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## **10<sup>th</sup> Southern Africa Civil Society Forum (27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July 2014, Harare, Zimbabwe)**

### **THE SADC WE WANT: ACTING TOGETHER FOR ACCOUNTABILITY, PEACE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

#### **1. Preamble**

- 1.2. *We, the representatives of civil society organizations and organized labour from across the Southern Africa Region, meeting under the auspices of the Fellowship of Christian Councils of Southern Africa (FOCCISA), Southern Africa Development Community – Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (SADC-CNGO) and the Southern Africa Trade Union Coordination Council (SATUCC) between the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2014, in Harare, Zimbabwe at the 10<sup>th</sup> Southern Africa Civil Society Forum;*
- 1.3. *Cognizant of Articles 16A and 23 of the SADC Treaty which commits SADC member states to engage fully with the peoples of the region and civil society in regional integration and development;*
- 1.4. *Aspiring for a SADC in which all are equal in all spheres and can reach their full potential in both their public and private lives;*
- 1.5. *Alarmed at the lack of progress in achieving human and social development, the growing levels of unemployment, poverty and inequalities, the increasing impact of climate change, land & environmental issues, the continued plundering of natural and national resources linked to corruption and poor economic governance, the bleeding of our economies through the illicit flows of financial resources, the trampling of human rights and of vulnerable communities, the on-going lack of democratic participation by citizens and people in national and regional processes, the crisis in healthcare, continued harassment of journalists, the absence of access to information and encroachments on the right to freedom of expression, and the absence of human security within Southern Africa;*
- 1.6. *Concerned with the increased social exclusion, marginalization, discrimination and violence based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation, particularly targeted at women, young girls, children, the elderly and persons with disability and the need to address the context and conditions of vulnerabilities which affect these communities and individuals*

#### **Recognising:**

- 1.7. That development needs of people, communities and constituencies are multiple, complex and interwoven;

- 1.8. That a new discourse, approach and strategy are required to address the multiplicity of deprivations, the multiplicity of contexts and multiple development deficit which prevent, inhibit or reinforce barriers to genuine, sustainable well-being of humans, the environment and all who inhabit the planet is urgently required;
- 1.9. That SADC is not an isolated region from the African continent or the world and that only our collective efforts to revitalise the global South as people-based movements championing the rights of people to fulfil their full potential can achieve a lasting environment of global justice. As such we acknowledge the on-going solidarity efforts and struggle in SADC and beyond undertaken by all of us and recognise the need to strengthen these efforts;
- 1.10. That Civil Society Organisations must be strengthened to return voice and power to the people themselves;

### ***Affirming***

- 1.11. The previous SADC Civil Society Forum resolutions and declarations;
- 1.12. The principles of participation, inclusion and negotiations as necessary pre-conditions to the attainment of sustainable development;
- 1.13. The premise of our interventions as being life-affirming developments, which promote and protect people and the planet on the basis of justice, equity and sustainability which requires a fundamental shift in attitudes, policy-making and everyday practices within our communities, our organisations, our governments and our societies;
- 1.14. *Issue this Declaration of intent and Call to Action* to the SADC, Member States, civil society organisations and people of Southern Africa;

## **2. On our Relationship with the SADC Secretariat**

- 2.1. Mandate the Regional Apex Alliance to communicate in writing to the SADC Heads of State expressing our disappointment regarding the lack of appreciation of the role of civil society and apparent unwillingness/lack of capacity to engage with civil society by the SADC Secretariat;
- 2.2. We collectively undertake to review the effectiveness of engagement with SADC and identify clear areas of difficulty for remedial action;
- 2.3. To develop clear and empirical best practices and models for engagement with SADC and Member States which can be harnessed to contribute to such guidelines and Codes of Best Practice;

## **3. Tax Justice**

***We call on SADC Member States***

- 3.1. Cooperate at regional level in order to counter tax competition and end harmful tax incentives. Domestically they should cost their tax incentives, open them to parliamentary and public scrutiny and end tax holidays;
- 3.2. Strengthen taxation accountability through mandatory reporting by multinational corporations by legislating country-by-country reporting and the automatic exchange of information;
- 3.3. Reinvest revenues from extractive industry to generate sustainable streams and invest them in productive sectors which can be tapped into as Member States expand their tax base;

#### **4. Land Environment & Climate Change**

##### ***We commit ourselves***

- 4.1. To lobby for development of a comprehensive agrarian reform programme, which promotes public and private investment in agriculture;
- 4.2. To Lobby for broadened land redistribution which remains an unfinished business of settler colonial redress to configure and decongest some communal areas so as to unlock the productive capacities and potentials of communal area residences;
- 4.3. To Lobby for and promote agricultural growth productivity and rural development through various programmes which include but are not limited to finance, credit, input support, labour market development in order to extend areas under production;
- 4.4. To lobby for advancing of policies and practices that acknowledge the extent and diversity of impacts of climate change to all sectors;

##### ***We call on SADC Member States***

- 4.5. To create scope for investment in irrigation schemes based on longterm public investment plans in water and irrigation technology development;
- 4.6. To Develop policies which defend inalienable Land rights of small and large scale producers;
- 4.7. To Promote environmental stewardship and sustainable development through environmental –social budgeting;

#### **5. Natural Resource Governance**

##### ***Call on SADC Member States to Strengthen resource governance by:***

- 5.1. Enhancing mechanisms for the participation of multiple stakeholders in the decision making process of the exploitation and management of natural resources;

- 5.2. Strengthening the management and governance of natural resources to enhance transparency, accountability and equitable benefit of the revenues from natural resources by local communities and for the greater public good;
- 5.3. Implementation and domestication of the African Mining Vision;

## **6. SADC Basic Income Grant Campaign**

### ***Commit ourselves:***

- 6.1. To support the campaign to tax the extractive industries in order to support universal and comprehensive social protection in all SADC Member States;

### ***Call on SADC Member States:***

- 6.2. To consider, formulate, adopt and implement a SADC Basic Income Grant (BIG) that is funded through extractive industries, as a method to restore human dignity, decrease poverty and reduce inequality;

## **7. SADC Trade, Investment & Development**

### ***Call on SADC Member States;***

- 7.1. To establish an investment framework, in consultation with stakeholders, which ensures ethical trade practices and creation of decent work in SADC economies which focuses on regional social and economic development through the stimulation of domestic, intra-regional investment and FDI, promotion of regional procurement, and the implementation of national development policies;

### ***Commit ourselves to;***

- 7.2. Undertake capacity building for local communities to effectively protect their interests and influence policy outcomes;
- 7.3. Make specific interventions to build the capacity of CSOs in the region and at national level to engage in issues of trade and development through the establishment of a network of resource organisations in this field and the dissemination of materials and information;
- 7.4. To 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;
- 7.5. To host a regional conference of international cooperating partners to address the dire needs of the region and engage on a cooperation framework which supports people-centred development, rather than imposing priorities or supporting counter-productive initiatives;

- 7.6. To investigate and develop a roadmap for indigenous Africa funding and resource mobilisation as a strategic priority to shift reliance on external partners and compliment African centred solutions for African problems;
- 7.7. We further state that the recently concluded SADC Economic Partnership Agreements undermine regional integration and poverty eradication efforts, which Member states have committed to. The EPAs will limit policy space to defend our agriculture, industry and sustainable livelihoods. The SADC position effectively negates the African Union position;

## **8. On Media**

### ***Call on SADC:***

- 8.1. To review and where possible reform the SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport with the intention of aligning it with Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, the African Platform on Access to Information together with other continental/ international instruments;
- 8.2. To review and where possible reform the SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport, together with the Declaration on Information Communication Technologies to take into account technological advancement in the media which includes the internet, mobile telephony and new/social media;
- 8.3. Reintegrate a free and diverse media including social and community media as key components of SADC citizens' livelihoods and the broader regional development and democratisation agenda;
- 8.4. To commit to the development of information portals and dissemination platforms targeting communities in need;

### ***Commit ourselves:***

- 8.5. To develop civil society information portals and platforms to strengthen peoples' engagement with policy making processes;

## **9. On SADC Tribunal**

### ***Commit ourselves to:***

- 9.1. Raise awareness of citizens about SADC and SADC structures, in particular the SADC Tribunal through media, holding of public seminars, etc.;
- 9.2. Mobilize national civil society organizations to support national law societies in their court filing and other endeavours;
- 9.3. To strengthen the existing call and campaign for a Regional Court of Justice, as a component of new jurisprudence for SADC;
- 9.4. Establish a Task Team on the "New SADC Tribunal Protocol" to develop a counter-argument and a mobilisation and advocacy strategy at national and regional levels to support access to justice for citizens;

***We call on SADC:***

- 9.5. Heads of State and Government to ensure the right of citizens to access justice at regional level upon exhaustion of domestic legal mechanisms;

**10. On Elections and Democratization**

***We call on SADC and Member States:***

- 10.1. To embark on the process to elevate the SADC Principles and Guidelines governing Democratic Elections to Protocol level to strengthen its binding power and adherence at national level. In so doing, we expect the Protocol to include provisions that ensure the independence of National Election Management Bodies; Integrity of the Voters Registration and Roll and Transparency in Party Financing;
- 10.2. SADC to subject the drafted Election Observation Handbook to an inclusive public discussion so that it is owned and used as a standard by all regional and national actors in election observation;
- 10.3. SADC to establish a Regional Democracy Fund sourced by the contribution from member states and is accessed – according to established criteria and transparent procedures - by national Election Observation Bodies and accredited CSOs observing elections;
- 10.4. To develop clear standards on assistance to be provided to member states in the implementation of the recommendation by SADC Election Observation Mission observed elections;
- 10.5. Resolve to collaborate with Electoral Management Bodies and other state institutions to roll out civic education aimed at strengthening citizenry among the people of the region;

***Commit ourselves:***

- 10.6. To conduct research on the civil society operating environment and develop a model NGO operating framework for advocacy purposes at regional and national level;
- 10.7. To work with state institutions in the establishment of /or revival of SADC National Committees in all member states as specified in the SADC Treaty;
- 10.8. To work on a civil society framework of a democratic electoral system and to campaign for free, fair and democratic elections;

**11. On Corruption**

***Call on SADC:***

- 11.1. To put in place effective mechanisms for the implementation of the SADC Protocol against Corruption;

- 11.2. Call upon SADC to establish strategic linkages in the implementation of the SADC Protocols, especially with reference to the Protocol on Mining;

***Commit ourselves:***

- 11.1. To effectively coordinate and harness the efforts of civil society organizations and support existing regional monitoring initiatives (regional corruption report) at regional level;

**12. Inclusive Development & Poverty Eradication**

***Call on SADC***

- 12.1. To commit to structured, transparent, mutually accountable and respectful spaces for engagement between Civil Society and Governments at local, national and regional level, in particular for the informal economy;
- 12.2. To dedicate adequate resources from the Regional Agricultural Fund to support small scale farmers, particularly women and youth, to ensure food security and sustainable livelihood in rural and urban areas in line with the Maputo Declaration (2004);
- 12.3. To adopt, domesticate and implement a SADC Employment & Labour Protocol by 2015 to promote decent work opportunities particularly for women and the youth;
- 12.4. To approve and adopt the multi-deprivation definition of poverty, multi-deprivation poverty indicators and allocate adequate resources for establishment of National Poverty Observatories and their funded functioning within the Regional Poverty Observatory;
- 12.5. To develop, adopt and domesticate a SADC Protocol on Persons with Disability 2016 in consultation and negotiation with affected constituencies and interest groups of civil society;
- 12.6. To develop, adopt and domesticate a SADC Protocol on the Elderly by 2016 in negotiation with affected constituencies and interest groups of civil society;
- 12.7. To adopt and implement the SADC Labour Migration Policy Framework by 2015 in consultation and negotiation with trade unions and interest groups of civil society;
- 12.8. To 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;

***Commit ourselves:***

- 12.9. To support the livelihood strategies of our people, particularly those in the informal work, subsistence farming and informal cross-border trade;

12.10. Initiate, support or strengthen regional networks on the following issues/areas:

- Social Protection Platforms;
- Migration;
- Land, Climate Change and Food Security

### **13. Youth Development**

13.1. To lobby and advocate for a Youth Development Protocol – the “SADC Protocol on Youth” which is underpinned by the Africa Youth Charter and will cover the aspects of development and participation of young people in the SADC Region including the following issues:

- Skills development
- Entrepreneurship
- Jobs creation
- Human security throughout the region
- Policy and political engagement
- Access to health & services

13.2. To research and lobby for national policies, including school curriculum and implementation strategies focused on youth development;

13.3. To develop, adopt and domesticate a SADC Protocol on Youth by 2016 in consultation and negotiation with affected constituencies and interest groups of civil society;

### **14. Children’s rights**

14.1. Recognizing that SADC members do not have a standardised definition of a child;

14.2. Worried that SADC member states still have cultural practices that adversely affect children such as child and forced marriages;

#### ***We call upon SADC Member States to:-***

14.3. Develop, adopt and domesticate a standardised definition of a child in consultation and negotiation with affected constituencies and interest groups of civil society;

14.4. Eliminate cultural practises that adversely affect children;

14.5. To develop, adopt and domesticate a SADC Protocol on Children by 2015 in consultation and negotiation with affected constituencies and interest groups of civil society;

14.6. Ensure that policies are implemented;

14.7. Ensure Children’s participation and involvement in meaningful and productive decision making of state matters;

14.8. Invest in quality and free education for children;

### **15. Gender Equity and Equality**

**Call on SADC & Member States to:**

- 15.1. Amend the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development so that targets are revised and indicators included in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;
- 15.2. Domesticated the protocol and promote gender sensitive Constitutions;
- 15.3. Adequately fund gender specific ministries and or women's affairs departments;
- 15.4. Engage affected communities and women's groups in the harmonisation of the proposed Environment Protocol with the needs of women and the provisions of the Gender & Development Protocol;

**16. Coordination**

- 16.1. Undertake to support on-going campaigns and joint efforts such as:

- SADC We Want (APEX ALLIANCE);
- SADC Employment and Labour Protocol (SATUCC),
- Climate Justice, Land & Food Security (SADC-CNGO);
- Simplified Trade Regime (SACBTA);
- Informal & Solidarity Economy (Streetnet);
- Tax Justice campaign (EJN);
- Regional Basic Income Grant (SPII)
- Trade Justice (SEATINI)
- Health & HIV/AIDS (LESO)

Harare, Zimbabwe on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2014



On behalf of SADC-CNGO



On behalf of SATUCC



On behalf of FOCCISA