



OPENING REMARKS

BY

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR THE COORDINATED
BORDER MANAGEMENT NATIONAL (CBM) STRATEGY
FOR MALAWI 28–29 APRIL 2026, LILONGWE, MALAWI**

Mr. Wiskes Nkombezi- Principal Secretary, Ministry of Industrialisation, Business, Trade and Tourism (MIBTT);

Mr. Ronald Ching'anda- Deputy Commissioner, Customs- Malawi Revenue Authority;

Mrs Charity Musonzo- Director of Trade in Goods.

Mr. Sydney Chibbabuka, Consultant of CBM assignment.

Representatives of the Government Agencies;

Representative from GIZ;

Representatives of the Private Sector;

Colleagues from the SADC Secretariat;

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen;

All Protocols Observed.

A Very Good Morning to you all.

On behalf of the SADC Executive Management, it is my great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to **two days Validation Workshop for the Coordinated Border Management (CBM) National Strategy, taking place here in Lilongwe, Malawi.**

First and foremost, on behalf of the SADC Secretariat and all participants of this Workshop, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Government and People of the Republic of Malawi for hosting this workshop. We are particularly thankful to Malawi in its capacity as one of the SADC Member States, for its leadership and commitment to advancing the SADC Regional Integration Agenda.

The SADC Secretariat is very grateful to all participants for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend and contribute to this important initiative of implementing the CBM national Strategy, which will contribute to boosting trade and streamlining border operations by reducing redundant procedures, duplications, and delays, while maintaining necessary safety and security controls.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the invaluable and unconditional support of our strategic partners, namely the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) through the Cooperation for the Enhancement of SADC Regional Economic Integration (CESARE) Programme, for this activity.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to emphasise the critical importance of the Coordinated Border Management (CBM) concept as a vital trade instrument that offers numerous advantages. Notably, it accelerates processing times and enhances trade facilitation by simplifying and expediting customs procedures. This, in turn, promotes efficient cross-border trade within the SADC region. Additionally, the CBM model aims to facilitate seamless trade and achieve greater efficiency at Malawi's borders, helping to realise the country's economic aspirations and fulfil its trade facilitation commitments made at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Under the CBM model, the number of agencies present at Malawi's borders will be reduced. The fewer cross-border regulatory agencies will operate at

the borders and perform duties on behalf of their counterparts stationed inland. With fewer agencies involved, clearance times will be quicker, as most of them handle similar goods and adhere to comparable processes.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

While acknowledging the workshop's impending conclusion, the SADC Secretariat remains committed to supporting Malawi in implementing the CBM National Strategy, which aligns with the Secretariat's efforts to improve the ease of doing business in Malawi, improve business competitiveness, attract foreign direct investment, and stimulate economic growth.

The importance of expediting the implementation of the CBM Concept in the Region is part of supporting the operationalisation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy, particularly its focus on Regional Value Chains (RVCs) as outlined in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

The SADC Secretariat reaffirms its commitment to make the SADC Region the best place in the world to live, and the team present here is instrumental in achieving that goal.

I encourage all participants to actively engage in the discussions, sharing their experiences, and contribute to the strategy to ensure it addresses the needs of Government Agencies and all stakeholders in Malawi. I wish everyone productive discussions and a successful workshop, which will be

facilitated by **Mr. Sydney Chibbabbuka**, the consultant for this assignment.

Thank you for your kind attention.

28 April 2026

Alberto Alexandre, Programme Officer, Capacity Building-Customs.