

CSO unbundle SADC agenda to support execution



In the picture, CSO officials that participated in the SADC meeting organized by CUTS and the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa (SDGA)

To support implementation of the SADC regional integration agenda, CUTS and the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa (SDGA) on 11th August 2022 convened a consultation conference for regional Civil Society Organisation to increase their effectiveness.

Opening the meeting, CUTS Lusaka board chairperson Mr. Thula Kaira said the two institutions are implementing a 17 months project titled "Engagement for Results: Capacitating Regional Civil Society Organizations and their networks to effectively participate in the SADC regional integration process".

Other partners include the Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education in Malawi, Eastern and Southern Africa small-scale Farmers Forum in Tanzania and the Zimbabwe Council of Churches in Zimbabwe.

The project is part of the Integrated Institutional Capacity-Building (IICB) by the SADC secretariat for CSO stakeholders financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) being implemented in four countries namely Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of Regional CSOs' and their structures to effectively engage with key stakeholders (SADC Secretariat and SADC Institutions, national governments and citizens) to contribute toward the implementation of the SADC regional integration.

Further, the project will enhance the role and efficacy of Regional CSOs and their networks to effectively document, disseminate and communicate progress on regional integration agenda to the public and other stakeholders.

Mr Kaira said this will result in an effective contribution to the achievement of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) - (2020-2030) and SADC vision 2050.

And SDGCA director Dr. Ambrose Aheisibwe said shared the vision of the centre, which is to ensure all African countries achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and align with the United Nations' Post-2015 Development Agenda. SDGCA believes this is a shared responsibility by all African nations.

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to our audience, about highlight news and activities being undertaken by SADC

SADC pledges to fight poverty through natural resources

The 42nd Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, which was held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, plans to use the natural resources in the region to fight poverty and create decent jobs for young people.

SADC chairperson, Democratic Republic of Congo president Felix Antoine Tshisekedi said during this opening of the summit held under the theme "Promoting industrialization through agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and regional value chains for inclusive and resilient economic growth," that run from 16th to 18th August 2022

In-line with this meeting, the Southern African Civil Society Organisation held a hybrid format dialogue meeting in Lusaka from 17th -18th August 2022 under the Theme: Challenging extractivism and reclaiming our resources for people-centred development in SADC, which was opened by Commerce, Trade and Industry Acting Permanent Secretary Mrs. Nalituba Mwale.

Mrs Mwale explained that the Zambian government is focused on ensuring rapid economic development for the country by providing an enabling environment for the private sector to thrive.

The purpose of government, she continued, is to guarantee that Zambians profit from its natural riches, including its mining wealth.

The PS also stated that the Government recognizes that commerce and industry, along with a favorable business climate, are essential components of economic progress.

This event was organised by Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS Zambia), PELUM Zambia, FIAN Zambia, Action Aid Zambia and Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF).



Commerce, Trade and Industry Acting permanent secretary Nalituba Mwale opening the CSO hybrid SADC meeting in Lusaka

SADC integration project to support CSO

To increase the capacity of CSOs and their networks in Malawi on the SADC integration process, a national workshop was held at Ufulu gardens in Lilongwe by the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGCA) and the Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE)

Opening the meeting, Malawian Parliamentary speaker Hon. Catherine Gotani Hara noted that Parliament must collaborate with CSOs to inform the public about the benefits of regional integration in order for them to support the initiative at the time of legislation.

In a speech read on her behalf by SADC Parliamentary forum representative Hon. Joyce Chitsulo, she emphasized that Parliament is prepared to continue supporting the regional integration process as Malawi is also actively participating with the SADC Parliamentary Forum.

"The CSO capacity enhancement for SADC integration is always welcome and will be an input in enhancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through regional integration process," Hon. Hara said.



CSO members pose for the picture

Speaking at the same event, Ministry of Foreign Affairs deputy director for Africa Mrs. Faith Kazembe Mwalubunju emphasized that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the link between the SADC structures and all key stakeholders at the national level.

Additionally, SDG Center for Africa regional director Dr. Ambrose Aheisibwe Rwaheru, noted that regional integration procedures have grown in importance over the past 20 years and are now a key tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Southern Africa Sub Regional Office introduced the project been implemented by the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) Lusaka and the Sustainable Development Goals Center for SDGCA titled.

"Engagement for Results: Capacitating Regional Civil Society Organizations and their networks to effectively participate in the SADC regional integration process".

This initiative is a component of the SADC Secretariat's Integrated Institutional Capacity-Building (IICB), funded by the 11th European Development Fund. The project will be implemented in the SADC region in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Signing of the Double Tax Avoidance Agreements (DTAA) between the Republic of Botswana and the Republic of Mauritius in August, 2022

SADC advances the network of double tax avoidance agreements between member states

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat has stepped up activities to facilitate negotiations of Double Tax Avoidance Agreements (DTAA) between Member States as part of the efforts to increase the network of DTAA and foster an aligned tax treaty policy across Member States.

This will take into account developments both at regional and international levels, in particular, those related to Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) issues.

SADC Ministers of Finance and Investment approved the revised SADC Model on Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and its Commentary at their meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, in July 2018.

As at July 2022, there were 59 DTAA in force among SADC Member States. As at July 2022, there were 59 DTAA in force among SADC Member States. A DTAA is a tax treaty signed between two or more countries to help taxpayers avoid paying double taxes on the same income. A DTAA becomes applicable in cases where an individual is a resident of one nation, but earns income in another.

Source - SADC



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