



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ELIAS M MAGOSI,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SADC**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 43RD
ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE SADC HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

LUANDA, REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA,

17 AUGUST 2023

Your Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Eswatini

Your Excellency President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Chairperson of SADC,

Your Excellency President Dr. Hage G. Geingob, of the Republic of Namibia, and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation

Your Excellency President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, of the Republic of Angola, and the Incoming Chairperson of SADC

Your Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema, of the Republic of Zambia and the Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation

Your Excellency President Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, of the Republic of Malawi, and Outgoing Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, of the Republic of South Africa and Outgoing Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation

Your Excellency President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, of the Republic of Mozambique

Your Excellency President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, of the Republic of Botswana

Your Excellency President Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, of the Republic of Zimbabwe

H.E Dr Philip Isdor Mpango, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania

The Right Honourable Prime Minister Ntsokoane Samuel Matekane, of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Your Excellency Mr Ahmed Afif, the Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles

Hon. Soomilduth Bhola, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives of the Republic of Mauritius.

Your Excellency H.E Mr. HAMADA Madi, the former Prime Minister of the Union of Comoros,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government and Representatives;

Your Excellency Ambassador Tété António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, and Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers;

Your Excellencies, Heads of Regional and International Organisations;

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Officials from SADC Member States and SADC Secretariat staff;

Invited Guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Your Excellencies, I am humbled to stand before you to deliver introductory remarks this morning. Let me start by expressing my gratitude to **His Excellency President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, of the Republic of Angola,** the Government, and the people of the Republic of Angola for hosting this 43rd SADC Summit of the Heads of State and Government in this wonderful City of Luanda.

Your Excellencies, today, 17 August, is SADC Day, and I want to wish you all, a Happy SADC Day. On this day, in 1992, in Windhoek, Namibia, this beautiful organisation was

born when the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community signed the SADC Treaty and Declaration. This effectively transformed the Southern African Development Coordination Conference into the Southern African Development Community (SADC). As the SADC Chairperson, His Excellency President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, highlighted in his SADC Day Message, which was issued this morning, SADC is a united regional community whose 16 Member States, with a combined gross domestic product of around US\$720 billion, and a total population of over 360 million people, 75% of whom are young people, has a market with considerable potential for investment and economic development.

Your Excellencies, the SADC Summit is an institution spelt out in Article 10 of the SADC Treaty as the supreme policy-making institution, responsible for the overall policy direction and control of the functions of the community. The 43rd SADC Summit of the Heads of State and Government will therefore receive reports on the implementation of peace and security matters in our region, review progress of the implementation of the priorities of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030, the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Road Map 2015-2063; the 42nd SADC Summit Theme which is *“Promoting industrialization through, agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, and regional value chains for inclusive and resilient”* and provide guidance and direction in support of the objectives of SADC.

In line with the theme of the 42nd Summit, the region has prioritised projects under the RISDP 2020-2030, focusing on the development of agro-processing, minerals, and pharmaceutical value chains to maximise benefits for SADC citizens. We cannot continue losing out on the benefits of the abundant resources in our region such as minerals, and oils, because we often exported our materials without value addition outside the region and benefit other economies. To address this, our industrialisation strategy seeks to limit import of finished products while reducing export of raw materials through promotion of industrialisation, enhancement of competitiveness, and deepening regional integration through structural transformation, leading to increased manufactured goods and exports. I am happy to report that, we now have a pipeline of 20 projects in the minerals beneficiation value chains that are ready for development, and thereby increase value addition, job creation, and reduce poverty. I call upon our International Cooperating Partners and the Private sector to join hands with the SADC Secretariat in rolling out these projects and make a difference in the lives of the citizens in our community, in line with the objectives of SADC.

As stated in Article 5 of the SADC Treaty, the objectives of SADC, are to achieve development and economic growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality

of life of the people of Southern Africa and support the socially disadvantaged through Regional Integration.

SADC recognises that peace, security, and political stability are essential for socioeconomic development and regional integration, and to this effect, SADC has continued to address the security challenges in the region through interventions that premised on collective response and respect for the sovereignty of the concerned Member States.

The region is in its third year since the approval of the SADC Vision 2050, and the RISDP 2020-2030, which are the main strategic document guiding the direction of SADC in terms of the key interventions and activities to undertake during the 10-year period in full alignment with the Africa Union Agenda 2063, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. And as we reflect on our performance as a region, it is essential to note that while we continue to make progress in pursuing the various targets in this RISDP, it is evident that we need fast track integration, industrialisation, and ease of access to markets in the region and beyond and address the bottlenecks.

Your Excellencies, While SADC is considered one of the most peaceful regions in Africa, it is nevertheless marked by considerable social inequalities and some pockets of conflict. These security challenges and inequality are hindrances to our drive for development. Without peace, there will be no investment, and the economy will suffer. These challenges threaten the SADC vision of a reputable, efficient, and responsive enabler of Regional Integration and Sustainable Development.

Your Excellencies, Despite the global political, economic, and climatic challenges, our region is showing good resilience, and making good strides in the area of agriculture, food, and nutrition security. The region has been able to improve the food and nutrition security status, as reflected by our Regional Vulnerability Assessment Analysis of 2022/23, with a decline of 11% on the number of food insecure people, compared with the previous agricultural season; with some countries, like Zimbabwe and Madagascar, reducing the number of food insecure population by 72% and 23%, respectively.

The agricultural sector has grown from 6.9% in 2019/20 to 7.6% in 2021/22; and during the same period, SADC Member States have secured access of their agricultural products to regional and international markets, contributing not only for food and nutrition security, but equally for economic growth, and reduction of poverty in our region.

As I conclude, I extend our gratitude to the Chairperson of SADC, His Excellency **Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, for his

exemplary leadership and guidance during the year. His leadership has been instrumental in attaining the progress recorded by SADC during his tenure as SADC Chairperson.

Equally, I thank the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, His Excellency President **Excellency President Hage G. Geingob, of the Republic of Namibia**, for the outstanding guidance provided in the implementation of the work of the SADC Organ during the year.

Let me also thank the Deputy Executive Secretaries and all the staff of the Secretariat for their support and hard work that enabled me to discharge my duties and deliver the Secretariat mandate during the year.

I also express gratitude to the His **Excellency Ambassador Tété António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, and Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers** for the cooperation and dedication that enabled the successful preparations for the Summit and all preceding events.

At this juncture, allow me to congratulate and welcome the Incoming SADC Chairperson, His Excellency President **João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, of the Republic of Angola**. Your Excellency, I assure you of the Secretariat's and my personal commitment and professional service during your tenure as Chairperson of SADC.

With these remarks, I thank you for your kind attention.

Merci beaucoup!

Muito obrigado!

Asanteni sana!