



**WELCOME STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AND  
SADC CHAIRPERSON,**

**H. E. DR. EMMERSON D. MNANGAGWA**

**HARARE, ZIMBABWE**

**20 NOVEMBER 2024**

- **Your Excellency Andry Rajoelina, President of the Republic of Madagascar and Incoming Chairperson of SADC;**
- **Your Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique;**
- **Your Excellency Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo;**
- **Your Excellency Duma Gideon Boko, President of the Republic of Botswana**
- **Your Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Zanzibar;**
- **The Right Honourable Russell Mmiso Dlamini, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini;**

**Your Excellency, Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi, SADC**

**Executive Secretary;**

- **Honourable Ministers;**
- **Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen;**

Let us take this moment to pay our respects and, also, reaffirm our commitment to peace and security in their memory. We are forever indebted for their selflessness and unwavering dedication in defence of our Region as they served in SAMIDRC.

**Your Excellencies and Dear Colleagues,**

I am greatly honoured to, once again, welcome you and your delegations to Zimbabwe. Let me, from the outset, extend my sincere appreciation to you for

allowing us this opportunity to gather here at short notice, in spite of your busy schedules.

Allow me, Excellencies, to extend a special, and warm welcome to our dear colleague, His Excellency, Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, President of the Republic of Botswana. I would also like to, once again congratulate you on your election. We are confident that with your leadership and wisdom, we will, together help maintain our Region as a beacon of hope, prosperity, peace and security.

## **Your Excellencies;**

We recently, convened here in August 2024, in Ordinary Session, to take stock of our progress over the past year, and, also, to come up with strategies on how best we can resolve our common challenges. Today, we are gathered here, to deliberate on pertinent issues relating to the peace and security of our region.

I wish to extend special thanks to President Tshisekedi for joining us today and for accepting my invitation to this Extraordinary Summit dedicated to the security situation in the Eastern DRC. This clearly demonstrates the trust that the people of DRC, under your able leadership, have in our ability to

work collectively, as the SADC family, to manage threats against peace and security, not only in DRC, but, in the region as a whole. As a community, it is a fact that an injury to one of us, is an injury to all of us.

Peace is the cornerstone of all our collective endeavours towards sustainable development. It will unlock potential for our economic integration agenda. In that regard, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that we do all we can to address the common threats that jeopardise our peace and security, and, consequently, undermine our development efforts and aspiration.

Allow me to express our sincere gratitude to President Joao Lourenco of the Republic of Angola,

for his tireless mediation efforts towards bringing lasting peace in the Eastern part of the DRC. It is unfortunate that the negative forces continue to violate the ceasefire Agreement. To that end, it is imperative that, as a region, we continue to work together to ensure that the people of DRC are able to enjoy peace and tranquillity.

### **Your Excellencies;**

My government is firmly committed to cooperate with other Member States towards the realisation of a peaceful, integrated, industrialised and prosperous SADC.

Together, we must stand resolute against common challenges, honouring the legacy of our Founding Fathers, who demonstrated that unity and cooperation as critical to achieving durable peace and prosperity for our peoples.

As we deliberate on the future of SAMIDRC, let us be reminded that our region is faced with other challenges such as the climate change induced drought due to the El Nino, and Mpox virus.

Excellencies, the people of the DRC deserve peace. Our region deserves peace. I wish to commend fellow SADC countries, Malawi, Tanzania and South Africa for deploying troops and military equipment critical for sustaining our efforts towards restoring



peace and stability in DRC. We owe you a huge debt of gratitude for your sacrifices.

The report before us provides a grave picture of the security and the humanitarian situation in the Eastern DRC, with over 6,5 million civilians having been displaced, resulting in a humanitarian crisis. It is the civilian population, the women and children that bear the brunt of the conflict. It is, therefore, important that today, we chart the way forward towards winning the fight against negative forces in the Eastern part of DRC. This will be an important step towards our overarching goal of ensuring lasting peace and development in our region.

Once again, I warmly welcome you to Zimbabwe and invite you to make use of the facilities that we

have put at your disposal for a successful Summit. I wish us all fruitful deliberations.

**I thank you**

**Tatenda**

**Siyabonga**

**Asante Sana**

**Obrigado**

**Merci**