

THE RESPONSE

Special SADC Summit Edition



Editorial

EDITORIAL TEAM

Jessica Mandanda (Editor)

Willson Chivhanga (Commissioning Editor)

CONTRIBUTORS

Southern African Development Community (SADC);

Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network;

Feminist Macroeconomic Alliance Malawi;

SADC Gender Protocol Alliance;

Women's Global Network on Reproductive Rights Africa (WGNRR Africa);

Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD)

The Response! is published by For Equality Africa

© For Equality Africa (FEA) 2021

For Equality Africa

Plot 47/4/744 | P.O. Box 729, Lilongwe, Malawi

T: +265 990 161 996

W: www.forequalityafrica.org



COVER

Photo: State House Malawi

DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed in this journal are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of For Equality Africa, its Board and the Editor.

FEEDBACK

We appreciate feedback on this publication. Write to the Editor at theresponse@forequalityafrica.org or engage with us on our social media channels



The SADC Summit edition Editors note

From the 17th to 19th August 2021, political and government leaders in the SADC Region gathered in Malawi for the 41st Ordinary SADC Heads of State Summit. Held under the theme, “**Bolstering productive capacities in the face of COVID-19 for sustainable industrialization and national transformation**”, the summit focused on propelling forward the SADC industrialisation and regional integration agenda.

Happening concurrently was the SADC People's Summit in Lilongwe and virtually from the 17th to 27th of August under the theme **Elevate Justice and Equality**. The summit was organised by the Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN), and it brought together social movements, community-based organisations, faith-based organisations, trade unions and civil society organisations in the SADC Region to deliberate, exchange and strategize on how SADC and individual governments, international financial institutions, private companies and other power wielders can be influenced to become more responsive to the plight of the earth, the poor and the marginalised.

With so many activities happening, it is easy to get inundated with too much information and lose track of key commitments and outcomes. This is why we have decided to put together this SADC Summit special edition of 'The Response', which is a compendium of some of the key outcome documents from the summit. We hope that this resource will help you to, keep track of the outcomes and hold leaders accountable for the implementation of recommendations and decisions made.

With that, I invite you to read, enjoy the art, share feedback and contribute your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Willson Chivhanga

Executive Director, For Equality

Commissioning Editor



FOCUS

SADC SUMMIT

IN THIS SPECIAL EDITION, WE SHARE KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE RECENTLY ENDED SADC HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT AND THE SADC PEOPLE'S SUMMIT

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 41ST ORDINARY SUMMIT OF SADC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

SADC PEOPLE'S SUMMIT 2021 COMMUNIQUE

THE FEMINIST MACRO-ECONOMIC ALLIANCE MALAWI DECLARATION

GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

WGNRR AFRICA AND PARTNERS' POSITION PAPER

SADC GENDER PROTOCOL ALLIANCE COMMUNIQUE

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 41ST ORDINARY SUMMIT OF SADC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT - 18 AUGUST 2021

Format: Communique | Source: SADC | Originally published: 18 August 2021

1. The 41st Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was held on the 17th and 18th August 2021, in Lilongwe, the capital city of the Republic of Malawi.
2. Summit was attended by the following Heads of State and Government and/or their representatives:
 - Botswana: H.E. President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi
 - DRC: H.E. President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo
 - Madagascar: H.E. President Andry Nirina Rajoelina
 - Malawi: H.E. President Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera
 - Mozambique: H.E. President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi
 - South Africa: H.E. President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
 - United Republic of Tanzania: H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan
 - Zimbabwe: H.E. President Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa
 - Namibia: H.E. Vice President Dr Nangolo Mbumba
 - Eswatini: H.E. the Right Hon. Prime Minister Cleopas Dlamini
 - Lesotho: Hon Mathibeli Mokhothu, Deputy Prime Minister
 - Angola: Hon. Ambassador Tete Antonio, Minister of External Relations of Angola
 - Comoros: Hon. Dhoahir Dhoulkamal, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
 - Zambia: H.E. Mwansa Kapeya, Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the Republic of Botswana and SADC
3. H.E. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, SADC Executive Secretary was also in attendance. H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and H.E. Dr. Vera Songwe, Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of UNECA delivered pre-recorded remarks to the Summit.
4. Summit elected H.E. Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, as Chairperson of SADC, and H.E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo as Incoming Chairperson of SADC.
5. Summit also elected H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, as Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, and H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic Namibia as Incoming Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.
6. Summit commended the people and the Government of the Republic of Zambia, for conducting successful elections, and congratulated H.E. Hakainde Hichilema for winning the elections.
7. Summit thanked H.E. Edgar Chagwa Lungu for his leadership and contribution to SADC development and integration during his tenure as President of Zambia and for nobly accepting the results of the 2021 Presidential elections in the Republic of Zambia.

8. Summit received a report of the Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, and commended him for his outstanding leadership and continued efforts to address peace and security threats during the year, notwithstanding challenges posed by COVID-19.

9. Summit endorsed an Action Plan for the implementation of Security Threats Report, and urged Member States to implement interventions contained in the Plan.

10. Summit received a progress report from the SADC Facilitator to the Kingdom of Lesotho, H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa on the implementation of SADC decisions in the Kingdom of Lesotho, and commended the Kingdom of Lesotho for progress made in implementing SADC decisions and the ongoing reforms.

11. Summit also urged the Kingdom of Lesotho to expedite completion of the ongoing reforms, and to continue with peace, transitional justice and reconciliation process to engender national unity, and bring about national healing and cohesion.

12. Summit recommended an extension of the mandate of the National Reform Authority for a period of six months, from 30th October 2021 to 30th April 2022.

13. Summit commended the SADC Facilitator to the Kingdom of Lesotho H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, for his dedication and continued facilitation, and extended his mandate as the SADC Facilitator until the 42nd Summit of Heads of State and Government.

14. Summit received updates on the Security Situation in Cabo Delgado Province, in Northern part of the Republic of Mozambique, and commended SADC Member States for pledging personnel and providing financial support towards the deployment of SADC Standby Force to Mozambique.

15. Summit commended the United Republic of Tanzania for offering to host the Regional Counter Terrorism Centre, which will offer dedicated and strategic advisory services to the Region on terrorism threats.

16. Summit received reports on the socio-economic overview in the region, regional food and nutrition security, gender and development, HIV-AIDS, and on the implementation of the 40th Summit Theme, “SADC 40 Years Building Peace and Security, and Promoting Development and Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges” and commended the Outgoing Chairperson of SADC, H.E Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, for his exemplary leadership during his tenure.

17. Summit reaffirmed SADC’s position that the creation of the SADC Central Bank and Monetary Union, as a long-term objective to be premised on fulfilling pre-conditions that include, the harmonisation of the fiscal and monetary policies of SADC countries, and greater convergence of banking systems. In this regard, the African Monetary Institute and the African Central Bank should, be long-term objectives.

18. Summit expressed concern and objected to the unilateral decision taken by the African Union Commission to grant the State of Israel Observer Status to the African Union.

19. Summit endorsed “Bolstering Productive Capacities in the Face of COVID 19 Pandemic for Inclusive, Sustainable Economic and Industrial Transformation” as a theme of the 41th Summit. The Theme takes forward the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063, with a specific focus on enhancing regional productive capacities.

20. Summit approved the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a SADC Parliament as a consultative and a deliberative body.

21. Summit approved the Protocol on Statistics and an Agreement Amending the SADC Protocol on Energy.

22. Summit expressed concern on the implications of the Post-Cotonou Agreement and the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) in terms of potential risks to fragment the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP); weaken Regional Economic Communities, shift agenda setting powers from Member States to other Parties, and directed the SADC Secretariat to submit SADC's preliminary concerns to the European Union Commission.

23. Summit reiterated its call on the unconditional removal of sanctions imposed on the Republic of Zimbabwe, and support Zimbabwe in the ongoing socio-economic strengthening efforts.

24. Summit approved the appointment of Mr Elias Mpedi Magosi as the new Executive Secretary of SADC.

25. Summit commended the Outgoing SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, for having served the Organization professionally, diligently, and with high level of competence.

26. Summit extended its appreciation to the Government and people of Malawi for a successful 41st Summit.

27. The Chairperson of SADC, H.E. Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi expressed gratitude to all the Heads of State and Government for attending the 41st Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government.

28. Summit noted that the next Summit will take place in the Democratic Republic of Congo in August 2022.

Done on 18th August 2021



SADC People's Summit 2021 Communique

20th August 2021



Picture: SAPSN

We, the people of Southern Africa, drawn from grassroots movements, community-based organizations, faith based organizations, women's organizations, labour, students, youths, civil society organizations, economic justice and human rights networks and other social movements in the region; gathered at the SADC People's Summit convened under the Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN); at CROSSROADS HOTEL, in Lilongwe, Malawi, from the 17th-19th of August 2021, under the theme "ELEVATE JUSTICE AND EQUALITY"

Acknowledging the role of the Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network in mobilizing citizens of the regions to defend their human dignity and protection of their fundamental human rights;

Noting the existence of SADC as a regional economic block with a relatively better peace and security dividend, in a well-resourced Africa, but burdened with conflict and human insecurity;

Concerned with:

Unsustainable sovereign debts in the region that have heavily burdened the livelihoods of women, youths, children and people with disabilities more than supporting them in the region;

The inhumane plunder of public resources through illicit Financial Flows, extractivism and corruption which has affected the provision of social protection and financing for sustainable development;

The increasing challenges that indigenous farmers in the region continue to face, land grabs and displacement of traditional settlers, poor trade policies, weak tenure regimes as well as SADC member states' failure to promote indigenous seeds and knowledge systems which resist climate change vagaries;

Climate change catastrophe in the form of droughts, floods, cyclones and extreme temperatures;

Uncontrolled environmental degradation and pollution across the region.

Recurrence of attacks on African nationals in some SADC countries;

The proliferation of pro-capital labour laws in our countries leading to intensification of labour exploitation in the form of unfair labour practices and precarious employment conditions;

The shrinking civic space for public participation in key national and regional platforms, where our future and livelihoods are determined;

The continued lack of capacity of the SADC to monitor and observe general elections in the region as is evident in its most endorsements and electoral reports;

The laxity of leaders in decisively dealing with socio-economic and political crises, particularly in Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini and Lesotho which remain a threat to regional stability;

The continued attacks by political ruling elites on the citizens of the region with their own state security agencies as is the case of mass shootings and attacks in the kingdoms of Eswatini;

The lack of coordinated regional response to the Corona-Virus of 2019 (COVID-19);

Lack of recognition for care workers in the region, in the wake of the huge burden placed upon them by member States, by failing to provide decent hospital care and access to essential and lifesaving medicines to a majority of their citizens;

Increasing incidences of Gender-based Violence and Rape in our countries, and inadequacy of the justice delivery system to effectively deal with the matter;

Growing youth unemployment and lack of progress in integration of youth and other vulnerable groups in all structures of decision making and implementation;

Increasing incidences of child marriages, defilement and child labour;

The slow progress towards implementation of the SADC Protocols especially on environment, Mining, gender, human rights and free movement of the African people;

The abrupt unilateral abolition of the SADC Human Rights Tribunal;

The continued incidence and dominance of neoliberalism through open collusion with the Western and Chinese to mortgage our future and exploitation of resources and people through Economic Partnership Agreements;

We therefore commit to heighten our levels of solidarity and offer each other maximum support in our campaign to reclaim a Just and Equitable SADC.

We call on SADC member States and Governments to the following:

1. On Debt and Aid

- Appeal for unconditional debt cancellation in the face of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Review of tax incentives structures in line with SADC position on tax harmonisation and incentives guidelines – including but not limited to the Protocol on Finance and Investment (2006).
- Subject all borrowing and tax incentives both statutory and discretionary to public scrutiny, including by parliament, media, Civil Society, and citizens.

2. Human Rights, Governance, Peace and Security

- Revive the SADC Tribunal
- Denounce, as SADC Chair, the massacre of unarmed civilians in Eswatini; and prioritize lasting political solution on the Eswatini impasse, working with the Organ Troika on Politics, Defence and security.
- While deployment of armed troops in Northern Mozambique is welcome, SADC must facilitate dialogue between parties in the conflict for a lasting solution.
- Continue to facilitate and support ongoing reform processes in Lesotho.

3. Gender and Social Protection

- Adhere to regional and international commitments in human rights, health, education, agriculture and adopt deliberate efforts to allocate more resources towards children, youth and gender responsive social protection to ensure that these vulnerable groups are protected.
- Invest more resources towards infrastructures for early warning, reporting and timely interventions in the disaster prone areas in the region.
- Accelerate adoption of economic transformative policies such that address inequalities and injustices affecting women and youth.

4. Climate change, Natural Resources and Environment

- Prioritize and commit adequate human and financial resources to WASH to accelerate action towards implementation of SDG 6
- Develop a comprehensive policy framework for climate change and natural resources management that responds to the needs, challenges and capacities of the region for enhanced adaptation and resilience
- Establish a Climate Justice Commission for the region

5. Trade, Industry and Economic Justice

- Implement the of SADC Simplified Trade Regime (STR) and other protocols on Free Trade Area to facilitate the economic activity of cross border traders
- Review the cost of acquiring the Covid-19 test certificates for cross border traders to manage cost of doing business
- Countries to open their borders for cross boarders to travel freely and enhance markets linkages for all (especially women and youth) ■

The Lilongwe FEAM Declaration

A CALL TO SADC GOVERNMENTS TO, RETHINK PREVAILING NEO-LIBERAL MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICIES, INCREASE NATIONAL INVESTMENT IN GENDER RESPONSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, AND PROMOTE SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE FACE OF COVID-19, AND THE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION AGENDAS

14th August 2021

We, the **Feminist Macro-economic Alliance (FEAM)**, together with SADC Gender Protocol Alliance, FEMNET, SADC Council for NGOs and all representatives and delegates drawn from gender and women's organizations, grassroots movements, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, labour movements, economic justice and human rights networks, convened today on 14th August, 2021, at the 41st SADC Gender event in Lilongwe, Malawi, to reflect on the SADC theme: "Bolstering productive capacities in the face of COVID-19 for sustainable industrialization and national transformation".

The convening happens at a time when COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc in many communities in the SADC region, causing alarming loss of lives and livelihoods. Millions of people are losing jobs, businesses, falling further into debt and suffering in many areas.

The impact shows no sign of abating. COVID-19 has also exposed and exacerbated pre-existing inequalities in different sectors including health and education. Citizens in countries with weak public health care systems have been proven to be in added danger. The more the Pandemic mutates into different variants, the more urgent it is for the distance between hospital and citizen to be shortened, accessible and hospitals adequately stocked.

Covid-19 has also brought a new norm in education. Lockdowns have reduced physical contact between learner and teacher/lecturer, bringing e-learning to the fore. This means countries with low access to connectivity and gadgets crucial for e-learning end up educating the elites only. In fact, very soon some parts of the world will have a whole generation of illiterate people who were caught in between the digital divide that was widened by the Covid-19 economic challenges.

Research by many development partners including ActionAid, Oxfam and Development Pathways shows that over 2 billion people globally have had no adequate support from their governments in this time of need. A further critical analysis shows that social protection support to those who are unemployed, especially young women, the elderly, those with disabilities and others with intersecting risks provided in low and middle-income countries, has not been adequate to meet basic needs.

Corruption in public spending is and has been a significant global governance challenge before the crisis, but the COVID-19 pandemic has increased opportunities for abuse and misappropriation of Covid-19 public funds due to the quick nature of disbursements and the loosening of oversight regulations to meet urgent needs.

All this is happening in the context of the desire to pursue the collective Pan-Africanist vision on regional integration and industrialization.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) proposes a free trade area initially requiring members to remove tariffs from 90% of goods, it would allow free access to commodities, goods, and services (UNECA, 2018). The SADC region is also implementing the Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 adopted by SADC Heads of States and Governments at an extra-Ordinary Summit held on 29 April 2015, in Harare, Zimbabwe. The Industrialization Strategy and Action Plan was developed against the background that there are deep structural fault-lines in the economies of SADC countries characterized by resource-dependence, low value-addition and low levels of exports of knowledge-intensive products.

It is therefore imperative that SADC Heads of state and Governments are meeting to discuss means of bolstering productive capacities for sustainable industrialization and national transformation in the context of COVID-19.

Feminist Macro- Economic Alliance recognizes the importance of transforming the lives of the majority of the people in the SADC region and the role that industrialization plays in transforming lives and livelihoods. However, the existing socio-economic context of the SADC region needs to be taken into consideration when one endeavors to bolster its productive capacities based on neo-liberal macro-economic principles.

This is a SADC region that has been ravaged by Covid 19, with countries that predominantly have weak ungendered public service delivery and weak social protection systems. Most SADC countries are completely unprepared to support their citizens to just remain alive and have decent livelihoods as the pandemic rages on.

COVID-19 has not only exacerbated weaknesses in SADC countries' public financial management (PFM) systems but in some cases, has curtailed the abilities of many citizens and elected representatives to exert much-needed accountability and oversight.

This means there has to be focus on how much governments are investing in public service delivery, and Universal Gender-Responsive Social Protection (UGRSP), with stronger accountability and transparency approaches – both in response to the crisis, and to lay the strong foundation for fairer, more equal societies in the long term.

STATE OBLIGATION, RESPECT FOR AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights principles, including labor rights, guide our recommendations for social protection systems, public services, and sustainable infrastructure that benefit all women and men, including those who reside or do business in countries where they are not citizens. This approach is based on the universality and indivisibility of rights and, as such, calls for strategies that recognize and strengthen the interlinkages between social protection, public services, equitable and sustainable industrialization.

Bearing these principles in mind, we contend that it is the state's responsibility within its maximum available resources to ensure universal coverage and access to social protection, essential public services, and fundamental infrastructure, noting that universal coverage is not possible without having removed all barriers, be they economic or social. Universal coverage and access require the development of gender-responsive state capacities to provide, finance, and deliver these services as well as to ensure the rights of workers in these sectors, many of whom are women.

SADC'S ECONOMY IS NOT PREPARED FOR COVID 19, SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND EQUITABLE REGIONAL INTEGRATION

As SADC invigorates industrialization and regional integration agenda in this Covid-19 era, there is need to consider the fact that most countries have weak economies that are failing to cope with the pandemic.

While the wealthy G20 countries have injected over \$9.8 trillion into their economies, including significant measures to support the vulnerable and the general population, the majority of low - and middle-income countries have not been able to deploy the same 'whatever it takes approach' to protecting their people and economies. In total, countries around the world have raised \$11.7trillion in additional spending this year in order to cope with the fallout of COVID-19. Of this amount, 83% has been mobilized by 36 rich countries against just \$42billion (0.4%) in 39 lower-income ones. This means poorer nations are not equipped to provide the social protection and public services that are very crucial in the fight to survive Covid-19.

In view of this context, it is important to understand structural issues on why poor countries have these weak social protection and public service delivery systems.

NEO-LIBERALISM: SOURCE OF SADC'S WEAK SOCIAL PROTECTION AND PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID 19

For decades, most African countries have pursued a failed model on public services and social protection. They have found themselves in this predicament because they have been very obedient patients of international Financial Institutions, in particular, the Bretton Woods institutions (Mangani 2021).

The failed model of social protection and public services has often been with the support and advice of the IMF and World Bank. According to an Oxfam report, instead of learning from the history of now rich countries which rebuilt their societies after World War II with universal benefits, African countries have pursued a path more similar to Europe in the 19th century.

The April 2021 Global Austerity Alert report documents how austerity cuts are expected in 154 countries in 2021 and shows how public sector wage constraints are one of the central policies with the most negative social outcomes. This powerful report refers extensively to ActionAid's Who Cares report from 2020 which showed how the IMF had offered coercive policy advice to governments over the previous three years to cut or freeze public sector wages in 78% of countries where data was available.

In normal times, public services including universal gender responsive social protection play a vital role in making societies fairer and more equal. It reduces the gap between rich and poor people. Even IMF, World Bank and OECD have now all warned that unless something is done, the pandemic will lead to a sharp increase in inequality in almost every country. While the richest will bounce back from this crisis rapidly without help, ordinary families will take years to get back on their feet.

OUR CALL ON SADC MEMBER STATES AND GOVERNMENTS:

Concerned with these issues, Feminist Macro-Economic Alliance call upon the SADC Governments to among other things:

Rethink Neo-Liberal Macroeconomic Policies and invest in Gender-equitable Public Service Delivery

Universal public services are the foundation of free societies, and the relationship between women and access to essential services is already well documented. Neo-liberal macro-economic policies have meant increasing disengagement of the State from responsibility for welfare: Regressive neoliberal economic policies imposed on government are constraining delivery of public services/ social protection programmes and places the greater burden on women. The neoliberal transformation of institutional forms of capitalism is destructive of the structures and arrangements that were characteristic of the welfare state.

Governments must therefore create a stable macro-economic environment and strong micro-economic foundations for development that take into account the pre-existing inequalities. This will enable women to respond effectively to COVID-19 and participate in sustainable industrialization and regional integration

Urgent Need for Universal Gender-Responsive Social Protection (UGRSP)

Social protection systems are important mechanisms for sheltering people from the ills of free-market capitalism. They are more likely to be successful and gender-responsive when they are established and operated according to the principles and standards that human rights require and the obligations they impose. The SADC Code on Social Protection (2018) affirms that social security is a human right by reiterating that everyone in the SADC has that Right to Social Security.

To prevent a terrible increase in global inequality, a huge investment in Universal Gender Responsive Social Protection is therefore needed. Feminist Macro-Economics Alliance call on Governments in SADC countries to deliver on global commitments to achieve universal social protection by 2030. This include taking concrete steps towards ensuring adequate financing for Universal Gender-Responsive Social Protection (UGRSP).

Bolster women's productive capacities in the context of Free Trade Agreements and industrialization

The SADC industrialization and free trade agenda is essentially premised on neo-liberal macro-economic policies which are capitalist in nature.

Women's participation in industrialization remain comparatively low and at the same time there are transnational elites coming into the countries seeking the highest profits, and appropriating the value created by labour power and they have no legal responsibility to assure the provisioning of the population. This has meant women in small scale businesses being replaced by global traders who have infiltrated the local market spaces, and strangely, able to import basic goods like tomatoes, groundnuts flour etc at the expense of women traders who are traditionally in such business leading to "feminization of poverty".

We are therefore calling on members states to invest in gender equitable trade and sustainable industrialization initiatives that will enable women to compete effectively in a liberal economies to bolster women's productive capacities and ensure their participation at all levels of the value chains.

More Women in Decision Making spaces. End Patriarchal Governments

In most SADC Countries, very few women are on the decision making table. SADC has only one woman in the Presidency, most of the parliaments do not meet the SADC Protocol on Gender stipulation. The story is the same in councils, boardrooms and other institutions and processes of power. The result is that government becomes a boys' club that makes patriarchal decisions. This is worsened by the patriarchal societies in the region lacking structures to counter male dominance. Governments must therefore be accountable to ensure women's participation in politics and decision making.

Access to information on industrialization and AfCFTA

Concerned with the low levels of awareness on the many changes happening in the region on industrialization and trade integration, we are calling on governments to take necessary steps and concrete action to make sure that women fully understand the changes, opportunities and challenges to have the ability to decide . This is important for the women to compete in a liberal market especially because, knowledge is power.

Respect Labour Rights, End the Gender Pay Gap

We urge governments to address gendered decent work deficits as there is increased exploitation of women at the work place and there are more women than men in unpaid work, especially care reproductive work. There are many instances of gender-based violence, especially sexual harassment in cross border trade and in factories.

Tax Justice and an end to Illicit Financial Flows

We urge our governments to implement the recommendations of the High-Level Panel of Experts' report on Illicit Financial Outflows in Africa, as adopted by the AU Heads of State and Government Summit in January 2015;

In particular, we call upon governments to accelerate actions on progressive taxation at the national, regional, and global levels aimed at promoting investment for women's and girls' access to social protection systems, public services, and sustainable infrastructure in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Stronger emphasis and decisive action for accountable and transparent Public Finance Management

We call on SADC governments to explain and justify how existing and diverted public resources as well as international relief funds and private donations are planned and utilised.

Transparency is paramount. Plans and budgets as well as financial and performance information must be openly and proactively provided to the public in accessible formats. SADC states must put in place participatory mechanisms to solicit inputs and convey feedback through the provision of innovative spaces which are acceptable and accessible for inclusive public participation.

We strongly caution against a lackluster approach to dealing with the abuse, misuse, misappropriation of our already limited public resources and call for effective and innovative support systems for the enforcement of corrective measures in SADC Governments' anti-corruption efforts.

We commit ourselves to the struggle and to stand in solidarity with our governments to defend economic justice and human rights for all.

VIVA women of SADC! Viva the truly People-Centre and People-responsive SADC

Signed on this 14th day of August 2021 by the Feminist Macroeconomic Alliance Malawi (FEAM)

Gender Transformative Public Financial Management

"It's high time women take up positions of influence and speak for themselves"

Women in Zimbabwe and the whole of the SADC region are largely marginalised and side-lined from participating in economic governance and decision-making processes. Despite a set of progressive constitutions, regional and international instruments like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, SADC Protocol on Gender Development as well as the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action that seeks to advance and foster the realisation of women's rights and gender equality, it is worrying to note that women have no voice in decision making processes yet they are the most disproportionately affected by economic misgovernance.

On the other hand, there is no commitment by government to genuinely address the gaps through allocation of sufficient resources and gender responsive budgeting. In African countries like Zimbabwe, this has become a mere rhetoric talk. The deep macro-economic challenges affecting Africa as a region has exacerbated the plight of women and young girls who constitute the majority of the African populace. For instance, the debt discourse has undermined the responsibility of governments as duty bearers to make strides towards the progressive realization of women's rights as monetary resources are deliberately diverted from social spending towards the repayment of debts.

Consequently, illicit financial flows and resource leakage have also exerted a gender impact where Africa is contributing meaningfully to the global economy through resource extraction yet there are very little prospects left for its women and the unemployed youth who are living in abject poverty in communities where resources are being extracted.

It is women who bear up the brunt through subsidizing for services that could have been provided for by the government. The issue of unpaid care work amplified by COVID 19 pandemic and climate change has become a major cause for concern where women's contributions to the care economy are not paid for let alone recognised by governments.

"Consequently, illicit financial flows and resource leakage have also exerted a gender impact where Africa is contributing meaningfully to the global economy through resource extraction yet there are very little prospects left for its women and the unemployed youth who are living in abject poverty in communities where resources are being extracted"

At a conference on gender transformative public financial management which took place at the 2021 SADC Peoples Summit during the Week of Learning and Action, women from diverse backgrounds and group including artisanal miners, small holder farmers and informal traders converged to speak with one voice on issues that are affecting their socio-economic wellbeing. The discussions were centred around five main thematic areas which are

- Gendered Dimensions of Decent Work and Informality,
- Gender Responsive Budgeting in the context of Climate Change and COVID 19
- Gender, Tax Justice and Debt in the SADC Region,
- Gendered Impacts of Illicit Financial Flows, and
- Rural Women and Small Holder Framers and Market Access in Crises

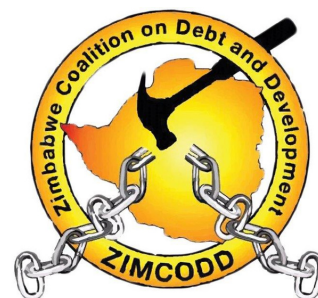
One of the underlying causes of the aforementioned challenges remains the exclusion of women from the round table where decisions are made. There is lack of effective engagement from women on decisions that directly affect their wellbeing. Further to that there is generally a pull her down syndrome where women are not confident of other women occupying leadership positions as a result of the structural and societal gender roles which place women as inferior than men.

Women and youths from the SADC region were challenged to demand transparency and accountability for effective and efficient public resource management. It is important that women start to occupy positions of influence in their respective spaces and act as active agents of change towards the attainment of gender transformative public resources management and sustainable development in Africa.



Article by: **Lynette Hlatywayo**
Program Assistant, Zimbabwe Coalition on
Debt and Development (ZIMCODD)

The Gender Transformative Public Financial Management Conference was hosted by Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD). ZIMCODD is a socio-economic justice coalition whose mandate is to facilitate citizens' involvement in making pro-people public policy.



Investing In People for Social and Economic Justice

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

We want to hear from you!

The Response would be nothing without the voices of our readers. Each month, we invite you to add share your thoughts on our feature story by joining the conversation on our social media platforms and tuning in to our 'The Response' Podcast and Webinars.



The BIG Question

"The SADC Summit has come and gone. What's next"? What do the recommendations and outcomes from the meeting mean for SADC citizens, especially women and girls?

Connect with us:

Follow us on our social media channels

@theresponse_afr



Join the conversation:

Use the hashtag #TheResponse or tune in to our Podcast



<https://anchor.fm/the-response1>

COMMUNIQUE

WGNRR AFRICA AND PARTNERS' POSITION PAPER AT THE SADC PEOPLE'S SUMMIT 2021

INTRODUCTION

WE, the civil society organizations comprising delegates from Malawi and Tanzania under the Women's Global Network on Reproductive Rights Africa (WGNRR Africa), meeting at Crossroads Hotel in Lilongwe, from the 16th to 18th August 2021 for the SADC People's Summit;

Recognize the joint efforts and gains made by the SADC state Governments in improving the health & well-being and upholding the rights of adolescents in regards to their access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights services and information within the region.

Acknowledge progressive adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights policies, legislation, strategies, regional and global commitments, such as the SADC SRHR strategy, the ESA commitments, the Maputo Plan of Action, Malawi youth friendly health services strategy among others. However adolescents and young people (10-24 years) within SADC region continue to face a multitude of sexual and reproductive health and rights issues which if not managed will consequently follow into their adulthood.

Concerned that Conflicting and retrogressive laws in the SADC region fuel the emergence and persistence of issues affecting adolescents sexual and reproductive health and rights, undermining their rights and posing the greatest barrier to access to sexual and reproductive health and rights services. Persistent legal and practical barriers and widespread human rights violations including gender-based violence, restrict the choice of young people to access critical Sexual and reproductive information and services in the region.

For example, in Malawi, access to sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services is prohibited in schools, where 81 percent of teenagers spend the majority of their time. We're particularly worried that, despite the availability of youth-friendly health services, only 31.7 percent have heard about them and 13% of adolescents have accessed them.

In Tanzania, teenage pregnancies are on the rise. One in four young women aged 15 - 19 are mothers; while 40% of young women aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical violence, and almost 20% have experienced sexual violence (TDHRS 2015/16). Further, pregnant teenagers and those who gave birth are not allowed to go back to school.

We are also concerned that most of the SADC countries are experiencing an increased early sexual debut. For instance 57% of young women and 48% of young men in Tanzania reported having sex before 18 years of age; and in Malawi, 64% of adolescent girls have had sexual intercourse by the age of 18 and 42% of adolescent boys have had sexual intercourse by age 18.

CALL TO ACTION

We call upon the member state of the SADC region, UN Agencies, the private sector, CSOs, Ministries of Health and Education to:

- Urgently review and harmonize all contradicting and retrogressive laws and policies hindering access to sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and young people. Specifically, we call up the ministries of Health and Education in Malawi to review and harmonize the National Education Policy with the SRHR policy & the youth friendly health services strategy for equitable and accessible sexual and reproductive health services and information for school going adolescents. We call upon the government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the ministry of health to urgently develop a stand-alone adolescents' sexual and reproductive health policy.
- Allocate 15% of the national budgets to health in line with the Abuja Declaration and commit to a target of spending 5% of their GDP translating to 112USD per capita on health as their commitment to realize Universal Health Coverage. In particular, the United Republic of Tanzania should prioritize sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents despite reaching the 15% allocation towards health.
- Prioritize adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services within essential services package in the emergency response plans i.e Covid-19, floods, Ebola e.t.c.
- We call upon the United Republic of Tanzania to strengthen the implementation and budget allocation towards National Multisectoral Strategic Framework for HIV/AIDS 2017-2023, National Adolescent Health and Development Strategy 2018-2022, National Youth Development Policy 2007 and the Tanzania Health Sector Strategic Plan III.
- Increase Access to age appropriate SRH Information by effectively implementing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and engaging meaningfully the social and educational sectors as well as the civil society organization. The process of accreditation to implement CSE in schools should be well outlined to aid programs implemented by non – state actors.
- Provide and improve youth friendly services that deliver, address and respond to the specific needs of adolescent and young people of reproductive age in their diversity, living in different socio-economic context, with a particular focus on reducing stigma and discrimination faced by adolescents and young people and improving service providers' attitudes.
- Enhance meaningful adolescents and youth Engagement in Sexual Reproductive Health Rights policy discussions: plan and provide engagement opportunities for the youth, build their capacity and leadership skills and invest sufficient resources to ensure this becomes a reality ■



COMMUNIQUE TO THE SADC HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENT

13 August 2021

The Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance, a network of national women's rights networks in 15 SADC countries, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) partners in Malawi met virtually across the region, and face-to-face in Malawi as part of the Regional Civil Society meeting ahead of the SADC Heads of States meeting on the 17 August 2021.

The meeting noted with concern that COVID-19 has resulted in an escalation of the already high levels of Gender Based Violence (GBV); increase in teenage pregnancies; child marriages; harmful practices and unsafe abortions, as well as disruptions to health services, including those for HIV and AIDS, family planning, menstrual and maternal health.

In addition, women constitute 70 percent of frontline health workers, home-based care givers and of those who have been most affected by the pandemic through loss of jobs; disruption to the informal sector and of cross border trade.

Only 4% of the 360 million people in SADC have been partially vaccinated and only 2% have been fully vaccinated. This is lower than the global average of 14% and much lower than the average in most developed countries, where over half the population has been vaccinated.

The Southern African Protocol Alliance and the SRHR partners in Malawi are calling on SADC leaders to accelerate vaccine roll out, provide sex disaggregated data to monitor distribution and ensure that gender-related barriers are addressed.

A #VaccineGenderJustice petition calls on Heads of State meeting in the Malawi to challenge "vaccine apartheid" globally and ensure rapid, equitable distribution of effective #COVID-19 vaccines in the region.

In addition to sex, age and region disaggregated data, the petition calls on Heads of State to:

- Remove barriers to widespread delivery and uptake of effective vaccines across SADC.
- Ensure that all SADC citizens, especially women and marginalized groups have access to, and information on, the most effective vaccines, as soon as possible.
- Negotiate access to vaccine science, as it is everyone's right to benefit from scientific progress and its applications including in healthcare.
- Support the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to waive intellectual property rights protections for technologies needed to prevent, contain, or treat COVID-19, including vaccines and vaccine-related technologies.
- Provide budgetary allocations to bridge the digital divide to ensure that all citizens in SADC member states have access to information and modern platforms for equitable access to education.

The Alliance and SRHR partners in Malawi are also calling on SADC Heads of States and Governments to:

- Implement the regional, continental and global human rights and SRHR instruments that SADC member states have signed or ratified.
- Urgently adopt policies and legislation to ensure that safe abortion is available and accessible on demand in all SADC member states.
- Redouble efforts to reduce maternal mortality, which is unacceptably high in all but two SADC member states (Seychelles and Mauritius).
- Remove value added tax (VAT) from menstrual health products and provide these free in schools.
- Adopt and implement policies and strategies to ensure access to SRHR information and services, and the meaningful participation by youth in advancing their SRHR.
- Adopt laws and mount campaigns to end child marriages, in line with the commitments to make 18 the minimum legal age of marriage and domesticate the SADC Model Law on Child Marriages.
- Ensure that there are strategies in place to strengthen prevention, response and support to address teenage pregnancy including school re-entry programmes.
- Apply the lessons on gender justice in the COVID-19 pandemic to bold and visionary approaches to achieve climate justice for the future generations of SADC.
- Allocate resources to support the implementation of gender responsive public health services towards the realization of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Presented by:

Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance (comprised of SAfAIDS; Platform da Mulheres Accao – Angola; Botswana Council of NGO's; Union Congolaise des Femmes des Medias – GEMSA (UCOFEM – GEMSA) – Democratic Republic of Congo; WLSA Lesotho; Fédération Pour la Promotion Féminine et Enfantine) – Madagascar; Malawi NGO Gender Coordination Network; Mauritius Media Watch Organisation – GEMSA; Forum Muhler – Mozambique; Namibia NGO Forum; Seychelles GEMPLUS – GEMSA; South African Women in Development Eswatini Young Women's Alliance; Tanzania Gender Networking Programme; Zambia Women in Law Southern Africa; Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe), SADC Council for NGOs and National Partners (Council for Non-Governmental Organizations in Malawi (CONGOMA), Coalition for the Prevention of unsafe Abortion (COPUA), Ipas, Banja La Mtsongolo (BLM), Options, Family Planning Association (FPAM), SRHR Alliance, Care Malawi, OXFAM, Feminist Macro Economics Alliance (FEAM), Power to Youth (PtY)

SUBSCRIBE

Thank you for reading our very 1st issue of **The Response**. We hope to be coming into your inbox every month with a brand new edition. You can ensure that you do not miss a single issue by subscribing. We have 4 easy ways you can access our publications:



Get a copy delivered to your email every month

Email: theresponse@forequalityafrica with 'SUBSCRIBE' in the subject line.



Get a copy delivered to your whatsapp every month

Whatsapp 'THE RESPONSE' to +265 990161996 and we will inbox you the latest issue



Join our Telegram Channel

Click this link to join our channel and get access to all our publications: https://t.me/theresponse_afr



Download from our website

Get access to all our publications on our website: <https://forequalityafrica.org/the-response/>