15 July 2023, Gaborone, Botswana: The Committee of Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will meet on July 20, 2023 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, to review progress made on decisions taken at its previous meeting and consider SADC draft legal instruments to be recommended to SADC Council and Summit for consideration, approval, adoption and signature.

Honourable, MUTOMBO KIESE Rose, Minister of Justice of the Democratic Republic of Congo will preside over the meeting in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General. Ambassador Joseph Nourrice, SADC Deputy Executive Secretary responsible for Corporate Affairs will be representing the Executive Secretary, His Excellency Mr. Elias M. Magosi at the meeting.

In particular, the meeting will consider the following draft SADC legal instruments:

- Draft SADC Declaration on Accelerating Action to End AIDS as a Public Health Threat in the SADC Region by 2023. The Draft Declaration aims to accelerate action in the SADC region to decrease the number of people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, to ensure that HIV and AIDS is no longer a threat to public health and to the sustained socio-economic development of Member States;
- Draft SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour. The Draft Protocol seek to amongst others:
 - (a) establish a strategic regional co-operation framework on employment and labour related matters;
 - (b) promote inclusive, full and productive employment, including self-employment;
 - (c) facilitating the adoption of minimum labour standards and the realisation of fundamental principles and rights at work in the Region;
 - (d) promote access to social security and facilitate extension of coverage to all workers;
 - (e) promote tripartism and social dialogue for better labour market governance; and
 - (f) promote the establishment and effective functioning of labour market institutions.
- Draft Amendments to Annex VII to the SADC Protocol on Trade. The draft amendments to Annex VII the Protocol on Trade seek to incorporate the agreed provisions on the Preferential Trade in Sugar in the SADC region such as preferential access to be

established for SADC surplus sugar producing countries to markets of deficit SADC sugar producing and non-sugar producing countries (surplus to deficit trade in sugar) amongst others.

During the meeting, the Committee will also discuss, among other issues, the Alternative Fora for Settlement of Disputes between SADC Member States with the aim of exploring possible settlement of disputes between the Member States, pending the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol on the Tribunal of 2014.

The Committee will further consider the status of signature and ratification of, and accession to, SADC Protocols and other Legal Instruments by Member States.

The meeting of the Committee will be preceded by the meeting of the SADC Senior Legal Officials from Member States Ministries of Justice and Attorneys General, scheduled to be held from 17-19 July 2023.

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SADC in Brief

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, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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