

## Comprehend Regional Integration to Tackle Poverty



Mr Nair

To help tackle pertinent issues affecting people's welfare, the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) Lusaka has urged Non-State Actors (NSAs) to embrace regional integration under the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

Opening the SADC national Civil Society Organisation (CSO) workshop, CUTS board member Mr. Sajeev Nair emphasised the importance of NSA understanding protocols, charters and agreements that have been ratified by SADC.

Mr. Nair said the mandate of SADC is to improve people's welfare by tackling poverty and high unemployment levels, which NSAs could assist by bringing SADC programmes closer to the people.

One of the areas where the SADC has lagged behind for several years is the engagement mechanism with the NSAs, which is now being prioritised.

"We are delighted that the SADC Council of Ministers adopted the SADC- NSA

engagement mechanism at the 42nd Summit, along with other changes such as transforming the SADC Parliamentary Forum to SADC Parliament. These are positive changes that are taking place at SADC level, at a time when the continent is prioritising the Africa Continental Free Trade Area that aims to establish a common market for the whole of Africa." Mr. Nair said.

He also urged stakeholders to be part of transformation by getting involved and contributing to bringing SADC institutions closer to people to promote accountability and transparency through enhanced continuous engagement.

CUTS Lusaka and SDGCA 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".

This 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). The project is being implemented in four SADC countries namely Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

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### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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*Dr Sali making a presentation*

## Zambia Signed 62 SADC Instruments

Zambia has signed 62 SADC instruments that includes treaties, protocols, charters and agreements out of 80 to facilitate regional integration agenda from March 2021 to April 2022.

Regional Integration consultant Dr. Shadreck Sali said “Zambia has been domesticating and implementing all its SADC commitments step by step in a trade-off scenario, while some protocols require continuous consensus with member States.” Making a presentation on the Zambia’s status of domestication and implementation of SADC resolutions at the SADC national Civil Society Organisation (CSO) workshop, Dr. Sali urged CSOs to thoroughly analyse each SADC instrument to establish its domestication and implementation in Zambia.

“It is cardinal for CSOs to appreciate milestones of the process of domestication and implementation parameters of SADC instruments at Zambian level,” Dr Sali said.

Speaking at the same event, Action Aid Zambia (AAZ), Partnership for Social Accountability manager Geoffrey Sizala said AAZ is keen to enhance mechanism to compel

Government compliance with regional commitments especially in agriculture and health.

On 12th and 13th April, the CUTS Lusaka and SDG Center for Africa in collaboration with Action Aid held a National CSO workshop to strengthen Non State Actors (NSAs) participation in the SADC regional integration agenda.

In advancing the workshop objectives, the stakeholders identified key challenges hindering regional integration such as non-tariff barriers, absence of a simplified trade regime for small scale cross border traders, inadequate air transport interconnectivity, low levels of integration in terms of education, health and harmonisation of quality standards and value chains among member states, and the failure to domesticate SADC instruments citing where Zambia may have ratified several treaties however progress is stymied because other countries have not done the same.

On the way forward, stakeholders emphasised the importance of countries domesticating SADC instrument to foster regional integration and economic advancement.



*Mr Kazombo*

## Malawi Parliament Pledge to Work with CSO

Malawian Parliament has pledged to work with Civil Society Organisation to educate citizens to embrace the SADC regional integration agenda. “Parliament, which is already represented in the SADC National committees must work hand in hand with CSOs to educate our citizens of what regional integration entails so that when Parliament is moved to legislate, citizens have no difficulties in embracing the regional integration drive,” said the deputy Speaker of Parliament Madalitso Kazombo opening the SADC-CSO national workshop.

He also stated that multi-stakeholder responsibility and coordination is one of the core value and principle that underpin the operations of SADC National Committee that was launched by President Lazarus Chakwera on April 1, 2021.

And Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa senior economist Dr. Enock Nyorekwa Twinoburyo also emphasized that the importance of partnership as one of the sustainable development goals in revitalizing sustainable development. Dr Twinoburyo said the 2030 agenda is universal and calls for action by all countries to ensure no one is left behind.

“It requires partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society,” he said. Through partnership, SDGCA and CUTS International together with country partners in four countries of Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe are implementing a Project Titled: Engagement for Results: Capacitating Regional Civil Society Organisations.

The project is part of the Integrated Institutional Capacity Building for the SADC secretariat and national stakeholders in partnership with its stakeholders in achieving regional commitments particularly, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (2020-2030) and SADC vision 2050.

## CSO Advocacy Forum to Address RI formed in Malawi

A Civil Society Organisation (CSO) advocacy forum to address common concerns on the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) regional integration drive has been formed in Malawi.

The forum comprises seven CSO bodies that includes CYECE as secretariat, National Advocacy Platform, Federation for Disability Organisations in Malawi, National Youth Network on Climate change, NGO Gender Coordination and the Council of NGO in Malawi (CONGOMA).

The CSOs will continue to work effectively through the existing regional mechanisms including the approved SADC formal mechanisms such as SADC National Committees, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the SADC Council of NGOs. The SADC Council of NGOs comprises NGO umbrella bodies e.g. CONGOMA, Southern Africa Trade unions, Southern Africa council of churches, gender forums, Youth and lawyer forums.



CONGOMA will lead in approaching SNC (national), and SADC CNGO (regional) and all other mechanisms including the foreseen establishment of the NSA Forum at SADC.

The steering committee would be supported by technical committees comprised of several CSO working groups. A steering committee meeting was planned for May 2023 to draw a roadmap and strategy.

On 24 - 25 April 2023, the SDGCA and CUTS Lusaka in collaboration with the Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE) held a CSO capacity building workshop in Malawi on the Integrated Institutional Capacity Building (IICB) for the SADC secretariat and national stakeholders in partnership with stakeholders in achieving regional commitments particularly, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (2020-2030) and SADC vision 2050.

## Review SADC Rules of Origin



SADC Ministers of Employment and Labour, and Social Partners held their annual meeting in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in March with a call for enhanced measures to create decent work in the region.

Opening the meeting, the DRC Prime Minister Mr. Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge, highlighted the need for SADC region to create decent work to improve livelihoods of people.

He reiterated his country's commitment to regional integration, in line with the SADC Vision 2050 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan. He informed the Ministers that the country was revising its national labour policy, improving its system of labour inspection, and implementing policy measures to eradicate forced child labour and human trafficking. He informed the meeting that decent work is a top priority in DRC, with employment creation being central to the country's national economic planning.

And SADC deputy executive secretary for regional integration, Ms. Angele Makombo N'tumba said due to limited economic transformation and weak implementation of employment policies, the labour market situation in the region was worrying.

She noted the existence of significant decent work gaps especially for young people many of whom were not in education, employment or training, with young women facing more difficulties.

She also highlighted the need to rethink development strategies and to implement well-coordinated macroeconomic policies and strategies with a view to promote employment and harness the demographic dividend.



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