



***Communique of the 10th Civil Society Forum
Held on 30th July 2014, Harare, Zimbabwe
To the 34th Ordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of State & Government***

We, the assembled representatives of Civil Society in Southern Africa, having gathered in Harare, Zimbabwe and deliberated on the progress and challenges facing the Southern African Development Community on the occasion of the 10th Civil Society Forum, hereby express the following for your consideration at the forthcoming 34th Summit of the Heads of State and Government;

Hereby call on SADC Heads of State & Government to:

Enhancing Democracy & Justice:

- Elevate the SADC Principles and Guidelines governing Democratic Elections to the legal status of a Protocol and strengthen the provisions for national adherence and compliance, and;
- Revoke the suspension of the SADC Tribunal and reinstate it to its original mandate as provided for in the Tribunal Protocol (2005).

Promoting Sustainable Economies and Human Security:

- Facilitate the development and implementation of regional regulations, guidelines and institutions to manage intra-regional trade and investment, the exploitation of national and natural resources in a transparent, accountable and inclusive manner where local communities benefit directly and equitably;
- Dedicate adequate resources from the Regional Agricultural Fund to support small scale farmers, particularly women and youth, to ensure food security, sovereignty and sustainable livelihoods in rural and urban areas in line with the Maputo Declaration (2004);
- Adopt, ratify, domesticate and implement a SADC Employment & Labour Protocol by 2015;
- Approve and adopt the multi-deprivation definition of poverty, multi-deprivation poverty indicators and allocate adequate resources for the establishment and functioning of National Poverty Observatories within the Regional Poverty Observatory;
- Implement the African Mining Vision in an inclusive, integrated and participatory manner;
- Formulate, adopt and implement a SADC Basic Income Grant, and;
- Harmonize regional socio-economic and political policy frameworks to constitute a comprehensive human security framework for SADC.

Strengthening Civil Society Engagement in SADC Processes:

- Formulate and adopt guidelines for institutionalized participation of SADC civil society organizations in policy processes (e.g. RISDP & SIPO) and program implementation in consultation with Non-State Actors;

- Expedite the establishment of SADC National Committees and ensure their proper functioning in all Member States in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty, and;
- Include civil society at all levels of the Regional Development Fund.

Ensuring Gender Equality and the Rights of Vulnerable Groups:

- Ensure the full ratification, domestication and implementation of the SADC Gender & Development Protocol by 2015;
- Develop, adopt and domesticate a SADC Protocol on Children and Youth by 2015 in consultation and negotiation with affected constituencies and interest groups of civil society;
- Develop, adopt and domesticate a SADC Protocol on Disability 2016 in consultation and negotiation with affected constituencies and interest groups of civil society;
- Develop, adopt and domesticate a SADC Protocol on the Elderly by 2016 in in negotiation with affected constituencies and interest groups of civil society;
- Approve and implement the SADC Labour Migration Policy Framework by 2015 in consultation and negotiation with trade unions and interest groups of civil society; and
- Engage in a process of consultation and negotiation on the issues affecting the Indigenous People of the SADC region in order to facilitate the implementation of international legal instruments to protect their rights, traditions, cultures and environment.

Protection of Human Rights and Access to Information

- Align the SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport with Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and the African Platform on Access to Information.

On International Solidarity

- We call upon the SADC Summit to initiate impartial investigation on the Kingdom of Swaziland into the credible claims of the repression of trade unions, political parties and civic organization, the abuse of the judiciary and the persecution of members of the opposition;
- For SADC to put the political situation in Eritrea on the African Union as a standing agenda item and immediately start with the facilitation of an all-inclusive political dialogue in Eritrea, and;
- For SADC to support the people and State of Palestine in their efforts to achieve humanitarian aid and assistance; and immediately expel all Israeli diplomatic missions and business interests.

Signature:  Date: 13 August 2014
Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa

Signature:  Date: 13 August 2014
SADC Council of NGOs

Signature:  Date: 13 August 2014
Southern Africa Trade Union Coordination Council

