



**ZIMBABWE**

**WELCOME REMARKS**

**BY**

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**FOR THE JOINT MEETING OF SADC MINISTERS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY,  
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

**29 MAY 2026**

**VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE**

**Salutations**

- Chairperson of the Joint Committee of SADC Ministers of Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture and Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development of the Republic of South Africa  
**Hon Mr. John Henry Steenhuisen;**
- Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- Deputy Ministers;
- Executive Secretary of SADC, **Mr. Elias M. Magosi;**
- Senior Government Officials from SADC Member States;
- Representatives of SADC Secretariat;
- Representatives of our Cooperating Partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the African Union Commission; the World Organisation for Animal Health; World Bank; AGRA; and other esteemed international organizations;
- Distinguished Delegates;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government and people of Zimbabwe I welcome you all to this Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture, here in picturesque city of Victoria Falls. I hope the hospitality arrangements that have been made have met your expectations. The Victoria Falls is appropriately called Mosia - Tunya its vernacular Tonga name denoting - the Smoke that Thunders! I hope both our local and international visitors will find time to sample this majestic natural wonder of the world and to indulge in our inimitable traditional cuisine.

### **Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates,**

The agenda before us reflects the urgency and complexity of our shared mandate. We must consider the regional food and nutrition security situation and the quadruple burden of undernourishment, stunting, wasting and co-morbidities and mortality. Transboundary pests and diseases of crops and livestock pose another risk, requiring a collaborative approach to containment and management.

Climate change has become an everyday reality. We see this manifested as more frequent droughts, extreme heat and floods. The development of a super El Nino in the 2026/2027 season, as predicted by early climate models, should spur us to develop appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures.

Zimbabwe like many other countries in Southern Africa, is predicted to become drier in the decades ahead due to climate change. Therefore, the imperative to climate-proof our agriculture cannot be overemphasised.

**Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates,**

The conflict in the Middle East has disrupted fertiliser and energy supplies. This and other climate, pandemic, conflict and macro – economic shocks necessitate the development of resilient agriculture and food systems.

As I conclude, I note the results of the 5th Biennial Review of the CAADP implementation of 2025, wherein the SADC region recorded the highest score among all African Union regions. Congratulations! As we transition to the CAADP Kampala Declaration and CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035, we must recommit to accelerate both domestication and implementation of CAADP.

Let me once again welcome you to Zimbabwe and the city of Victoria Falls. May I take this opportunity to wish you a fruitful meeting and an enjoyable stay in Victoria Falls.

I thank you.