

THE 2023 SADC PEOPLE'S SUMMIT REPORT



16-18 August 2023

Justice - Meaningful
Participation- Inclusion

Justiça - Participação
significativa - inclusão



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ABOUT SAPSN

The SASPN movement was formed in 1999 when economic justice movements across southern Africa came together under the realisation that political independence without economic justice was empty. SAPSN was therefore conceptualised as a loose institutional membership-based network in 1999 with membership drawn primarily from national movements and community-based initiatives working on debt, trade, structural adjustment, poverty and globalization in the SADC region. This model means SAPSN is not and has not been registered as a legal entity in any of the member countries, preferring to work as an integral project of the host secretariat at any given point in time. At inception in 2000, SAPSN was hosted by the Alternative Information Development Centre (AIDC) in South Africa until it moved to Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt & Development (ZIMCDD) in 2003, Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN) in 2008 and now the Foundation for Socio-Economic Justice (FSEJ) in Swaziland in 2013. The current secretariat is Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCDD). SAPSN uses some pro-poor grassroots based collective action approach in linking people's struggles against all forms of injustices, inequality and exclusion in southern Africa.

VISION

SAPSN envisions economic, environmental, social and political equity and justice in Southern Africa.

MISSION

To achieve social, economic and political justice in southern Africa through mobilizing citizens agency and voice to demand results and propose alternative pro-poor and people-centred social and economic solutions that aid in eradicating poverty, inequalities and injustices.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is drawn from civil society organisations, trade unions, faith-based organisations, student bodies and economic justice networks working on capacity building around global trade injustices, poverty, the debt crisis and globalisation as well as seeking alternatives to neo-liberalism in Southern Africa.

SAPSN is affiliated to the Global Debt Justice Network, PublishWhatYouPay Network, Fight Inequality, Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power and Tax Justice Network Africa.

SAPSN OBJECTIVES

- To harness grassroots efforts towards the building of a strong regional movement that enhances and strengthens member constituencies' capacities to challenge and develop alternatives to the current corporate globalization and undemocratic practices.
- To develop a people-led SADC regional integration strategy that serves as a defense against the impact of globalization.
- To strive to link up with peoples' movements at every level throughout the region and contribute to cooperation between grassroots actions on the interlinked actions against poverty, inequality and injustices.
- To deepen a culture of democracy, promotion of human rights and upholding of the rule of law in SADC countries through connecting and amplify various southern Africa people's struggles at local, national, and sub-regional levels.
- To build strong links and active cooperation with other similar peoples' regional formations in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and the rest of the world.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
ASM.....	Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DRC.....	Democratic Republic of Congo
FIA.....	Fight Inequality Alliance
GMO.....	Genetically Modified Organism
LOC.....	Local Organising Committee
NGOs.....	Non-Governmental Organisations
NSA.....	Non-State Actors
PVO Bill.....	Private Voluntary Organisation Amendment Bill
PWDs.....	People With Disabilities
RISDP.....	Regional Strategic Development Indicative Plan
RWA.....	Rural Women's Assembly
SADC.....	Southern Africa Development Community
SAPSN.....	Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network
SAPSN RCC.....	Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network Regional Coordinating Committee
SARW.....	Southern Africa Resource Watch
UN	United Nations
ZIMCDD.....	Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OUR SPONSORS:

Open Society Foundations (OSF)
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OXFAM
Fight Inequality Alliance (FIA)
IM Swedish

ANGOLA LOC

Our profound gratefulness to our Angolan host-TCHOTA and other civil society organisations from Angola for the immense work done before; during and for the work to be done after the summit.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO:

SARW for leading Local Organising Committee for the post summit engagement efforts following the 2022 SADC People's Summit held in Kinshasa, DRC.

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCDD) who are hosting the SAPSN Secretariat for facilitating and co-organising the 2023 People's Summit. We would also like to thank the ZIMCDD team for capturing and compiling the proceedings of this summit.

Last but not least we would like to thank all the participants and resource persons for making the 2023 SADC People's Summit a success.

PREAMBLE

The SADC People's Summit is held every year alongside the SADC Heads of State Summit. It is a treasured space for diverse social movements, community-based organisations, churches, labour, women's organisations, youth organisations, regional and international solidarity partners to gather in solidarity, reclaim agency and express the voices of poor and marginalised groups in the Region. To this end, hundreds of people from around the Region gathered alongside their Angolan counterparts to exchange views and formulate a cohesive people centred regional position to be presented to SADC leaders as they gather for the 46th SADC Heads of State Summit in Luanda.

This year, the SADC People's Summit brought to the fore the voices thoughts and perspectives of the people of SADC in response to the dominant challenges affecting the Region today particularly:

1. Climate Justice with a particular concern for climate change, just transition, forced migration, agrarian justice, anti-GMOs, water scarcity, climate financing, energy poverty and seed sovereignty.
2. Democracy, Human Rights and Governance with a particular concern about shrinking civic space, SADC Non-State Actors Engagement Mechanism, Human Rights Defenders, and solidarity with democratic struggles in DRC, Eswatini, Mozambique and Zimbabwe,
3. Economic justice with a particular concern with natural resource governance, regional debt crisis, tax justice, trade justice, economic partnership agreements, AfCFTA, illicit financial flows, extreme poverty, inequality, privatisation and austerity measures.
4. Gender Justice with a particular concern on care income, gender-based violence, maternal mortality, feminisation of poverty, women and land, gender equality and inclusion of women and girls in decision making processes.
5. Youth inclusion and participation with a particular focus on, universal basic income grants, #feesmust fall, academic freedom, taxation, right to education, SRHR, extreme inequality, and youth engagement in decision making.

A virtual week of Learning and Action was also be held concurrently with the physical Summit between the 15th and 19th of August in order to broaden participation in regional development issues and promote public learning around pertinent social and economic justice issues.

Goals And Objectives of the 2023 SADC People's Summit

The 2023 SADC People's Summit was run under the theme: Justice – Meaningful Participation – Inclusion. This theme reflects SADC people's shared aspirations for justice particularly in the areas of debt bondage, unfair taxation, widening inequalities, natural resource governance that benefits the people and the transition towards a climate secure future. It also underscores the concern with growing repression, authoritarianism and shrinking civic space in the region. Lastly the theme recalls the desire for the voices and aspirations of poor and marginalised groups to be centred within regional political, social, economic, and cultural processes as a matter of justice

Guided by this theme the Summit seeks to satisfy an overall goal which is:

- To create a popular platform and inclusive mobilisation for the strengthening of people driven transnational solidarity struggles and people centred alternatives to neo-liberal domination, climate induced crises, democratic decline and extreme poverty, hunger and inequality in the Southern Africa region.

Strategic objectives:

- To challenge dominant narratives and discourses and better reflect the needs, experiences, and aspirations of those most affected by neoliberal domination and marginalisation in the region.
- To strengthen intersectional and transnational solidarity between and amongst ongoing peoples' struggles in the Southern African region.
- To collectively engage and influence SADC Heads of State and Government to promote and support the articulated hopes and aspirations of poor and marginalised groups in the region.

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST

WELCOME REMARKS

**Nelson Joao (Convenor, Angola Local Organising Committee)/ Janet Zhou
(Secretary General, SAPSN)**

The SAPSN Secretary General, Ms. Janet Zhou welcomed all delegates present; Angolan government officials, partners from across the region, Angolan communities and fellow SADC region members joining the summit proceedings virtually and in person. She noted that the summit is a parallel process running alongside the Heads of State Summit as a testament that together we remain united and stronger. Janet informed the meeting that the 2023 SADC People's Summit was running under the theme: Justice, Meaningful Participation and Inclusion with more than 300 communities from different SADC communities in attendance. It is of concern to note that the communities were meeting at time when they were being impacted by the triple burden of unemployment, poverty and inequality. These challenges have been worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic; conflicts that we have witnessed since the last gathering in the DRC in countries such as Mozambique and eSwatini; political tensions in Zimbabwe and other countries. This is worsened by climate change impacts that our region continues to suffer. We also witnessed geo-politics playing out between the super powers and the internal context within the SADC region has also left us worse off. Our governance systems are marred by excessive centralization of power, lack of rule of law, lack of constitutionalism, exclusion of citizens and communities in decision making processes.

There is also the plunder and looting of our natural resources and weak social policies which have left the region in disarray. The SADC story is one where leaders look upon the region's citizens with a frown; raising critical questions on corruption and service delivery have been criminalized while those who loot are protected with no shame. This is the story in Angola, seen and lived in Zimbabwe, eSwatini, Mozambique, Malawi, Lesotho and South Africa where there is an attack on democracy and the shrinking of civic and political space for civilians. All hope is not lost as this gathering allows the citizens to share their stories and speak truth to power. The region has seen the death of comrades like Thulani Maseko for this freedom and many others in prison. Therefore, this is a call for the region's citizens to be brave and stand for justice. A call for development and participation in the true realisation of the social, economic and political independence of our people. There is need to reclaim our SADC from the state centric nature that exists today and the People's Summit is about proffering alternatives that give us a humane nature of who we are. In the next two and half days the meeting will focus on giving alternatives based on people-to-people solidarity with different sectors coming in with their various issues. The meeting will come up with a true alternative for the people by the people as we define our project and re-energize the struggle. Another SADC is possible.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITING COUNTRY DELEGATIONS

**Angola (Engracia Menesa Rodrigues) | DRC (Zoe Tshikaya) | Lesotho (Ntate Sofonea Shale) |
Malawi (Mike Marvin Banda) | Mozambique (Zelda da Katembe) | South Africa (Simon Vilakazi) |
Zambia (Mwila Musonda) | Maxwell Dlamini (eSwatini) | Zimbabwe (Takesure Musiyiwa)**

The country representatives emphasized that the people present were gathering so as to remind those in power that when SADC was formed it was intended for communities and not for the leaders only. SADC was formed to benefit everyone regardless of the status quo. This meeting serves as a reminder that it is wrong for the leaders to make it about them while the people are left out from key decision-making processes; they should not forget about the people and the challenges they are facing. Free movement in southern Africa should be for all in the region; it should not become a security issue as prescribed by our leaders. The region is grappling with the issue of shrinking civic space and social services are heavily compromised. The majority of the region's population is living below the poverty datum line which is a cause for concern. This is all happening as natural resources benefit a minority who make the key decisions and the majority suffer. There is need for policies that address the injustice and poverty being experienced in the region. The meeting needs to honor comrades such as Thulani Maseko who died in the line of duty fighting for political freedom and inclusive dialogue. The SADC People need to reclaim their space, remind the leadership gathering that they are here to serve the people and not steal what belongs to the people because it is the people who voted them into power.

SUMMIT KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Main Speaker: Rev. Ntoni-A-Nzinga// Panelists: Dumezweni Dlamini (SAPSN RCC) | Blessing Ivan Vava (Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition) | Mwila Musonda (CSPR Zambia)

The key note address was given by Rev. Ntoni-A-Nzinga who welcomed all delegates attending the summit from within the region, continent and from within Angola. In his remarks he noted that the SADC People's Summit was an important initiative and an important space for the movement of the SADC Region. Rev Ntoni-A-Nzinga noted the people gathered in Luanda represented the voice of the SADC community that was envisaged when SADC was established in 1992. SADC was established as a result of the will of the people and not the colonial powers. The people in the region had to fight for the liberation of member states so that the people enjoy today's freedom even though the people do not consider themselves free in today's so-called democracy. As the people meet it is important to take stock on what citizens can do better so that they challenge today's narrative and can reflect tomorrow on what was achieved as a network. The meeting needs to be able to reinforce the solidarity of the people that are represented by the small group gathered in Angola. This calls for the network to involve all the people it shares a common agenda and identifies within our communities. The Reverend also spoke about the essence of the people's summit being to gather the people/community so that they are not only represented by government. By opting to be a community the people speak of what God has put in the countries noting that the region has abundant natural resources. It is the people's mandate to take care of these natural resources and ensure that all the people (governments and citizens alike) benefit without making them a reserve for a select few. The summit should find a way for communities to continue living together; as a people we are called to work so that Africa develops and SADC becomes a better place for generations to come. Development should not be defined by the Portuguese or other colonial powers because Africa already had its development before the colonialists came. Africans had culture and a way of doing things before them and the people should continue to build on these; not at the pace dictated by the West. For refusing to follow the dictates of the west they call Africa underdeveloped. Southern Africa will not be developed to Russian or American standards; if the west wants to help Africa, then they need to come and see how Africans are living. Development will not be possible if the people do not develop; it is not about building roads and buildings and reproducing what others are doing; it must be for Africa by a united Africa.



PANEL DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

ZAMBIA

- **Debt Restructuring:** Zambia demands that the people's voices be heard, the country is excited about the ongoing debt restructuring but there is need for people's involvement in the processes. Local communities need to understand how the debt restructuring will affect their daily lives. The Zambian government should be open and transparent in their deals; there is need to bring people to the negotiating table so that they are involved in all structures.
- **Education:** The free education policy introduced in Zambia has seen more children being enrolled in schools. The system needs to ensure that not only are the numbers of children in schools growing but also see to it that the quality of education improves so that Zambia contributes to the growth of the region.
- **Gender:** The new government removed the Ministry of Gender and this has seen the omission of gender issues in development conversations. Women's voices have been muted on issues of gender equity.

ZIMBABWE

- **Elections:** Zimbabwe is heading into election period with the run up to elections being problematic; marred by voter intimidation in the rural areas and the country is likely to have a disputed election. The region is already prepared for a victory by the ruling government. This calls for solidarity from the region in putting an end to electoral fraud and Zimbabwe is confident that SADC will not act the same way they did in 2008 when elections were disputed leading to the formation of a Government of National Unity.
- **Repressive Operating Environment:** The operating environment not conducive for the people especially for the CSOs since the Patriotic Act was passed. The Act criminalizes citizens for discussing Zimbabwe's problems with foreigners and there is also the issue of the PVO Bill which seeks to bar CSO operations.

ESWATINI

- **Freedom of Speech & Movement:** Thankful to the government of Angola for allowing the SADC people an opportunity to meet and exercise their freedom of speech. However, there is need to abolish visas in the region and live true to the declaration that Africans should meet freely.
- **African Lives Matter:** The region frowns on the brutalities experienced in Mozambique (Cabo Del Gado) and the eSwatini massacres in June among other incidences. Governments should note that community members are also important and there is need to preserve life.

DAY ONE ENDED WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS WITH SECTORS MEETING TO DISCUSS ISSUES DOMINATING/ AFFECTING THEIR CLUSTERS.

DAY 2 - THURSDAY 17 AUGUST

PANEL ON DEMOCRACY, RULE OF LAW AND EXERCISE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN THE SADC REGION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Main Speakers : Margareth Nanga (Jurist) | Navita Ngolo – Member of Parliament (Angola); Filomeno Viera Lopes – President Bloco Democrático (Angola) // **Panelists:** Dr Janet Munakamwe (WITS University) | Nabeelah Mia (Lawyers for Human Rights) | Mandla Hadebe (Economic Justice Network)

Dr Margareth Nanga opened discussions by noting that the political economy landscape in the region is characterized by an attack on social rights; high levels of poverty, unemployment and the lack of health, education and social protection. There is also an attack on fundamental rights and civil space which is being eroded through the militarization of institutions and persecution of human rights defenders. Governments in the region have also gone further and introduced the erosion of fundamental rights through repressive laws which is the case especially in Angola and Mozambique. Governments have also started introducing laws that attack civil space through cyber laws as the case with eSwatini and Lesotho leading to the criminalization of the opinions of social media account holders. The region's fundamental rights are also under attack with the violation of election processes with ruling governments holding on to power at all costs. The political crisis of holding on to power is manifested in the increase in hate crime against women. Inequality gaps have widened significantly which is affecting the citizens' right to participate in developmental spaces. This has resulted in SADC becoming a club of governors and not the people's space; the people's voice is being ignored.

Panel discussions following the main speaker's presentation revealed that there is a significant increase in xenophobia in South Africa. The mistreatment of non-South African nationals has been extended to the exclusion of 'foreigners' from accessing social services such as health. This development has been compounded by a dysfunctional home affairs system. The South African government therefore needs to revisit the constitutional clause that states that South Africa belongs to all who live as there is clearly a clamp down on foreign nationals. The clamp down on undocumented nationals affects children the most and the region needs to map a way forward in order to accommodate and absorb economic migrants that have flooded economies especially in South Africa.

PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

THE MEETING NOTED THE FOLLOWING:

- Most constitutions in the region speak to issues of freedom of association but this is not translating into lived realities with a lot of political interference from the state.
- There are several documents designed for the upholding of human rights by the African leaders but these are not being observed. SADC needs to be honest on issues regarding human rights violations of migrants and refugees. Instabilities that arise from conflict should be avoided so as not to overload other countries in the region.
- Most states in the region are autocratic characterized by the existence of multi parties with no democracy. It is important that autocratic states learn from history and avoid the conflicts caused by political exclusion at any cost. Conflict breeds internal displacements which in turn lead to political and economic stability thereby hindering development as envisioned by the SADC states and its people.

FEEDBACK FROM THEMATIC CLUSTERS AND PLENARY

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Climate Justice | 6. Hunger, Food Insecurity |
| 2. Disability | 7. Migration |
| 3. Economic Justice | 8. Natural Resource Governance |
| 4. Gender Justice and Women's Rights | 9. Youth and Students Movements |
| 5. Governance Democracy and Human Rights | 10. Solidarity Messages |

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Energy transition and sustainable exploitation of natural resources for the development of SADC | Justice - meaningful -participation -inclusion of vulnerable groups in the climate agenda | HerVoice: Climate change and Extractivism | Security in the context of climate change

Highlights from the Climate Justice group included the following:

- There is no vision and experience for African governments to deal with Climate Justice issues which has led to transfer of problems to the most vulnerable people in the communities which is the poor majority. The bulk of the damages being transferred to the majority poor are being caused by Chinese companies.
- The issues of climate change have also magnified the problems of food poverty in Africa as the constant changes in climate i.e., floods, cyclones and the increasing temperatures is making it difficult to pursue agrarian projects in the communal areas which helped in food supply for the ordinary people.
- Most governments in the region have not domesticated climate justice principles in their policy frameworks; this has resulted in them failing to adopt the principles of climate justice at country level.
- Increase in corruption levels as some organisations forge documents with the aid of government officials in order to gain entry into communities where they aggravate pollution, sexual exploitation and child labour under the guise of development. This has necessitated the need to decentralize power in decisions affecting communities.
- Communities need to mount pressure on legal companies and the government to act on issues relating to climate justice.

DISABILITY

The sector bemoaned:

- The bottlenecks in decision making that appraise the issues of disability while the laws fail to uphold these issues. PWDs have been largely excluded from the decision-making processes. They demand they be treated equal with everyone and be consulted in the decision-making processes of the state and especially on issues relating to them
- Most policies in the region have incorporated disability issues however fulfilment of such legislation remains an issue of concern. Angola bemoaned that just 25% of the law on disability has been fulfilled. As such, the rights of PWD's continue to be suffocated.
- The lack of disability friendly venues has resulted in the members of the sector abandoning their efforts to attend key members due to inaccessibility issues.
- High unemployment faced by the sector with employers hesitant to employ PWDs whom they often presume will be unable to cope with the pressures of paid employment. This forces PWDs to eke a living on the streets.
- PWDs demand equal treatment and not be excluded on the basis of their disability in any processes.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Informal Sector participation in the SADC-economies | Tax Induced Inequality in the Extractive Sector: A Call for the UN Tax Convention | International Tax Convention Meeting Focus on United Nations (UN) Tax Convention

The cluster noted with concern that:

- The SADC Region is facing heightened debt challenges amidst an unprecedented public debt accumulation surpassing the public debt to gross national income ratio of 60%.
- SADC countries must make better use of, and maximize the use of existing natural resources instead of relying on borrowing. This will allow it to fund its own development goals, finance gender-responsive public services, and reduce economic, social, and gender inequalities.
- There must be full disclosure of public borrowings and public debt to increase oversight of public borrowings, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- Governments must set out limits on public borrowing and the treasury must also prescribe and adhere to these borrowing limits to contain debt accumulation.
- There is need to adopt the UN tax convention and have a tax system that works for the people.
- Given the increased dependence of many African countries on mineral wealth driven by the spiraling demand for critical minerals, a cure for the cancerous corporate tax dodging is urgently required.
- The adoption of a resolution by the UN calling on the UNGA to begin negotiations for a UN Tax Convention in November 2023 has opened up the opportunity for fair and equitable participation of all countries in global tax reform discussions.
- The session provided a platform and steered conversations on the impact of the adoption of the resolution for a UN tax convention and its impact on inclusive and effective tax cooperation
- This session unpacked the direct relations of these reforms on the global financial architecture and the ability of countries to manage mineral resources for enhanced domestic resource mobilization,

GENDER JUSTICE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Women's feminist struggles in Southern Africa | Solidarity for Pan African Feminism | Gender of inequality | The intersectionality between Gender, Extractivism and Climate

The cluster continues to be plagued by the following issues:

- The struggle for feminist and Pan-African women is real characterized by continuation of power at the hands of men in Angola and across SADC with respect to economy, life, education and politics
- The region remains plagued by the exploitation of women's bodies which is compounded by the exploration of the region's resources such as diamonds and oil in their communities leaving vulnerable women and girls offering themselves in exchange for goods and other favours
- The migration of men due to poverty has led to the destruction of the family fabric with women left with the task of heading households
- There is need to include equality in the design and monitoring of public policies so as to promote equality between men and women. This should be coupled with the greater inclusion of women in the region's decision-making processes and legislative bodies.
- Governments must ensure protection of women and girls rights and commit to eliminate all forms of violence against women. Governments should also prioritise the dissemination of digital literacy for the empowerment of women and girls.

GOVERNANCE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Freedom of the press and the right to information | Swaziland regional solidarity appeal | Zimbabwean electoral challenges – implications and expectations from SADC | Protecting human rights and citizenship

The region notes with concern the:

- Increased repression from the region's ruling elite- shrinking civic space. This crackdown has led to the emergence of increased numbers in political prisoners as well as the brutal killings of activists deemed to be 'enemies of the state' for demanding answers from their governments.
- The civil rights of the people such as freedom of assembly, freedom of speech being continuously violated in the region. There is need for SADC to push governments to respect these rights as they are pertinent issues when it comes to the realization of democracy.
- Introduction of repressive laws such as the PVO Bill in Zimbabwe whose main task is to repress the voices of the masses further.

HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY

Dialogue on eradicating hunger | Food Insecurity and Cost of Living Crisis | Alternatives for sustainable development in SADC

The concerns from the session included:

- Concerning that several families cannot have more than two daily feedings;
- There is weak technical assistance to small farmers and increased shifting agriculture due to soil degradation and climatic conditions. This is key in guaranteeing food security.
- Local organizations in Lunda Sul and Moxico (Angola) are not included or called upon to engage with local administrations in order to mobilize companies especially in the extractive sector (mining and logging) to implement social responsibility programs for the benefit of food insecure communities. This applies to other countries in the region.

Recommendations

- Call to strengthen capacities to adapt to climate change, extreme weather, droughts, floods and other natural disasters that progressively improve the quality of land and soils;
- The Government of Angola in particular and the other SADC member states to guarantee the human right to adequate food and nutrition security; and support small scale farmers as this can help in the provision of household food thereby eradicating hunger.
- Success in combating hunger should among other measures include policy, programs, plans for the real increase of the minimum wage, the growth of formal employment, support for family farming, expansion of the social protection program, the improvement and massification of school meals.

MIGRATION

Decriminalising identity: Intersections of statelessness, detention, and migration-management | Roundtable of religious and faith leaders on migration

Organizations from the cluster presented the following recommendations:

- Upholding the Rights of Migrants – call upon all SADC Member States to ethically uphold the rights of all migrants in line with international instruments and the International Bill of Rights, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Condemning Mistreatment of Migrants and Refugees/ Upholding the Principle of Non-Refoulement - the recent mistreatment of black migrants and refugees is deeply concerning. We advocate for the humane and dignified treatment of all forcibly displaced people and stand united against discrimination and injustice.
- Addressing Human Rights Violations - call upon SADC to address human rights violations, especially in Zimbabwe, where accountability is crucial in light of upcoming elections.
- Promoting Free Movement in SADC - SADC Member States should earnestly consider the free movement of people throughout the SADC region and continent to effectively implement the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Unlocking ASM contribution to socio-economic development: policy and practice in a just energy transition | Taxation in the Natural Resources Sector and Benefits to Local Communities | Sharing experiences of how to develop community-company grievances

- Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) is central to development and the just energy transition yet artisanal miners are criminalised and located at the lowest echelon of the value commodity chain of transition minerals.
- Meaningful consultation, participation, and inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable communities is essential for communities to reclaim their power and dismantle the capitalist model of mining that undermines their voices and agency.
- SADC member states develop a model regional policy framework to regulate ASM instead of 'criminalising' ASM to ensure sustainable development for indigenous communities.
- There is a need for a regional industrial policy that includes mineral beneficiation and regional clustering to promote investment, trade and free movement of people among member states.
- Child labour and exploitation must stop, and revenue from transition minerals should be channelled towards sustainable social policies to support children from indigent households to access subsidised education.
- Transparent tax regimes should be promoted to curb corruption, tax evasion and inequalities within and among nations.

YOUTH AND STUDENTS MOVEMENTS

Tax Justice & Youth: Why do we need a UN Tax Convention? | Professionalization of Youth Work in Africa | Migration and Shrinking Civic Space in SADC: Youth Perspective and Recommendations | Youth-centred development alternatives | Youth democracy and human rights

Youths and students concerned that:

- Poor economies are one of the main reasons behind the migration of youth often relocating to countries where they are faced with the scourge of xenophobic attacks.
- Young people are not given equal opportunities to be a part of political systems or discuss political issues and economic issues that can lead to the transformation of our countries.
- They recommend that SADC governments create job opportunities that will absorb the majority of unemployed youth.
- Governments should recognise that the youth are the future and be awarded platforms and opportunities in the governance processes to share their views and ideas and help shape the future they want.

SOLIDARITY MESSAGES

Organisations and movements from across the region offered their solidarity messages urging the Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network to continue offering a space for the people's dialogue. FIA, RWA, SARW and the Africa Council of Churches gave their solidarity speeches.



DAY 3 - FRIDAY 18 AUGUST

SADC PEOPLE'S SUMMIT DECLARATION PLENARY

Comrade Nelson Joao (Convenor, Angola Local Organising Committee)/Janet Zhou (Secretary General, SAPSN) The meeting was presented with a draft Declaration that reflected the people's demands on various issues as discussed during the side sessions held on Day 1. A plenary session was held to give input into the final document as reflected in Annex 1.

SUMMIT CLOSING CEREMONY AND VOTE OF THANKS

As part of the closing ceremony the meeting took the opportunity to thank Rev. Ntoni-A-Nzinga for all the work he has put in over the years towards the achievement of unity and peace in the region. Sofonea Shale (Chair SAPSN RCC) and Guilherme Neves (TCHOTA) led the process in thanking all the regional participants for taking part in the two- and half-day event. The SADC People continue to fight for recognition by their governments. The meeting expressed hope that as the delegates depart for their various destinations locally and regionally; they carry the commitments made at the summit with them.

SADC PEOPLE'S SUMMIT PRESS CONFERENCE

A press conference was held to allow journalists from Angola and the region an opportunity to ask key questions pertaining to the event and the People's Communique/Declaration.

THE END

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: THE 2023 SADC PEOPLE'S SUMMIT DECLARATIONS



SADC PEOPLES SUMMIT DECLARATION, ANGOLA, 16 – 18 AUGUST 2023 'JUSTICE – MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION – INCLUSION.'

Angolan Civil Society Organizations members of the TCHOTA platform welcomed various social movements from the Southern African Development Community under the banner of the Southern African People's Solidarity Network, during the People's Summit in Luanda, held between the 16th and 18th of August under the motto 'Justice, Meaningful Participation and Inclusion'.

Gathered by common accord, the participants to the Luanda Summit,

- Challenged dominant narratives and discourses and discussed the rights, experiences, and aspirations of those most affected by neoliberal domination and marginalization in the region.
- Committed once again to the inclusion of all women, men, and children of the Southern African Development Community in the decisions taken by Member States, through solidarity and collective action for a more just, peaceful, and prosperous community for all and all.
- Collectively agreed to engage and influence SADC Heads of State and Government to promote and support the articulated aspirations and hopes of poor and marginalized groups in the region.

At a time of great promise and global uncertainty, as representatives of Civil Society Organizations, we share with the Heads of State and Government and the people of SADC, our shared reflections, concerns, and recommendations on the prevailing conditions that affect the men, women, and children of the Region.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Raising alarm about the disproportionate impacts of the climate crisis on the Region's most vulnerable people, as exemplified by Cyclone Freddy, which killed over 600 people in Malawi and displaced over a thousand others. We note that, human actions, such as the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and industrialization processes dependent on fossil fuels, exacerbate climate change in the region, resulting in increasingly intense cyclical droughts, cyclones, water shortages, climate-related conflicts, and the mass displacement of climate migrants.

- We demand the integration of climate change issues into all public policies.
- We call for greater investment in climate adaptation and investment in human capital mindful of ethics for sustainability and intra and intergenerational justice.
- We urge that all climate risks be considered in decision-making and governance instruments, with special attention to the most vulnerable groups such as the landless, mining affected communities, pastoralists, smallholder farmers, fisherfolk and other groups whose livelihoods directly depend on existing natural resources.
- We call for greater inclusion of communities in the exploitation of natural resources and greater financial support so that communities can contribute sustainably towards achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).



CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

Conflicts in Northern Mozambique and Eastern DRC continue and require an increasingly concerted agenda among SADC members. Conflict containment measures must consider the impact of militarism on the lives of communities in conflict zones.

- We demand urgent responses to protect the victims of conflict in these areas and tangible guarantees for the human and humanitarian rights of the affected populations, as well as greater transparency and coherence in relation to the real causes of these resource-driven conflicts.

The Southern African region is considered as one of the regions with the greatest stability, however, these conflicts and the growing militarization of insurgent groups, as well as the phenomenon of terrorism that affects Mozambique, must be a constant concern to guarantee effective peace and stability in the affected areas.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Reiterating our shared concerns about the negative impacts of neoliberal economic policies on all countries in the Region, enunciated by unfair austerity measures, excessive taxation, heavy indebtedness, and the reduced capacity of States to provide adequate public goods and services to vulnerable women, children, and men in the region.

- We call for economic growth centered on people and on the fair distribution of resources to modernize local value chains, promote the addition of value through competitiveness and product diversification, with the aim of promoting free and fair trade between countries in the community.
- We urge the leaders of SADC member states to commit to the removal of non-tariff barriers and the swift implementation of the simplified trade regime.
- We call upon leaders of SADC Member States to invest in and improve women's economic empowerment strategies, thereby supporting participation of women entrepreneurs in selected regional value chains and facilitating their 'de-facto and de jure' financial inclusion.
- In the terms of social and economic justice, the leaders of SADC Member States should facilitate the inclusion of the informal sector, smallholder farmers, artisanal and small-scale miners, and cross-border traders, thus materializing the regional and pan-African trade agreements already ratified including the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement and others to be ratified in the future.
- We urge the leadership of SADC member states to endorse and support the call for a legally binding United Nations Tax Convention as well as the imposition of redistributive revenues and wealth taxes to address the resource needs of poor and marginalized groups in all countries of region.
- We demand the strengthening of regional efforts to reduce debt dependency through regional financing mechanisms through transparent and accountable debt management processes as well as a collective call from Southern Africa for legally binding global debt resolution mechanisms.
- We demand equitable distribution of resources across all populations. We need everyone to benefit from the natural resource revenues. Therefore, we call for guaranteed access to good public services including health care, access to water, education for all citizens in the Region.

GENDER JUSTICE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Considering that in Angola, in particular, and elsewhere, women continue to face informality and extreme poverty, even with all international treaties such as the Maputo Protocol and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Gender inequalities must be discussed considering social class issues. In this way, empowerment must be understood as a collective process that embraces the differences between women and girls from different contexts. Therefore, it becomes urgent to improve and effectively guarantee a gender-sensitive general budgets, focused on economic policies that financially empower women and female headed households.
- We demand public policies that reduce inequalities between men and women, remembering that it is the role of the State to improve and monitor programs so that they produce real results in the lives of women and girls in all countries of the community.
- We urge SADC leaders to promote and facilitate the inclusion of women in decision-making spaces, not only through the symbolic integration of gender, but also and above all, in the fulfillment of real and impactful commitments in the fight against gender inequalities.

HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY

Concerned about growing authoritarianism, shrinking civic space and militarism in the countries of the region:

- We implore all SADC Member States to uphold open democracies founded on constitutionalism. Silence on domestic political issues can exacerbate economic challenges, leading to economic migration. We defend the recognition of the fundamental link between political stability and economic prosperity, through the creation of sustainable living conditions for all.

ZIMBABWE

Bearing in mind the forthcoming Harmonized Elections in Zimbabwe in a flawed electoral environment presided over by a partisan election management body and characterized by unequal access to the media, gerrymandering, draconian laws, a captured judiciary and continued repression of dissenting voices and political opponents.

- We warn of the imminent possibility of a disputed election with no guarantee of a peaceful transfer of power.
- We urge the leaders of member states to recognize the centrality of disputed elections in the crisis of governance in Zimbabwe.
- We demand meaningful interventions to binding the Government of Zimbabwe to strictly adhere to the SADC principles and guidelines governing democratic elections thereby ensuring a peaceful, credible, free, and fair election.
- Furthermore, we urge the heads of member states to compel the election management body in Zimbabwe to release prisoners of conscience in accordance with the country's constitution and human rights treaty obligations.

KINGDOM of ESWATINI

Ashamed of the continued failure of leaders of SADC member states to take decisive action to resolve the governance crisis in the country, despite numerous fact-finding missions and commitment to facilitate a process of national dialogue led by SADC in Eswatini in solidarity with the masses repressed people from Eswatini we ask:

- Immediate release of prisoners of conscience
- The repeal of the extinction of political parties.
- The repeal of all repressive laws, including the Sedition and Subversive Activities Act 1938 (SSA) and the Suppression of Terrorism Act 2008.
- The implementation of an inclusive national dialogue process led by SADC with a view to approving a democratic constitution that will enable the holding of free and fair elections under a multi-party dispensation.
- SADC conduct an impartial investigation into the gruesome murder of Thulani Maseko and advocate for justice for victims of political repression in the Kingdom of Eswatini

LESOTHO

The People's Summit acknowledges the progress made in Lesotho on reforms. Further the People's Summit notes with hope the dedication of the incoming administration to completing the first phase of reforms. However, we regret the overpoliticization of the reforms process by leaders in parliament who should have long passed at least part of the constitutional amendments. Therefore,

- We call upon Civil society to double efforts to ensure that reforms process is realized as resolved at the annual conference of the Lesotho Council of NGOs 2022
- We Urge political leadership in Lesotho to desist from protracted disagreements ironical to the needs of Basotho and pass reforms.
- We remind SADC of its decision in 2018 to hold those delaying reforms personally and institutionally responsibly and call up it to invoke that if the reforms are dragged any further



MIGRATION AND STATELESSNESS

In recognition of SADC States' obligations under various international and regional conventions and treaties to protect the dignity and rights of all persons, including their rights against cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment and arbitrary deprivation of liberty and commitments made by SADC States, including the "Migration for Southern African Dialogue"

- We demand harmonization and domestication of all international and regional laws, norms, and standards applicable to the rights of documented persons, including stateless persons and migrants.
- We urge SADC leaders to ensure that persons detained on the basis of their documentation status are treated humanely and, regardless of their immigration status, nationality, gender, ethnicity, race or other status, and receive all applicable legal protection, in accordance with international law, norms and standards; and
- We call upon SADC leaders to implement mechanisms against the detention of undocumented persons, including mechanisms for non-custodial alternatives to detention.

In view of the commitments made by SADC Heads of States in:

- 1) The SADC Roadmap on the Eradication of Statelessness.
- 2) The African Charter on Human Peoples' Rights regarding the right to dignity and nationality under article 5.
- 3) The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (article 6) & the UN Convention on Rights of the Child (article 7 and 8) regarding the child's right to birth registration, nationality and preservation of identity.
- 4) The Maputo Protocol in recognition of the disproportionate impact of statelessness on women and the girl child.
- 5) The spirit of Pan-Africanism and Ubuntu.

We call on SADC Heads of State to:

- Implement measures to identify and resolve cases of persons with unknown nationality. Measures should include: Introducing facilitated nationality recognition procedures for persons qualifying for citizenship; as well as those who have a strong link to the state but who do not have and cannot obtain proof of their identity or nationality; and Providing legal status, identifying documentation, and facilitated naturalisation procedures to persons who are stateless.
- Implement measures to preserve the identity of unaccompanied and separated children and young persons by: Registering the births of all children born in the territory of the state, regardless of their legal status or that of their parents. Establishing civil registry services in all consular offices in SADC, including birth registration service and issuance of citizenship documents for nationals living abroad. Ensuring regional interstate collaboration to obtain and record identity information and issuance of citizenship documents, passports, and visas where relevant.
- Ensure the prompt adoption and domestication of the African Union Draft Protocol on the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa.



NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Noting that numerous communities that serve as hosts to mining operations continue to undergo various forms of human rights violations, with their grievances largely ignored and unaddressed. The just energy transition could be just by placing people and the planet at the centre. This would only happen through meaningful consultation, participation, and inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable communities. Communities should reclaim their power and dismantle the capitalist model of mining that undermines their voices and agency.

- There is a need for a regional industrial policy that includes mineral beneficiation and regional clustering to promote investment, trade, and free movement of people among member states. In other words, we should not export our mineral resources out of the continent and 'repurchase them at a higher price.
- Child labour and exploitation must stop, and revenue from transition minerals should be channelled towards sustainable social policies to support children from indigent households to access subsidised education.
- Transparent tax regimes should be promoted to curb corruption, tax evasion and inequalities within and among nations.
- SADC member states must adopt the Grievances Redress Mechanism to address conflicts that could emanate from taxation and mining regimes that do not benefit communities or harmful impacts involving ASM and transition minerals.
- SADC member states must take the necessary steps to establish a specialized tribunal or court that will specifically handle cases pertaining to the social, economic, and environmental impacts of mining activities in the region. This will ensure that all grievances and concerns raised by various stakeholders in relation to mining operations are addressed in a consistent and fair manner, while also promoting responsible and sustainable mining practices that prioritize the well-being of local communities and the environment.

SADC REGIONAL INDICATIVE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Aware of the transformative potential of the SADC Regional Strategic Development Indicative Plan.

- We encourage the SADC Secretariat to expand the participation of NSAs (Non-State Actors) in through the full operationalization of the Regional NSA Engagement Mechanism and the inclusion of the NSA in regional consultations and working groups _ technicians to document the monitoring, evaluation reports and initiatives regional planned according to described in the RISDP.
- We demand the establishment of a funding mechanism to facilitate the participation of NSAs both at the national and regional levels.
- We urge you States SADC Members to involve NSAs in their countries in proposed NSA Accreditation Guidelines, followed by approval timely presentation of the guidelines at the next meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers
- And we exhorted you States SADC Members to accelerate the operationalization of the Regional Development and Agricultural Development Funds to ensure adequate support for the implementation of the RISDP, particularly in support of small farmers and the systems food diversified nutritious sustainable as well as SRH interventions for adolescents and young people.





YOUTH AND STUDENT MOVEMENT

The future of young people in the SADC region can only be achieved through peace, freedom, justice and respect for human rights. In this regard, we want to emphasize that young people are disappointed with the lack of vision and inconsistency of policies and actions of SADC member states with regard to empowerment, development, inclusion and full participation of young people in decision-making processes.

Moreover, young people are alarmed by the lack of political will to face the perennial problems that affect them such as the high level of unemployment, inequalities, poverty, mismanagement of migration and climate change, as well as the “usurpation” of the democratic space in the region.

Young people, on the other hand, decide:

- To reveal the importance of full and effective participation of youth and youth organizations at local, national, regional, and international levels in policy, leadership, and decision-making processes.
- To challenge extractivism, demand climate justice and thus the assumption of full ownership of the region's natural resources for people-centered development.
- Demand a quality decolonized education accessible locally and equally accessible in the region;
- Urge SADC leaders to undertake immediate actions to allow the free movement of goods and people in the region as well as the removal of visas to allow true regional integration and development.

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