TALKING POINTS FOR UNOCHA SHARED BY MR. PETER MULLER DURING THE CLOSING AND GRADUATION FOR THE 2ND SADC EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM INDUCTION COURSE

3RD SEPTEMBER 2025; MONTCLAIR HOTEL, ZIMBABWE.

A. SALUTATIONS

1. The guest of honor, Honourable Engineer B. Kabikira (MP), Deputy Minister of Local Government and Public Works for the Republic of Zimbabwe

2. Honourable Advocate Misheck Mugadza (MP), Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Manicaland Province of the Republic of Zimbabwe

3. Mr. Edwar Kallon, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Zimbabwe

4. The Chief Director for the Department of Civil Protection in Zimbabwe, Mr. Nathan Nkomo.

5. Mr. Peter Muller, Representative of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the Global Lead for the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination

6. Director for SADC Humanitarian Operations Centre (SHOC), Mr. Anderson Banda

7. Staff from OCHA Emergency Response Section ERS) and OCHA Regional Office for East and Southern Africa (ROSEA

8. SADC Secretariat staff from different directorates led by the SADC DRR Unit.

9. UN Staff here present from different agencies, including UNFPA, WFP, and UN University.

10. United National Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) National Members.

11. Staff from different Zimbabwe Government Ministries and Departments, Members of the SADC Emergency Response Team (ERT)

12. Distinguished Participants

13. Ladies and Gentlemen

B. KEY TALKING POINTS

1. RE-EMPHASIZING OCHA, UNDAC, AND SADC ERT COLLABORATION:

o As was stated at the opening of the course, OCHA's support to the SADC ERT is in line with existing global OCHA and UNDAC practices and experiences in supporting capacity building of regional organizations.

o As I indicated, our support to SADC is similar to the support we have provided to the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and there are discussions with ECOWAS in West Africa for future collaborations, just to mention a few

o The Support builds on the success stories of RECs in Asia and the Caribbean, where RECs are managing disaster preparedness and response systems based on OCHA's past capacity investments. This frees OCHA resources to focus on other key priorities.

2. SADC SHOC AND SADC ERT RESPONSE COMPLEMENTARITY AND INTEROPERABILITY WITH OCHA AND UN RESPONSE:

o As I indicated during the course opening, the SADC ERT course is largely based on UNDAC, which is a tried and tested global Emergency Response system with 32 years.

o I am pleased the RC/HC for Zimbabwe is here with us, as you know, the UNDAC support is either requested by the Government of the RC/HC, and UNDAC teams normally have a matrix reporting line to the Government and the RC/HC during deployments.

o There are aspects of contextualization that are being done and will continue to be done to have SADC ERT develop a fully functional, unique system.

o Given the current context where resources are limited, SADC ERT responses, which may include responses to localized emergencies within SADC Member States, mean OCHA can, in the future, save its scarce resources, knowing that SADC ERT/SHOC response and coordination capabilities resulting from this contribution will fill the gap that would otherwise be expected to be covered by OCHA.

o OCHA's role as a global emergency coordination agency will now be made easier and more efficient, given that SHOC/ERT assessments, coordination, and responses will embrace to a larger extent the OCHA and UNDAC standards and be aligned to core humanitarian principles and reporting arrangements.

- o In large-scale responses within the SADC region, OCHA and other international response teams will work together with SHOC/ERT teams, and since they are trained based on UNDAC methodology, there will be interoperability across the response teams, which is critical for effective assessment, coordination, response, and reporting.

3. VOTE OF THANKS:

- o Firstly, the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, through our Ministers present here, for the great hosting, hospitality, and the co-funding provided for this induction.
- o We are so pleased with the support provided by the UN family here in Zimbabwe, led by the RC/HC here present. The continuity of this support for Zimbabwe rests with the UN Team in this country.
- o We are so grateful to the SADC Secretariat for such great collaboration that it also involves the SADC Member States.
- o We are so grateful for all the Zimbabwe national stakeholders supporting the course, countless to mention.
- o Special thanks to the European Union for the funding provided through the DRMSS Project.
- o The IFRC office for Southern Africa is a key administrative partner for the course.
- o The team of course facilitators, UNDAC Members, the UNDAC Operational Partners, all the UN Agencies involved, and most importantly, the SADC ERT cohort II graduating team

- o We hope to meet with some of you in the upcoming response missions where SADC ERT will be in operation alongside UNDAC and other response actors, depending on the magnitude of the response.

Thank you for your kind attention.