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August 2023



**STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT HAGE G. GEINGOB, CHAIRPERSON OF THE SADC
ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENSE AND SECURITY COOPERATION ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 43RD SADC ORDINARY SUMMIT**

17 AUGUST 2023, LUANDA, ANGOLA

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

In August 2022, I became the Chair of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. The Organ has continued to discharge its functions in line with Article 10A (3) of the SADC Treaty and Article 4 (3) of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security, which provides that the Chairperson of the Organ shall continuously consult with the Troika of SADC and report to Summit. I received the draft report a bit late and currently going through its contents. However, let me share a few points.

During the year under review, we convened three extraordinary summits of the Organ Troika to discuss and find solutions to the challenges of peace and security in the region. The Organ has tried its utmost best in promoting regional peace and security for the betterment of the region. We assisted the Kingdom of Lesotho to negotiate vital government reforms and to undertake a peaceful transition of political power in 2022.

Several member states in the region will undertake general elections in the coming months. We are confident that the people of the Republic of Zimbabwe, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Republic of Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of Congo will undertake elections in a climate of peace.

Moving forward, I wish to highlight some areas the Organ should focus on. These include:

- (i) Our interventions in support of the territorial integrity of the DRC and the Republic of Mozambique should be strengthened ;**
- (ii) We should endeavor to complete the implementation of national reforms in the Kingdom of Lesotho, and the initiation of national dialogue in the Kingdom of Eswatini; and**
- (iii) We should find options for the sustainable funding for the SADC Electoral Observation Missions in support of democracy and good governance practices in the Region.**

It will be remiss of me not to acknowledge the support and cooperation I enjoyed from my colleagues in the Organ Troika during the past year. I want to express my profound gratitude to the Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, and the Incoming Chairperson, His Excellency Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia.

It was a pleasure to work with both President Cyril Ramaphosa and President Hakainde Hichilema who were readily available for extraordinary summits of the Troika. I also wish to thank all of you, Your Excellencies, for your support for the important work of the Organ. The Republic of Namibia will diligently continue to play her role as the Outgoing Chair of the Organ in the coming year.

I thank the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO), under the leadership of Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, and her fellow MCO members, for ably

steering the regional peace and security agenda during the reporting period.

May I also thank the SADC Secretariat team, under the able leadership of the Executive Secretary, His Excellency Elias Mpedi Magosi, for professionally and effectively coordinating and implementing SADC activities over the past 12 months.

I THANK YOU

**Luanda, Republic of Angola,
17 August 2023**