



COMMUNIQUE
BY THE SADC PEER REVIEW PANEL
LUANDA, REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
(VIRTUAL)
07 AUGUST 2024

1. In accordance with the provisions of Annex 2 of the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment (FIP), the Peer Review Panel (the Panel), comprising of Ministers responsible for Finance and Investment, and Central Bank Governors, held a virtual meeting hosted by the Republic of Angola on 7 August 2024 to:
 - (i) review progress made by SADC Member States towards implementing the SADC Macroeconomic Convergence Framework;
 - (ii) review Member States' progress on the implementation of recommendations made by the Panel's previous meetings which include structural and policy reforms, as well as its decisions and directives to SADC Secretariat;
 - (iii) identify risks and opportunities to the Region's economic outlook and devise policy measures to mitigate the risks and take advantage of the opportunities, respectively;
 - (iv) consider the Peer Review Mission Reports for the Republic of Botswana, Republic of Namibia and United Republic of Tanzania undertaken during 2023/2024; and
 - (v) approve the revised schedule of Member States to be Peer Reviewed (2024-25 to 2026-27).

2. The Panel noted that, over the review period, 2018–2023, the Region operated in an environment characterized by a global economic slowdown, tighter monetary and fiscal conditions, and elevated debt sustainability risks emanating from continuing impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and heightened regional and international geo-political tensions.
3. In Southern Africa and neighbouring regions, the unfolding climate crisis and extreme weather events have undermined agricultural output, electricity generation and tourism, while geopolitical instability adversely impacted the region through soaring commodity prices, supply chain disruptions and other channels.
4. These shocks have contributed to macroeconomic instability in the Region, including widening fiscal and current account deficits, significant reduction in international reserves, exchange rate depreciation, soaring inflation and external debt. Consequently, energy, fertilizer, food, and other commodity prices have stayed above pre-COVID-19 Pandemic levels.
5. The Panel noted that against the foregoing, Member States continued to implement policies and measures aimed at recovering from and building resilience against the negative global externalities and adverse effects of climate change to stay on course to meeting the Macroeconomic Convergence Targets. In addition, Member States made progress towards implementing the recommendations of the Panel's previous meetings.
6. The Panel expressed concern at falling agricultural production which has led to food shortages, higher food inflation, and increasing food insecurity. Consequently, despite signs of resilience and marginal recovery in 2023, all Member States continued to be off target regarding most of the Macroeconomic Convergence targets.
7. The Panel considered and approved the Mission Review Reports and recommended structural and policy reforms for the Republic of Botswana, Republic of Namibia and United Republic of Tanzania and welcomed the commitment by the authorities of the three Member States to implement the recommendations of the peer review mission Reports.
8. The Panel commended the Republic of Angola, Republic of Zambia, and Republic of Zimbabwe for undertaking the peer reviews of Republic of Botswana, Republic of Namibia, and United Republic of Tanzania, respectively.
9. The Panel also commended Republic of Angola, Kingdom of Eswatini, Kingdom of Lesotho, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Malawi, Republic of Mauritius, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of South Africa, Republic of Zambia, and Republic of Zimbabwe for continued implementation of the Macroeconomic Convergence Framework and recommendations of the previous peer reviews.

10. The Panel approved the revised schedule of the next Member States to be peer reviewed during 2024/25, namely: the Democratic Republic of Congo by the Kingdom of Eswatini, Republic of Zambia by Republic of Madagascar and Republic of Angola by Republic of Malawi.
11. The Panel expressed its gratitude to the Republic of Angola for hosting the Peer Review Panel meeting.

Luanda - Angola
7 August 2024