



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

**ZAMBIAN DELEGATION TO THE 55TH SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC-PF) PLENARY ASSEMBLY
HELD IN LUANDA, ANGOLA, FROM 1ST TO 7TH JULY, 2024**

ON THE THEME

***“THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY
POLICIES IN THE SADC REGION AND CREATING A SINGLE REGIONAL ENERGY
MARKET”***

FOR THE

THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Published by the National Assembly of Zambia

FOREWORD

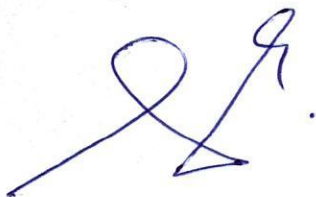
Honourable Madam Speaker, the delegation to the 55th Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) Plenary Assembly, hosted by the National Assembly of Angola in Luanda, Republic of Angola, from 1st to 7th July, 2024, has the honour to present its Report for the Third Session of the Thirteen National Assembly, pursuant to Standing Order 154 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, 2024.

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Plenary Assembly Session commenced with the launch of the SADC-PF Strategic Plan (2024-2028). The new Strategic Plan has revamped the Forum's conceptualisation of parliamentary engagement by building on the four functions of Parliament, by aligning them with model laws, human rights treaties and sustainable development goals (SDGs).

A symposium, under the theme "*The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Renewable Energy Policies in the SADC Region and Creating a Single Regional Energy Market*" was held to strengthen the institutional capacity of national Parliaments to understand policies and regulatory frameworks for renewable energy in the SADC region, with innate advantages for economies and people in the region.

Further, Plenary Assembly adopted two Reports of the Executive Committee on policy and administrative matters and the Treasurer's Report. The Reports dealt with a multiplicity of policy, administrative and financial matters of the Forum, including an update on the transformation of the Forum into a SADC regional Parliament and how Parliaments can mitigate cyber security threats and corporate espionage in the digital revolution, among others. Other Reports considered and approved included Reports of the Standing Committees and the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus.

Honourable Madam Speaker, the delegation wishes to express its gratitude to you and the Clerk of National Assembly for the guidance and support rendered to it during the undertaking.



Mr Kalalwe Mukosa, MP
MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION

July 2024
LUSAKA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

No.	Item	Page
1.0	Composition of the Delegation	1
2.0	Background	1
3.0	Objectives	2
4.0	Launch of the SADC-PF Strategic Plan (2024-2028)	2
5.0	Administration of Oath or Affirmation	3
6.0	New Office Bearers for 2024-2026	3
7.0	Official Opening Ceremony	4
8.0	Symposium on the theme	6
9.0	Country Report on Progress on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the 54 th Plenary Assembly held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 22 nd to 26 th November, 2023	7
10.0	Statement by Right Honourable Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti, SC., MP, FAPRA, on Decisions of the 148 th IPU and other related meetings held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21 st to 28 th March, 2024, pursuant to Rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure	10
11.0	Zambia signs the Agreement Amending the SADC Treaty to establish the SADC Parliament	11
12.0	Adoption of the Report of the Executive Committee on Policy and Administrative Matters and the Report on Financial Matters	11
13.0	Adoption of the Reports of the Standing Committees and Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus	13
14.0	Excursion	17
15.0	Resolutions and Way Forward	17
16.0	Conclusion	19

1.0 COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION

The Zambian delegation to the 55thSADC–PF Plenary Assembly in Luanda, Angola, was led by Right Honourable Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti, SC, MP, FAPRA, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, and it comprised the following Members of Parliament and staff:

1. Honourable Princess Kasune, MP – Minister of Justice, Member of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development and the Regional Women’s Parliamentary Caucus;
2. Mrs Mutinta C Mazoka, MP – Member of the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture, Natural resources and Climate Action and the Regional Women’s Parliamentary Caucus;
3. Ms Julien Nyemba, MP – Member of Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Programmes and the Regional Women’s Parliamentary Caucus;
4. Mr Kalalwe Mukosa, MP – Member of the Standing on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment;
5. Mr Victor Lumayi, MP – Member of the Standing Committee on Democratisation, Governance and Human Rights;
6. Mr Roy Ngulube, Clerk of National Assembly;
7. Mr Sage Samuwika, Executive Assistant to the Honourable Madam Speaker;
8. Mr Dominic Mwinamo, Executive Assistant to the Clerk;
9. Mr Temwa Nyirenda, Deputy Director (Public and International Relations);
10. Ms Carolyn Silenga, Aide-de-Camp to the Honourable Madam Speaker;
11. Ms Ifoma Mulewa, Research Officer; and
12. Ms Betty Zulu, SADC-PF Desk Officer and Secretary to the Delegation.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) region continued to face an electricity crisis since the early 2000s due to demographic growth and considerable progress in industrial infrastructure. In this regard, the demand for electrical energy had caused a deficit in the supply of energy needs.

Given this context, SADC had been implementing long-term measures to ensure self-sufficiency to resolve the deficit rate of energy consumption. Studies indicated that the global hydropower potential of SADC countries was estimated at around 1,080 terawatt-hours per year, but much less than 31 terawatt-hours per year was being used. With regard to geothermal energy, the United Nations Environment Programme estimated that around 4,000 megawatts of electrical energy was available and unexploited along the Rift Valley in the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. It was estimated, however, that only 50 per cent of the population in the SADC region had access to electricity.

The long-term objective established by SADC was to achieve a Renewable Energy Mix in the regional grid of at least 32 percent by 2020 and 35 per cent by 2030. The Energy Protocol, which was approved in 1996, offered a framework for cooperation on energy policies between Member States, and one of the strategic plans for energy development in the region was the Strategy and Action Plan for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency from 2016 to 2030. The Protocol also recognised the importance of the energy sector in pursuing SADC’s vision for economic well-

being and the eradication of poverty in Southern Africa, which required cooperation aimed at creating a single energy market through harmonisation of policies and regional strategies.

The SADC region was vastly rich in solar, wind, hydro-electric and biomass resources, and had great potential for the development of renewable energy. Parliaments, therefore, had a fundamental role in promoting renewable energy policies in the region, which involved strategies and actions in their legislative domain, fields of oversight and control, resource allocation, awareness and education, regional cooperation and investment promotion.

In view of the foregoing, it was essential that the 55thPlenary Assembly deliberated on the theme “*The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Renewable Energy Policies in the SADC Region and Creating a Single Regional Energy Market*” to strengthen the institutional capacity of national Parliaments to understand policies and regulatory frameworks for renewable energy in the SADC region, with inherent advantages for economies and the citizens of SADC.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives and expected results of the 55thPlenary Assembly were *inter alia* to:

- 3.1 emphasise the crucial role played by parliamentary institutions, such as the SADC–PF and national Parliaments, in boosting the adoption and implementation of renewable energy policies in the SADC region, with emphasis on the Strategy and the Action Plan for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency from 2016 to 2030;
- 3.2 discuss the potential of renewable energies to catalyse socio-economic development, mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote energy independence in the SADC region;
- 3.3 encourage the SADC–PF and national Parliaments, through promoting the adoption and investment in renewable energies, to play a fundamental role in diversifying energy sources, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and promoting environmental sustainability; and
- 3.4 identify strategies to improve cross-border cooperation, Public-Private Partnerships and stakeholder engagement to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and achieve global objectives of improving energy access, security and efficiency in the SADC region.

4.0 LAUNCH OF THE SADC-PF STRATEGIC PLAN (2024-2028)

The Right Honourable Speaker Mutti and her delegation attended the launch of the SADC-PF Strategic Plan (2024-2028). In the new plan, the Forum had revamped its conceptualisation of parliamentary engagement by building on the four parliamentary functions namely representation of citizens; legislation; budget; and oversight by aligning them with model laws, human rights treaties and sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The new Strategic Plan aimed to enhance the capacity of national Parliaments, focusing on emerging themes such as Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), Climate Action, leadership on normative frameworks and fiscal governance. Further, key objectives of the Strategic Plan included strengthening Parliamentary democracy, promoting good governance, supporting socio-economic development, advocating for gender equality and youth empowerment and fostering regional integration. The Plan positioned the Forum as an enabler of purposeful and sustainable socio-economic development through parliamentary initiatives which were mindful of the universal respect for human rights, including the need to swiftly address climate change, which constituted an existential threat to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in society.

5.0 ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OR AFFIRMATION

New Members from the national Parliaments of Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and Seychelles, took Oath or Affirmation of Adherence in line with Article 8(4) of the SADC–PF Constitution.

6.0 NEW OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2024-2026

Following the elections for Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons held during the Statutory Meetings of Standing Committees and the Regional Women’s Parliamentary Caucus, the following Members were elected to serve as Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons for the term 2024 to 2026:

- 6.1 The Regional Women’s Parliamentary Caucus**
Honourable Shally Josepha Raymond, Chairperson (*Tanzania*)
Honourable Roseby Gadama, Vice Chairperson (*Malawi*)
- 6.2 Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Programmes**
Honourable Mope Khati, Chairperson (*Lesotho*)
Honourable Lynette Karenzi, Vice Chairperson (*Zimbabwe*)
- 6.3 Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development**
Honourable Princess Kasune, Chairperson (*Zambia*)
Honourable Senator Thato Mako Mohale, Vice Chairperson (*Lesotho*)
- 6.4 Standing Committee on Democratisation, Human Rights and Governance**
Honourable Leonard Mwalwanda, Chairperson (*Malawi*)
Honourable Sophie Ratsiraka, Vice Chairperson (*Madagascar*)
- 6.5 Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment**
Honourable Ruth Mendes, Chairperson (*Angola*)
Honourable Dr Alfred Kimea, Vice Chairperson (*Tanzania*)
- 6.6 Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources**
Honourable Phillipus Katamelo, Chairperson (*Namibia*)
Honourable Mutinta Mazoka, Vice Chairperson (*Zambia*)

6.7 **The Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee**

Honourable Princess Kasune, Chairperson (*Zambia*)

Honourable Phillipus Katamelolo (*Namibia*)

7.0 **OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY**

7.1 **Welcome Remarks by the Secretary General of the SADC-PF**

In her welcome remarks, the Secretary General of the SADC–PF, Her Excellency Ms Boemo Sekgoma, expressed sincere gratitude to all the delegates that had come from the various segments of the SADC region and commemorated the International Day of Parliamentarism, which fell on 30th June, 2024.

Ms Sekgoma informed the meeting that the Forum stood for parliamentarism because at the core of its values and guiding principles, was the preservation of the Rule of Law and democracy. Ms Sekgoma observed that parliamentarism was a guarantee that the minorities would be protected without discrimination and there was peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue.

7.2 **Message of Solidarity by the Secretary General of the Forum of the Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region**

In his Message of Solidarity, the Secretary General of the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP–ICGLR), His Excellency Ambassador Onyango Kakoba expressed his deep appreciation for the invitation to participate at the 55th Plenary Assembly, at the time when threats and challenges required African nations and organisations such as the SADC–PF and FP–ICGLR to enhance partnerships.

Ambassador Kakoba observed that the theme for the Plenary Assembly was both timely and relevant as it underscored the pivotal role that Parliaments played in addressing the ever-growing challenges posed by climate change and the need of investment in clean and renewable energy within the two regions. He further observed that as climate change accelerated and its impact became more apparent, the necessity to transition to sustainable energy sources was not just a global imperative but a regional one as well.

7.3 **Statement from the Inter-Parliamentary Union President and Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania**

In her statement, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) President and Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr Tulia Ackson, remarked that the SADC–PF contributed actively to the work of the IPU with high-level representation at IPU Assemblies, and that the two organisations shared a common agenda in many respects.

Dr Ackson informed the meeting that the Plenary’s theme was in line with the IPU’s main policy goal of addressing the climate crisis as universal access to clean and renewable energy was critical for sustainable development and inclusive economic growth. The realisation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the Paris

Agreement objectives would be greatly determined by the SADC region's ability to swiftly transform the energy system into renewable energy. She further observed that the climate crisis underscored the need for urgent action on energy as the SADC region was incredibly rich in renewable energy potential such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydro biomass, and Parliaments should recognise the imperative to act.

7.4 Remarks by the Chairperson of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus

Chairperson of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus, Honourable Shally Josepha Raymond, applauded the Forum for the sterling work in promoting gender equality in the SADC region through various initiatives. Ms Raymond observed that the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus, together with the national chapters had proven to be a strategic platform to promote gender equality. Ms Raymond acknowledged the remarkable strides made by SADC Member States in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. She added that the region had witnessed laudable achievements, including the appointment of a woman to the highest echelons of the leadership, which signified a transformative shift in societies, reflecting a collective commitment to gender parity and the empowerment of women in all spheres of life.

With regard to the theme, Ms Raymond reminded Plenary that women, especially those in rural areas, were the primary energy managers in households. Therefore, ensuring access to renewable energy could greatly enhance their quality of life and economic opportunities. She urged Parliaments to take pro-active steps in integrating gender perspectives into renewable energy policies and initiatives.

7.5 Remarks by the Speaker of the Parliament of Angola

Host Speaker, Honourable Carolina Cerqueira, Speaker of the Parliament of Angola called for the creation of strong and resilient Parliaments capable of responding to geopolitical issues affecting Member States. She urged national Parliaments to work collaboratively in addressing critical problems affecting the region holistically, including the impact of public debt, conflicts and prudential management of public resources.

Cognisant of the theme, Ms Cerqueira implored national Parliaments to create a supportive environment for harnessing the use of renewable energy to propel the SADC regional economic development agenda in pursuit of green economies.

7.6 Keynote Address by the President of the SADC-PF and Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles

In his keynote address, President of the SADC-PF and Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles, Honourable Roger Mancienne, reiterated the critical importance of collaborations in addressing regional challenges. Honourable Mancienne updated Plenary on the Transformation Agenda, noting that Zambia would be the latest Member State to join ten other countries that had signed the Agreement Amending the SADC Treaty to establish the SADC Parliament, and insisted on the need to have all Member States sign the Agreement to enable the finalisation of the transformation process.

Honourable Mancienne noted that renewable energy policies were essential for reducing the carbon footprint by significantly decreasing reliance on fossil fuels, enhancing energy

security and driving economic growth within the region. By creating a single regional energy market, SADC would harness the collective potential of Member States; promote greater cooperation and efficiency in energy production and distribution.

7.7 Vote of Thanks from the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia

The opening session concluded with a Vote of Thanks from Right Honourable Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti, SC., MP, FAPRA, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, and host for the 56th Plenary Assembly, who promised the delegates a memorable stay in the peace haven of SADC.

8.0 SYMPOSIUM ON THE THEME

The symposium for the 56th Plenary Assembly was held under the theme *“The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Renewable Energy Policies in the SADC Region and the Creation of a Single Regional Energy Market.”*

The symposium was officially opened by the SADC–PF President and Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles, Honourable Roger Mancienne. In his address he indicated that the theme was both timely and critical because it was testimony of how the region strived to remain relevant to the challenges of the times. With the region s facing pressing realities of climate change and the global energy transition, the need for sustainable energy solutions had never been more urgent.

In this regard, renewable energy policies were essential for reducing the carbon footprint by significantly decreasing reliance on fossil fuels, thereby enhancing energy security and driving economic growth in the SADC region. By creating a single regional energy market, the region could harness the collective potential of Member States, promoting greater cooperation and efficiency in energy production and distribution. Honourable Mancienne indicated that Parliaments had a critical role to play in advocating for progressive renewable energy policies by ensuring robust supportive legislative frameworks; holding Governments to account accountable; and providing the necessary budgetary support. This was one example of where Parliaments could lead and make the difference.

Thereafter, several experts including Honourable João Baptista Borges, Minister of Energy and Water of the Republic of Angola made incisive presentations on the disastrous energy deficit within SADC, as well as offering solutions to amend SADC countries’ energy deficiency through the propagation of solar, wind and hydropower generation strategies. The presenters recognised the immense potential that renewable energy held for driving sustainable development, enhancing energy security, and fostering economic resilience in the region. The transition to renewable energy was not just an environmental imperative but also a crucial step towards ensuring the well-being and prosperity of our people.

Member States deliberated on the theme, and most of them observed that thermal power generation could still be pursued despite the attendant greenhouse emissions which should be contained through applied research measures. In deliberating the presentations, the symposium emphasised the critical role of Parliaments in promoting renewable energy policies and creating a single regional energy market pool.

The meeting also highlighted the untapped potential of renewable resources in the SADC region, including the transformative Inga Dam Hydroelectric Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Further, there was a call to prioritise and expedite the completion of key renewable power projects and the exploration of nuclear power energy as a low-carbon alternative source of energy to enhance energy security and environmental conservation sovereignty. It was also resolved that Parliaments should push for comprehensive energy policy frameworks, higher budget allocations for renewable energy development and regional cooperation to harmonise energy policies.

Furthermore, the meeting stressed the importance of ratifying and domesticating SADC Protocols on renewable energy to enable a swift transition towards a clean, secure and affordable energy future for all SADC citizens.

The meeting recommended that SADC Member States should:

- (i) enhance collaboration by working closely with regional counterparts, Governments, private sector, and civil society to build a unified and competitive regional energy market. This included harmonising regulatory frameworks and standards to facilitate cross-border energy trade;
- (ii) enhance resource mobilisation by exploring innovative financing mechanisms and strategic investments, which were essential to overcoming the financial barriers to renewable energy development. All available avenues should be explored to secure the necessary funding and technological support;
- (iii) invest in capacity development which was focused on ensuring that lawmakers and stakeholders were capacitated with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the renewable energy landscape to ensure that the region was well prepared to drive and manage this transition; and
- (iv) foster community engagement to secure the support of communities and constituents through education, awareness, and inclusive dialogues, to build a broad base of support for renewable energy initiatives and counteract resistance from entrenched interests.

9.0 COUNTRY REPORT ON PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 54TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY HELD IN PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, FROM 22ND TO 26TH NOVEMBER, 2023

The National Assembly of Zambia presented its progress report on the implementation of the resolutions of the 55th Plenary Assembly held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 22nd to 26th November, 2024.

- 9.1 *The 54th Plenary Assembly had urged SADC Member States to invest more in Climate Change Awareness Campaigns, Early Warning Systems and to come up with Expeditious Contingency Plans whenever such Calamities arose. Zambia reported at the 55th Plenary Assembly that the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, in collaboration with*

Parliament and the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, had undertaken mass campaigns through the generation, dissemination, printing, and distribution of weather-related material to communities. Further, Zambia had established a multisectoral Early Warning Sub-Committee of the National Disaster Management Technical Committee.

- 9.2 With regard to *Member States developing synergies with policymakers, Academia, civil society organisations, traditional and Faith-Based leaders, community-based organisations, youth representatives and other stakeholders to promote climate justice by reducing the carbon footprint through measures in line with the Paris Agreement regularly reported to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, Zambia reported that it had adopted international agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and was taking strides in domesticating them.

As part of implementation of the Paris Agreement, Zambia had made progress in establishing enhanced transparency framework, through the development of the National Integrated Measuring Reporting and Verification system to enhance transparency through the tracking of national greenhouse gas emission levels, the tracking of climate finance flows received and the impact of mitigation actions.

- 9.3 *The 54th Plenary Assembly had urged Member States to put in place urgent and deliberate measures to encourage and facilitate youth participation in electoral processes by creating frameworks and policies that reflected the needs and concerns of young people; and amplified their voices through organised platforms for engagement as well as making electoral fees affordable for young people to enable their participation.* Zambia reported that the number of youth, below the age of 35, registered as voters as at 21st February, 2024, stood at 3,315,403, representing 47 percent of the total number of registered voters.

Other interventions aimed at enhancing the participation of the youth in the electoral process, as voters, candidates or political party members included:

- the Integration of electoral content in the school curriculum to ensure that young people in schools, colleges and universities were sensitised about their democratic right to vote and participate in elections;
- establishment of Voter Education School Clubs across the country to act as a civic engagement platform for young people to participate in the electoral process;
- engaging the young people during elections through youth conferences and other community and school interventions; and
- encouraging political parties to nominate the youth for elective positions by providing for the payment of lower nomination fees for the different categories of election.

- 9.4 *On the call for Member States to devise mechanisms that would promote women's participation in politics and decision-making by, among others: removing all structural, legal and social barriers that hindered women's participation in politics and decision-making; organising tailor-made training programmes for women on political systems and*

women's right to participation, Zambia reported that she had put in place various interventions to increase women's participation in politics, including:

- passing several legislation that promoted women's participation;
- affirmative action in the electoral process by reducing nomination fees for females to encourage more women to stand as candidates;
- intensified advocacy on the need to review various pieces of legislation such as the Constitution of Zambia to include Proportional Representation,
- advocacy for affirmative action by political parties to adopt more female candidates in collaboration with civil society organisations and cooperating partners; and
- Implementation of the School Re-Entry Policy, which had encouraged more women go back to school to complete their secondary education, among others.

9.5 *The 54th Plenary Assembly had also recommended that Member States should harmonise statutory and customary laws that protected women and the youth from child marriage and promoted their rights to health such as age of consent to access sexual and reproductive health services and access to safe abortion services and child marriage.*

Zambia reported that she was in the process of reviewing various pieces of legislation that provided for the appropriate age for marriage. Zambia had harmonised the statutory and customary laws through legal reforms such as the enactment of the *Children's Code Act, No. 12 of 2022*, which criminalised child marriage for all children. Further, the *Marriage Act, No.13 of 2023* categorically prohibited child marriage, whether conducted under customary or statutory law and expressly provided that a marriage between persons, either of whom was a child is void.

In addition, the *Matrimonial Causes Act, No. 20 of 2007*, which was inconsistent with the provisions of the *Children's Code Act*, was amended to align it with the provisions of the *Children's Code Act* and *Marriage Act*, and to revise the grounds on which a marriage was considered to be void.

9.6 *On the Resolution for SADC Member States to review education curricula since most it had become relics of the colonial legacy and out of sync with the demands of the modern world, Zambia reported that through the Ministry of Education, it had initiated the process of reviewing the Zambia Education Curriculum Framework of 2013 to integrate emerging issues such as Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Science, Technology, Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Education, Climate Change, Education for Sustainable Development, Entrepreneurship, and Renewable and Clean Energy. The goal of a curriculum review was to ensure that the curriculum remained relevant, effective, and aligned with the educational goals and standards of the institution and the needs of the learners.*

10.0 STATEMENT BY RIGHT HONOURABLE NELLY BUTETE KASHUMBA MUTTI, SC., MP, FAPRA, ON DECISIONS OF THE 148TH IPU AND OTHER RELATED MEETINGS HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, FROM 21ST TO 28TH MARCH, 2024, PURSUANT TO RULE 45 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Right Honourable Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti, SC., MP, FAPRA, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, and representative of the Africa Geopolitical Group to the Executive Committee of the IPU, presented a statement on decisions of the 148th IPU and Other Related Meetings, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21st to 28th March, 2024, pursuant to Rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure.

10.1 Attendance at the 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Other Related Meetings

It was reported that the 148th Assembly, which was held under the theme “*Parliamentary Diplomacy: Building Bridges for Peace and Understanding*” drew participation from over 1,479 delegates of which over 800 were Parliamentarians from 144 Member Parliaments. The meeting was officially opened by the President, Dr Tulia Ackson.

10.2 Future Meetings of the IPU

The Governing Council approved the Executive Committee’s recommendation for the hosting of the 150th IPU Assembly and related meetings by Uzbekistan in April 2025. With regard to the 149th Assembly and related meetings slated for October 2024, no Member Parliament had expressed interest to host it. The Governing Council, therefore, approved the recommendation by the secretariat for it to be hosted in Geneva.

10.3 World Speakers Conference/ Women Speakers Conference

The Governing Council endorsed the composition of the Preparatory Committee for the Sixth World Speakers Conference comprising sixteen Speakers from the six Geopolitical groups and two Executive Committee members. The Africa Geopolitical Group was represented by the Speaker of Angola and the Speaker of Algeria, respectively. The Conference was scheduled to take place from 29th to 31st July, 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. The first preparatory meeting was held on 16th and 17th May, 2024 in Geneva. The second and final preparatory meeting would be held alongside the 149th IPU Assembly in October 2024.

Further, the preparatory meeting for the Fifteenth Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament was also held on 17th May, 2024 at the IPU secretariat in Geneva. The committee comprised six Speakers from each Geopolitical group. Right Honourable Carolina Cerqueira, Speaker of the Parliament of Angola, was nominated to represent the Africa Geopolitical group. The conference was planned to take place on 28th July, 2025, just before the World Speakers Conference.

10.4 Cremer – Passy Prize

The 2024 Cremer-Passy Prize would be awarded during the 149th Assembly and other related meetings in October 2024. The 2024 prize was open to sitting parliamentarians who made an outstanding contribution to the defence and promotion of the IPU

objectives as well as those who contributed to a more united, peaceful, sustainable and equitable world.

The nominations were expected to be channelled through the Geopolitical Groups and must have two nominees, the substantive and an alternate. The deadline for submissions of nominees was on 30th April, 2024. By the close of the nominations, only three nominees were received by the Secretariat. All the nominees were male parliamentarians. Discussions were underway to consider making future awards gender responsive in line with the principles of the IPU on inclusiveness.

11.0 ZAMBIA SIGNS THE AGREEMENT AMENDING THE SADC TREATY TO ESTABLISH THE SADC PARLIAMENT

Zambia signed the Agreement Amending the SADC Treaty on the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a Regional Parliament on 2nd July, 2024. The Treaty was signed on the sidelines of the 55th Plenary Assembly by Honourable Princess Kasune, MP, Minister of Justice, who was designated by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, pursuant to Article 92(1) of the *Constitution of Zambia, Chapter 1 of the Laws of Zambia*.

Speaking in Angola, during the occasion, the Right Honourable Ms Nelly B K Mutti, SC., MP, FAPRA, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, observed that the signing of the Treaty by Zambia impelled the Forum to the verge of actualising the dream of many years of it being transformed into a Regional Parliament, as was the case in other regional blocks in Africa.

Honourable Mutti reiterated that one of the tangible outcomes of this transformation was the strengthening of the implementation of resolutions by the Forum and action by member States, and called on national Parliaments in the region to work together in changing the narrative of being policy giants but implementation dwarfs.

Honourable Kasune thanked President Hakainde Hichilema for granting her the authority to sign the Agreement during the plenary Assembly as well as the SADC Secretariat for yielding to the request and facilitating the signing. Honourable Kasune implored the remaining countries to ensure that the Treaty was signed to enable the finalisation of the transformation process.

The Agreement Amending the SADC Treaty was adopted by the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit at its meeting held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo on 17th August, 2022. The Agreement established SADC Parliament as one of the Organs of SADC under Article 9(1) of the SADC Treaty. The Agreement required signatures of twelve SADC Member States for it to be operational.

12.0 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND THE REPORT ON FINANCIAL MATTERS

The 55th Plenary Assembly adopted two Reports of the Executive Committee (EXCO), namely the Report on Policy and Administrative Matters and the Report on Financial Matters or

Treasurer's Report. The Reports dealt with a multiplicity of policy, administrative and financial matters of the Forum, including an update on the transformation of the Forum into a SADC regional Parliament and how Parliaments can mitigate cyber security threats and corporate espionage in the digital revolution, among others.

- 12.1 EXCO called upon Plenary to note that the Forum, in line with its mandate to forge partnerships with other inter-parliamentary bodies and to lead on thematic content, was exploring partnerships with the FP-ICGLR, which had four-member Parliaments in common with the SADC-PF, namely Zambia, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola.

Plenary Assembly was also invited to note and applaud the leadership of Honourable Nelly B K Mutti, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, who was appointed as the President of the FP-ICGLR, following the last conference held in Livingstone, Zambia, on 15th April, 2024.

- 12.2 EXCO requested Plenary Assembly to note that the Swedish-funded SRHR, HIV and AIDS Governance Project (2023-2026) had continued its implementation at the Forum, with more Parliaments launching the Project in recent months. The Plenary Assembly was requested to take note of the sound progress made under the Project and to direct participating Member Parliaments to tap fully into the Project's available resources to implement parliamentary activities that promoted universal access to SRHR commodities and services at national level in accordance with the approved work plan.

- 12.3 EXCO invited Plenary Assembly to recall that the recent devastation caused by extreme weather events in the SADC region had led to several Plenary Assembly resolutions on Disaster Risk Management. Plenary Assembly was also invited to note that, coupled with emerging climate change trends at the global level, it had become necessary for the Forum to intensify the integration of climate action in its programming, in line with the Forum's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan and the SRHR, HIV and AIDS Governance Project. In this regard, the nomenclature and mandate of the relevant Programme and Standing Committee of the Forum that was dedicated to climate action issues was amended to reflect this renewed focus.

Plenary Assembly approved that Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure be amended accordingly so that the nomenclature of the "***Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources***" should read as "***Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Climate Action.***"

- 12.4 Plenary Assembly also considered the Treasurer's Report which highlighted the status of Member country contributions. As at 15th June, 2024, twelve Parliaments, namely Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe had paid their contributions for the financial year ended 31st March, 2024. Three countries; namely Angola, DRC, and Madagascar had outstanding balances for the financial year ended 31st March, 2024. Only four countries, namely Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Zambia had paid for the financial year beginning 1st April, 2024. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and

Madagascar still owed for the financial years ended 31st March, 2023 and 31st March, 2024.

Plenary Assembly was requested to consider and take note of the status of Annual Mandatory Contributions as at 31st March, 2024 and for the financial year beginning 1st April, 2024 (position as at 15th June, 2024), and to appreciate the commitment of Member Parliaments in ensuring that contributions were paid.

13.0 ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS

Plenary Assembly considered and approved Reports of Standing Committees and the Regional women's Parliamentary Caucus, which held statutory meetings from 13th to 22nd May, 2024 as set out below.

13.1 Report of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus on "*Enhancing the Role of Parliament in Empowering Women for Economic Prosperity in the SADC Region- Removing Barriers to Financial Inclusion of Women*"

Plenary Assembly approved the call on Member States to lobby for the integration of the SADC Strategy on Financial Inclusion and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) Access to Finance (2023-2028) and its implementation by SADC Member States.

Plenary took note of the call for Member States to develop and promote financial products specifically designed for women, considering their unique needs and preferences. These could include savings accounts, microloans, and insurance tailored to women's circumstances and also for Member States to advocate for policies that addressed gender-based discrimination in financial services and encouraged equal access to credit, property rights and inheritance for women.

Further, Plenary Assembly adopted the recommendation for Parliamentarians to create a good environment for private sectors to play their role in promoting financial inclusion of women by reducing prices, and to take key actions that could be used to improve financial inclusion of women entrepreneurs, such as gender-responsive planning and budgeting through tax reliefs or subsidies to women entrepreneurs to encourage the growth of women-led ventures, among others.

13.2 Report of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development on "*A Collaborative Approach in Addressing Violence against Women in Elections and Politics in the SADC Region: The Role of Parliament*"

Plenary nodded the appeal to SADC Member States to consider enhancing research on the types and effects of violence on women and the economic and political losses from gender-based violence on women in public life. Further, Member States were urged to undertake research on the prevalence and dynamics of gender-based violence in public life to inform evidence-based policy programming as well as carry out research on where

violence was most prevalent, whether pre-election, during election or post-election period.

Plenary Assembly supported the call on law reforms for SADC Member States so as to pass new electoral laws and laws governing political parties at national and local level to criminalise violence against women in elections and politics.

Further, Plenary embraced the resolve for Member States to enhance awareness raising and norm changing through training and sensitisation for Parliaments, policymakers, Judiciary, law enforcement on the cost of violence against women in elections and politics and gender-based violence on women in public life and the need to ensure their security. Plenary also supported the call for Member States to provide victims of gender-based violence and violence against women in elections and politics with support, protection and access to justice as well as ensuring emergency assistance and safety measures for victims.

Plenary affirmed that Member Parliaments should advocate for State institutions and/or political parties to mandatorily have codes of conduct that penalised and deregistered political parties that supported violence against women in public life as well as compel electoral bodies to put in place Election Day arrangements with police and security in general.

13.3 **Report of the Standing on Human and Social Development and Special Programmes on “*Advancing the African Union (AU) Agenda 2040 for Children: Strengthening Parliamentary Engagement for Child-Centred Legislation and Policies*”**

Plenary Assembly supported the call for national Parliaments to advocate for increased budgetary allocations dedicated to child protection services, education, healthcare, and social protection programmes, ensuring transparent and effective use of funds. This must also extend to the protection of children’s rights in emergency situations.

Further, Plenary Assembly nodded the recommendation for national Parliaments to support policies and enact legislation aimed at achieving universal access to quality education, particularly for the marginalised and vulnerable children, and expand healthcare services to include comprehensive child health and mental health support as well as laws that eliminate harmful cultural practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation, accompanied by public awareness campaigns and community engagement strategies.

In addition, Plenary Assembly adopted the recommendation for Member States to establish and strengthen child-friendly legal and social services, ensuring they were accessible and responsive to children's needs and provide training for law enforcement and judicial personnel on child rights and protection.

13.4 **Report of Standing Committee on Democratisation, Governance and Human Rights on “Enhancing the Role of Parliament in Mitigating Electoral Risks and Building Greater Resilience into Electoral Process in the SADC Region”**

Plenary Assembly adopted the call for the establishment of regular dialogue and cooperation between Election Monitoring Bodies (EMBs) and Parliaments to address emerging electoral challenges in view of their important respective roles in enhancing electoral integrity in the SADC region. Further, EMBs and national Parliaments should collaboratively develop and implement proactive communication plans aimed at engaging electoral stakeholders, including political parties, civil society organisations and the media, to help build trust and confidence in the electoral process across the region.

Further, Plenary lauded the call for the establishment of robust regulatory frameworks by national Parliaments to address misinformation and disinformation and regulate social media during elections in order to eliminate harms such as cyber violence and safeguard the integrity of electoral processes. Plenary encouraged national Parliaments to leverage their legislative mandates to enact and oversee laws that focused on electoral risk prevention and management and the enhancement of resilience in electoral processes to ensure the integrity and credibility of elections across the region.

13.5 **Report of the Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment on “Collaborative Engagement on Enhancing Economic Cooperation through Opening up of Services, Reduction of Tariffs and Bolstering the Transport Sector”**

Plenary Assembly heard about the need to establish a Technical Working Group in collaboration with Trade Law Centre (TRALAC) to analyse the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Model Law and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment for the establishment of a legal framework within the SADC context.

In addition, there was need for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SADC–PF and TRALAC to facilitate the work of the Committee as TRALAC had been instrumental in providing capacity enhancement for Members of the Committee and such a relationship, spanning across many years of cooperation, deserved to be cemented through a MoU.

Plenary Assembly also embraced the call for national Parliaments to institute value addition laws and policies on the production of critical minerals such as lithium and chrome to ensure that locals benefited wholly through employment creation, contributed to revenue collection and industrialisation. Plenary lauded the recommendation for national Parliaments to enact appropriate policies and legislation that facilitated industrialisation and modernisation of critical sectors such as agriculture to ensure food security. Most SADC Members States relied on primary production and had comparative advantage in the agriculture sector, as such the area should be industrialised.

13.6 **Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources on “Promoting Climate Action in Parliaments to Strengthen Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture; Enhance SRHR Outcomes; and Govern Natural Resources Effectively”**

Plenary Assembly noted the need for SADC Member Parliaments to prioritise the integration of SRHR into climate change policies considering the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls. Hence, Parliaments should allocate sufficient resources for interventions addressing both climate action and SRHR, prioritising health services, education, and climate resilience programmes.

Plenary also heard how national Parliaments should establish a Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Southern Africa, to promote the adoption of policy, establish legislative frameworks, raise awareness, and allocate resources for policy and programme implementation as well as to monitor and enforce the implementation of laws related to food security and nutrition, coordinate engagement with relevant stakeholders and advocate for increased investment in nutrition and food system policies.

Plenary supported the call for SADC Member States to invest in agro ecology to mitigate climate-induced disasters and promote sustainable agriculture, increase budgetary support and foster cross-learning among Member States and ensure that national policies were gender-sensitive and that those policies were aligned with agro-ecology principles.

Plenary underscored the importance of balancing de-carbonisation with energy security and affordability and urged Member Parliaments to develop clear strategies for transitioning to renewable energy and phasing out oil, coal, and gas. Member Parliaments should, therefore, prioritise the development of strong policies for energy transition and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Stressing the importance of aligning national agricultural policies with the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP); operationalising the SADC Agricultural Development Fund, and promoting effective resourcing and coordination for implementation, Plenary Assembly urged national Parliaments to actively participate in the evaluation of the current RAIP and advocate for the development of the next RAIP (2025-2030).

13.7 **Report of the Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee on “Enhancing the Role of the RPMLOC in Monitoring the Domestication of SADC Model Laws and Implementation of Related Policies and Laws through Structured Reporting Frameworks and Mechanisms: A look at the Domestication of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction”**

Plenary resolved to uphold the recommendation by the Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee (RPMLOC) urging SADC Parliaments to put their efforts in domestication initiatives and come up with strategies and mechanisms for raising

awareness in targeted laws and ensure collaboration and partnerships for funding the domestication initiatives and strengthening capacity of the Members in carrying out their mandate.

Plenary urged Member States to put aside financial and human resources and come up with resource mobilisation strategies locally instead of looking for external funding from global funds and directed the SADC–PF Secretariat to continue to invest in building the capacity of the Members to carry out their mandate in the irrespective Standing Committees to enable them to fully carry out their mandate.

14.0 EXCURSION

The host Parliament aligned the excursions to the massive and extensive Biopio Solar Photovoltaic Park in Benguela. The park was the largest solar energy project in Angola and was aimed at the production of 188.8 megawatts of clean energy, thereby reducing the emissions of carbon dioxide.

The Biopio Solar Park had more than 500,000 solar panels, spread over two parks that were expected to initially benefit more than 2 million people. The delegation's visit to the Benguela Solar Park showcased the potential for sustainable energy projects to address the region's energy deficit and drive regional integration.

In addition, the tour of the Port of Lobito underscored Angola's strategic position as a gateway to regional trade benefiting land-linked countries in SADC. The Port of Lobito, which was the second largest seaport in Angola, was strategically inter-connected to the Benguela Railway network to facilitate the transportation of minerals from neighbouring countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia.

15.0 RESOLUTIONS AND WAY FORWARD

15.1 Plenary adopted the resolution to intensify and finalise efforts for the transformation of the SADC–PF into a fully-fledged Regional Parliament. Recognising the crucial role of a Regional Parliamentary institution in fostering democracy, good governance and socio-economic development, Member States committed to securing the final signature to amend the SADC Treaty. This milestone will align the SADC region with other African regional blocs and anchor it firmly within the Pan African Parliament (PAP). The dedicated task force, led by the Chairperson of the Strategic Lobby Team, Honourable Advocate Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda, will coordinate and expedite the lobbying efforts required to achieve this goal.

15.2 Plenary adopted the resolution to vigorously implement the SADC-PF Strategic Plan 2024-2028. This plan provides a clear roadmap for the Forum's long-term goals, aligning resources and ensuring coherence of its strategic goals. Member States were encouraged to allocate necessary resources and establish monitoring mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of the Plan.

- 15.3 Plenary adopted the resolution to enhance collaboration with key partners to improve Parliamentary effectiveness across the SADC region. This includes the continuation of collaborative efforts with African Population Health and Research Centre (APHRC), Oxfam and other development partners to address issues such as child marriages, gender equality, prevention of gender-based violence, climate change and poverty eradication.
- 15.4 The Assembly also resolved to institutionalise the SADC Model Law on Public Financial Management and other key legislative frameworks. This will involve capacity-building initiatives, innovative tools for budget expenditure tracking and efforts to enhance transparency and resource allocation by National Parliaments.
- 15.5 The Plenary adopted the resolution to build strong, resilient Parliaments capable of addressing regional challenges which include public debt, conflicts and energy deficiencies. Comprehensive strategies are needed to strengthen these legislative frameworks.
- 15.6 The Plenary resolved to recognise and support the efforts of Inter-Parliamentary bodies. The Solidarity Message the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region was acknowledged.
- 15.7 Plenary Assembly adopted the resolution to strengthen gender-mainstreaming efforts within Member Parliaments. Parliamentarians emphasised the need for reinforcing the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus and integrating gender issues into Parliamentary work plans. This resolution aims to ensure that gender equality remains a central component of Parliamentary agendas, promoting inclusive governance and sustainable development.
- 15.8 The Plenary adopted the resolution to promote renewable energy policies and create a unified regional energy market. There is need to utilise the untapped potential of renewable resources in the SADC region and advocated for prioritising key projects like the Inga Dam hydroelectric project in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the use of nuclear power to generate electricity.
- 15.9 Parliaments were further urged to develop comprehensive energy policy frameworks, increase budget allocations for renewable energy and harmonise regional energy policies to achieve a clean, secure and affordable energy future.
- 15.10 The Plenary resolved to support the ratification and domestication of SADC Protocols on renewable energy. There is need for swift action towards transitioning to clean, sustainable energy sources, underscoring the necessity of nuclear power generation as a low-carbon alternative.
- 15.11 There is need for scientific research into community-based renewable energy projects. Member States should benchmark and adopt progressive systems that combine solar power and biogas to provide electricity to rural areas and in the process spurring community involvement. The resolution seeks to replicate successful models, ensuring

financial, technical and regulatory support from Governments to foster local renewable energy initiatives.

15.12 The Plenary recognised Angola's progress towards becoming Africa's green energy bank and adopted the resolution to leverage mapping studies for identifying renewable energy potential. With substantial potential in solar, wind and hydropower, Angola serves as a model for other Member States. The resolution calls for regional collaboration to maximise renewable energy capacity and create a sustainable energy network within the SADC region.

15.13 The Plenary resolved to uphold the role of Parliaments as accountability institutions tasked with ensuring that the policy and regulatory environment in member countries to enable the speedy transition towards a clean, secure and affordable energy future for all SADC citizens. This resolution underscores the critical responsibility of legislative bodies in driving the region's energy transformation, promoting transparency and fostering sustainable development.

The full dossier of the Plenary Assembly resolutions will be availed by the SADC Parliamentary Forum in due course. Full Reports of the Plenary Assembly may be accessed on :<https://plenary.sadcpf.org/documentation>

16.0 CONCLUSION

The President of the SADC-PF and Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles, Honourable Roger Mancienne, put on record his sincere thanks to the Parliament of the Republic of Angola led by Honourable Caroline Cerqueira for graciously accepting to host the 55th Plenary Assembly Session. Honourable Mancienne conveyed the Plenary Assembly's gratitude through Honourable Cerqueira, to His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, the President of the Republic of Angola for the political will to have Angola host the Plenary Assembly.

The 56th SADC-PF Plenary Assembly will be hosted by the National Assembly of Zambia in December, 2024.



Mr Kalalwe Mukosa, MP
MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION

July 2024
LUSAKA