

## SADC Calls On Member States To Create Effective NSAs



To encourage more participation by local Non-State Actors (NSAs), SADC has urged member states to create effective National Committees, which are the official implementation body of the regional grouping.

SADC integrated institutional capacity building coordinator Wazha Omphile said the amended SADC treaty gives NSAs the mandate to participate in Regional Integration agenda, assist in project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, according to their areas of competence.

Mr. Omphile however pointed out gaps in the current form of engagement. "The engagement with NSAs is ad hoc with no systemic mechanism. There is a clear lack of formalized mechanisms that provide for non-state actor engagement with the SADC structures and processes," he said during the landmark hybrid event held in Johannesburg where he outlined the role of Regional NSA Engagement Mechanism in the SADC Regional integration agenda.



Mr. Omphile

He also stated that NSAs in the region do not have a common approach to working with SADC existing NSA formations and engagement platforms are not representative of every sector. Further, the SADC Secretariat lacks a specific focal point for coordinating NSA participation.

"SADC can help set the standards for setting up functional SNCs or national levels structures, by incorporating guidelines, work procedures, and criteria for NSA participation in broader issues of regional economic and political integration, including peace and security matters," He said.

While there are gaps regarding NSA engagement, the SADC institution is orderly comprising Heads of States as the supreme policy-making institution of SADC and its decision are based on consensus.

Mr. Omphile explained that the meeting is presided over by the SADC chairperson, deputized by the past chairperson and the incoming chairperson.

The summit receives recommendations from the SADC Council of Members while the SADC secretariat is the principal executive institution responsible for strategy planning.

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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

## ZCC, CUTS, SGDC Partner To Implement SADC RI Project

Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) has collaborated with the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) Lusaka and the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGCA) to implement the SADC regional integration project funded by the 11th European Development Fund. The project being implemented in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Tanzania will enable Non-State Actors (NSAs) to participate effectively in SADC regional integration processes.

Speaking in Zimbabwe at the meeting that was held both virtually and physical, SADC project team lead from CUTS, Mr Allan Chitwamali said the project's main objective is to contribute to Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030 and SADC Vision 2050 through enhancing CSOs and NSAs engagement in regional integration process.

"The specific objectives are to strengthen the capacity of regional CSOs' and their structures to effectively engage with key stakeholders such as SADC Secretariat, national governments and citizens to contribute towards the implementation of SADC regional integration agenda," Mr Chitwamali said.

The project entitled "Engagement for Results: Capacitating Regional Civil Society Organizations and their Networks to effectively participate in the SADC Regional Integration" runs for 17 months up to May 2023 and is being managed by CUTS Lusaka and SDGCA. Other identified implementing partners include ZCC in Zimbabwe.



Mr Chitwamali making a presentation

Furthermore, University of Zimbabwe dean Dr. Albert Makocheke urged CSOs to actively contribute to strengthening regional integration, which begins with formalizing their operations and enhancing engagement strategies.

According to Dr. Makocheke, the SADC region's annual economic contribution to the global economy is less than five percent, reflecting its modest gross domestic product contributions in comparison to other regions.



## African Media Must Shape Own Narrative

Journalists have been asked to take the lead in rewriting Africa's own narrative arc to assist the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in achieving its Vision 2050.

Addressing journalists in Harare, Zimbabwe Council of Churches director for programs Fambai Ngirande said the West have created their story about Africa and it is time that the African media told their own story about the continent.

"The media's role is to inform, educate and entertain implying that the media should inform, inspire and engage. The media should use all channels available to deepen conversations around shaping the African narrative on trade related matters," Mr Ngirande said in Harare, Zimbabwe during media training whose objective is to increase media coverage on SADC regional integration processes.

He explained that SADC's long-term vision is to increase the region's manufacturing capacity, competitiveness and capacity to trade.

Speaking at the same event, Tatira Zvinoira a journalist explained that regional integration

helps countries overcome divisions that impede the flow of goods, services, capital, people and ideas.

Ms Zvinoira also noted that SADC regional integration increases the market, which should reflect on the economic growth of the member states.

SADC Project Team Leader from CUTS Mr. Allan Chitwamali said the project entitled "Engagement for Results: Capacitating Regional Civil Society Organizations and their Networks to effectively participate in the SADC Regional Integration" runs for 17 months, up to May 2023.

Mr. Chitwamali said the project is run by CUTS Lusaka and SDGCA, and is being implemented in four countries, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. The main objective is to contribute to RISDP (2020-2030) and SADC Vision 2050 through enhancing CSOs and NSAs engagement in regional integration process.

## SADC, SACU Sign MoU To Strengthen Cooperation



SADC executive secretary Mr. Elias Magosi and Dr. Thembinkosi Mthlango, Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) on 14th October, 2022 signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enhancing regional integration, economic and social development through mutual cooperative relationship in the Southern African region.

SADC executive secretary Mr. Elias Magosi and the SACU Executive Secretary of SACU, Ms Paulina Elago signed the MoU, which provides a framework upon which the Parties will collaborate on various programmes and activities as set out in the agreement.

Through the deal, SADC and SACUs will work together to promote close cooperation and consultation on matters of mutual interest and coordinate their efforts to

strengthen collaboration to promote industrialisation; regional and international trade; and ultimately contribute to the economic and social development of their member States.

The agreement will facilitate exchange of information, related to Trade and Industry, Economic and Finance, Trade Facilitation and Rules of Procedure and practices of Institutions. Under Trade and Industry,

particular attention will be placed on industrial development; development of Regional Value Chains; funding of Regional Value Chains Projects; long-term Sugar Market Arrangement and support to trade negotiations and implementation of Trade Agreements.

Regarding cooperation in Economic and Finance, the MoU will focus on the implementation of the macroeconomics convergence targets and the monitoring of the performance of the indicators; exchange of information on the Harmonised Consumer Price Index; and exchange experiences and research work on macroeconomic-related studies.

In Trade Facilitation, the two institutions will collaborate on customs issues; border coordination, transit measures, trade-related information management and collaboration amongst stakeholders mandated to facilitate trade; transport and logistics activities; and any cross-cutting policy imperatives for trade facilitation.

Source SADC



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