

REMARKS BY

H. E. AMBASSADOR TÉTE ANTÓNIO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Honourable Mr **Kibasa MALIBA**, Minister for Telecommunications, Post Office and Information Technology of the Democratic Republic of Congo, representing the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers;

Honourable Mr **Elias Magosi**, Executive Secretary of SADC;

Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the SADC Council of Ministers;

H. E. Ambassador **Nazaré Salvador**, Chairperson of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials;

Distinguished Members of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, on behalf of the Government of Angola, I would like to welcome Your Excellencies Ministers and your respective delegations to the city of Luanda.

It is with great honor that **the Republic of Angola hosts** the present session of the Council of Ministers and the 43rd Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of our Organization, **for the third time, having been the Chairperson of our Organization in 2002/03 and 2011/12**, respectively.

I am therefore pleased to assume the rotating chairpersonship of the SADC Council of Ministers, after it has been exercised with brilliance and dedication by His **Excellency Antipas Nyamwisi**, Minister for Regional Integration and Francophonía of the Democratic Republic of Congo, to whom I welcome his leadership of this institution during his tenure, during which he inspired us to continue to promote industrialization, with the **agro-processing of pharmaceutical products, the beneficiation of minerals and value chains** and successfully implemented the Theme.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The necessary transformation of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, known as SADCC, into a Community geared toward regional integration, has redefined our common focus and mission, which now includes an agenda focused on the sustainable economic cooperation and development of our economies, peoples and countries.

As we continue to strengthen and consolidate the development of our national economies, in line with our Organization's objectives, namely **alleviating and eradicating poverty, raising living standards, promoting productive employment, sustainably managing our natural resources and enhancing complementarity between national strategies and the regional agenda**, we welcome the progress made, the data of which are encouraging.

In the period 2022/23, despite the challenges facing our region, in the face of an adverse global context, we recorded **an average economic growth of 4.8 percent in 2022, slightly above the 4.7 percent recorded in 2021**.

We also highlight **the reduction in the budget deficits** in several Member States, which partly reflects the prudent budgetary management in the context of restrictions and negative shocks, as well as **the current account deficit, as a percentage of GDP in the region, improved slightly from 4.3 % of GDP in 2021 to 4.1 % of GDP in 2022**.

Although the above data are encouraging, there is still much to be done in search for deepening the process of industrialization of our markets, since the risks that weigh on forecasts tend to the negative side, **including geopolitical tensions, food insecurity, the potential financial instability resulting from the contraction of monetary policy and increasing levels of indebtedness**, which requires greater commitment and dedication from the Member States to deal with the uncertain and very volatile framework of the international context.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It should be noted that it is only possible to guarantee the successful implementation of the SADC Development and Industrialisation Agenda **in a context of peace and security**, since peace, security and stability are indispensable prerequisites for economic development.

Meanwhile, we commend the determination, uniqueness and complementarity of the combined efforts in **our SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM)** to combat the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in Cabo Delgado Province. I take this august occasion to extend a message of comfort to the governments and families of the soldiers who have paid the highest sacrifice, and to whom we must **observe a minute of silence in their memory! SHORT PAUSE**

This is the spirit of sacrifice, strong identity and solidarity that characterizes our region and one with which **we reaffirm our determination to continue to support the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a view to restoring peace and tranquility in the eastern part of this sister country.**

Your Excellencies,

Our integration efforts are guided by the strategic vision that governs our organization, reflected in **the SADC 2050 Vision, Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020–2030), Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) and SADC 2017-2063 Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap.**

And it is based on these premises, that Theme chosen for the 43rd Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of SADC is “***Human and Financial Capital: The Key Drivers for Sustainable Industrialisation in the SADC Region.***” Over the course of the next 12 months of our chairpersonship, we will jointly pay our attention and focus on **Human and Financial Capital as a catalyst for industrialization.**

Only with a population, **especially the youth**, that is educated, trained and prepared to **face the challenges and opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution, with main focus on the digitalization of economies**, will we be able to make qualitative progress in the industrialization process. On the other hand, we need to identify and secure adequate financial resources to invest in our regional priority projects. Hence, **the Regional Development Fund**, as provided for in the SADC Treaty, must be operationalized and capitalized on, to support the funding of projects included in the portfolio of **the RISDP**, especially in the pillar of **infrastructure supporting regional integration, industrialization and market integration.**

Talking about the Youth, I wish to congratulate all the youth in our region on **the International Youth Day, celebrated yesterday, 12 August.** Our young people form the real pillars for this integration process in SADC to be sustainable.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To conclude, I extend my words of thanks and sincere recognition to the Executive Secretary and his team for the support and tireless dedication in preparing the documents, I believe, will greatly facilitate the proceedings of this meeting.

I would also like to express our thanks to the Standing Committee of Senior Officials for the outstanding preparation of the agenda and issues therein that we will be discussing, certainly with fruitful deliberations for our region.

Once more, Excellencies and distinguished delegates, please accept the sincere welcome to our capital city, and enjoy the warm hospitality that Angola and Angolans have to offer.

Long Live the Peace!

Long Live the Progress and Development of SADC!

I Thank ou for your attention!