



Fellowship of Christian  
Councils in Southern Africa



## CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 8TH SOUTHERN AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM HELD ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST 2012, MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

09 August 2012

### 1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. **We**, representatives of civil society organizations from across the Southern Africa Region, which brought together a number of stakeholders including parliamentarians, representatives of political parties and various civic formations, meeting under the auspices of the Fellowship of Christian Councils of Southern Africa (FOCCISA), Southern Africa Development Community - Council of Non Governmental Organizations (SADC-CNGO) and the Southern Africa Trade Union Coordination Council (SATUCC) met in Maputo on the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2012 to reflect on progress and challenges concerning regional integration and development and to develop a shared vision on the **SADC We Want**.
- 1.2. **Inspired** by the 'The SADC We Want' theme we expressed a deep yearning for a SADC that is characterised by a people-centred development paradigm; which guarantees rights and dignity of every human being regardless of race, colour, ethnicity, religion, political opinion, social status and age; free from poverty; gender-sensitive; with stable economies underpinned by equitable and sustainable development, fair and just trade and re-distribution of wealth and productive assets; which respect the rule of law and upholds democratic values and human rights.
- 1.3. **Cognisant** of the need for consultations and consensus building on common civil society positions to feed into the review of the Regional Indicative Strategy and Development Plan (RISDP) of SADC.
- 1.4. **Noting** that although there are visible actions and progress towards regional integration and development, a number of structural, systemic, socio-economic and political challenges which impede a people a people centred SADC still exist. These include weak implementation, non-ratification and domestication of protocols; leadership and commitment challenges; high levels of poverty in many SADC Member States; inequalities as well as the problematic regional integration model that is primarily based on increasing economic growth through trade liberalisation, foreign direct investment and export driven policies at the expense of the needs of the people of SADC.

1.5. **We** therefore deliberated on a number of development issues of concern, regional priorities within the context of the review of the RISDP and collectively envisioned the **SADC We Want**.

## 2. GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY

2.1. **Inspired** by the main objective of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development which is to provide for the empowerment of women, to eliminate discrimination and to achieve gender equality and equity through the development and implementation of gender responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects;

2.2. **Aspiring** for a SADC in which women and men are equal in all spheres and can reach their full potential in both their public and private lives;

2.3. **Concerned** that Botswana and Mauritius have not signed the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development;

2.4. **Noting with concern** the slow implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol and therefore worried that with the exception of the education sector most SADC Member States will not meet the 28 targets set for 2015;

2.5. **Further noting with concern** that: patriarchal systems, cultural and traditional practices; economic inequalities, gender based violence and discrimination impede women's realisation of their full potential;

2.6. **Worried** that gender specific ministries and or women's affairs departments continue to be among sectors that receive the lowest budgetary allocations from national treasuries.

2.7. **Further worried** that despite numerous commitments to gender equality in Southern Africa, women remain under-represented in all areas of decision-making and constitute the majority of the poor, the voiceless and the dispossessed. However, the Civil Society Forum appreciated progress by some countries such as Lesotho (local government) and Seychelles (Parliament) towards improving women representation in decision making and South Africa for drafting the Gender Equality Bill.

2.8. **Mindful** of the disproportionate effect of climate change on women;

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

2.9.1. Accelerate implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol with only three years to go before the 2015 deadline to achieve the 28 targets.

- 2.9.2. Adopt an addendum to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development on Gender and Climate Change, food security, sustainable development and disaster management.
- 2.9.3. Ensure Member States take special measures such as legislated quotas to increase women representation in decision making in order to meet the 50-50 target by 2015.
- 2.9.4. Develop and cost national gender actions plans, review national gender policies in order to align them to the SADC Gender Protocol and accordingly allocate national resources for implementation of the same.
- 2.9.5. Ensure that the 28 targets of the SADC Gender Protocol to be achieved by 2015 are considered in the review of the Regional Indicative Strategy and Development Plan (RISDP).

### **3. DEBT**

- 3.1. **Noting with concern** that there is a resurgence in external debt, coupled with a dramatic increase in domestic debt after the application of Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) or Multilateral Debt Relief Initiatives (MDRI);
- 3.2. **Concerned** with recent trends associated with increased aid and concessional lending from emerging economies such as China, as well as bilateral lending between SADC Member States;
- 3.3. **Further noting with concern** that citizens and their elected representatives are not fully involved in the process of loan contraction and debt management.
- 3.4. **Mindful** of the far reaching impacts of debt management policies:
- 3.5. **We therefore call upon SADC Member States to:**
  - 3.5.1. Adopt principles and guidelines on financial borrowing and debt management which foster sustainable development.
  - 3.5.2. Engage in rigorous research on how to deal with emerging lenders in a strategic, sustainable and equitable manner.
  - 3.5.3. Demand reparations on the massive ecological debt owed to the Southern Africa Region as a consequence of climate change and plunder of natural resources predominantly by the Global North.
  - 3.5.4. Apply the principle of odious and illegitimate debt and repudiate any debt falling in this category
  - 3.5.5. Implement a fair and transparent debt workout mechanism at global level.

#### 4. CIVIL SOCIETY STAKE IN SADC

- 4.1. **Cognizant** of Articles 16A and 23 of the SADC Treaty which commits SADC member states to engage fully peoples of the region, trade unions, churches and civil society in processes of regional integration and development;
- 4.2. **Pursuant** to the Alliance Pact we signed in June 2010 as churches, NGOs and trade unions under FOCCISA, SADC-CNGO and SATUCC respectively, in which we committed ourselves to working together in contributing towards people-centered regional integration and development and to collectively engage SADC and its Member States on issues of common interest such as poverty eradication, promotion of democracy, good governance and justice.
- 4.3. **Appreciating** the gradual opening up of SADC to civil society through among other notable developments: inclusion of civil society in the Steering Committee for the Regional Poverty Observatory; participation of trade unions in meetings of senior officials and Ministers of Labour; Invitation to actively participate in SADC Consultative Conferences and policy dialogues; development of common programmes of action with respective directorates of SADC; collaboration with the SADC Organ in the promotion of peace and stability in the region and the recent participation of senior officials of SADC at the 8<sup>th</sup> Civil Society Forum in Maputo.
- 4.4. **Concerned however that** in spite of recent opening up of SADC to civil society engagement between SADC and civil society has not been sufficiently institutionalized and consistent, resulting in the marginalization of civil society in a number of regional integration processes.

#### 4.5. **We therefore call upon SADC Member States to:-**

- 4.5.1. Activate (where they do not exist) and strengthen SADC National Committees as one fundamental vehicle through which civil society can channel their inputs to Summit. Currently, most SADC National Committees are either not properly constituted or are not functioning optimally.
- 4.5.2. Strengthen engagement with civil society on various thematic issues and regional policy processes through their respective apex bodies. This also entails opening up space for civil society to actively participate in national and regional thematic working groups/ committees.
- 4.5.3. Institutionalize periodic consultative SADC conferences in which all stakeholders including civil society, international cooperating partners, private and public sectors come together to reflect and brainstorm on progress, challenges and priorities for the region.
- 4.5.4. Mandate the SADC Secretariat to create a mechanism through which civil society interacts with the SADC Secretariat before and after Council of Ministers and Summit for the purposes of consultations and feedback on priorities for a given period in order to ensure that civil society effectively contribute to regional

integration and development from an informed point of view. This feedback and accountability framework is crucial for the purposes of broad based ownership by various stakeholders regarding the direction and substance of regional integration and development.

4.5.5. Develop a clear accreditation system for various civil society formations to participate in relevant SADC Meetings including but not limited to regional thematic working groups, meetings of senior officials, opening and closing ceremonies of Council of Ministers and Summit.

4.5.6. Create a supportive policy and legal environment for civil society to participate in the social, economic and political development processes at national and local levels.

4.5.7. Create a mechanism through which outputs of the Annual Civil Society Forums are formally received by SADC as the consolidated civil society input into Council of Ministers and Summit.

## **5. TRADE AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

5.1. **Recognizing** that the current model of regional economic integration which is based on the notion of economic growth through trade liberalisation, foreign direct investment and export driven policies has not translated into improved standards of living for the people of the region.

5.2. **Convinced that** while formal trade has an important role to play in all economies, informal, people-based, and largely women-led cross-border trade is key to economic development and poverty eradication.

5.3. **Noting with concern** that intra-regional trade is progressing at a very slow pace due to a variety of fundamental challenges which require urgent attention such as tariff and non-tariff barriers, poor infrastructure and socio-economic disparities amongst member states.

5.4. **Noting with concern** that although SADC has prioritised regional integration, overlapping membership to COMESA, SADC, SACU, remains one of the biggest obstacle to economic integration.

5.5. **Further noting** that negotiation for economic partnership agreements and other bi-lateral trade agreements have further entrenched divisions within the region.

### **5.6. We therefore call upon SADC Member States to:-**

5.6.1. To implement supportive tariff regimes that are selective, transitional, and conditional upon productive performance.

5.6.2. Address key challenges to intra-regional trade and regional economic integration particularly simplification of rules of origin; macro-economic convergence; harmonization of trade, industry and finance policies;

cumbersome customs administration and mitigating the effects of regional economic integration like loss of customs revenue.

5.6.3. Take steps to address trade imbalances between South Africa and other SADC Member States.

5.6.4. Strengthen consultations, dialogue and engagement at regional level, to speak with one voice and enhance cooperation and coordination when engaging trading partners of SADC.

5.6.5. Ensure that the model of integration is one that emphasizes a developmental paradigm at regional and national level

## **6. ENVIRONMENT**

6.1. **Noting with concern** that the current production, development and consumption patterns are fundamentally unsustainable, create massive social and environmental pressures and pose serious threats to the entire ecological system and ultimately to human survival.

6.2. **Worried** that the Southern Africa region is faced with a number of development challenges that are likely to be intensified by climate change. Some of the most critical impacts are: increased water scarcity, food insecurity, ill health and climate related diseases, the increase of urban slums, increased migration, and the increasing burden on women to cope with the aftermaths of climate change, particularly those from rural and poor communities

### **6.3. We therefore call upon SADC Member States to:-**

6.3.1. Ensure effective, transparent and sustainable use of the environment.

6.3.2. Develop and implement just and sustainable climate change mitigation and adaptation plans.

6.3.3. Apply ethical principles of justice and equity in ensuring the protection of the environment and mother earth as enshrined in the Cochabamba Declaration.

6.3.4. Promote climate change friendly national budgeting, by ensuring that specific resources are allocated to climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes.

6.3.5. Ensure that climate financing and response mechanisms, especially at the national and local level, deliberately target women recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on women.

6.3.6. Adopt an addendum to the SADC Gender Protocol on gender and climate change, food security, disaster management and nutrition.

6.3.7. Ensure that negotiations on climate change are contextualized within other global negotiations on enhancing aid effectiveness, multi-lateral trade and governance of international finance institutions, to mention only a few.

6.3.8. Reject private market mechanisms for climate finance, such as a soil carbon market, as they are a dangerous distraction from demands for the new, significant, and predictable funding needed for adaptation initiatives.

## 7. TAX JUSTICE

7.1. **Convinced** that taxation, particularly of the wealthy and corporations can be a useful tool for the mobilization and redistribution of resources at national, regional and global levels.

7.2. **Deeply concerned** about the loss of financial resources through tax avoidance and leakages as a result of corruption, illicit financial flows, debt servicing and tax incentives.

7.3. **Noting with concern** that between 1970 and 2008 illicit financial flows from Africa amounted to about US\$854 billion (of which US\$175 billion flowed out of Southern Africa), which could have satisfied the continent's external debt obligations and left a surplus of US\$600 billion to reduce poverty and stimulate socio-economic development;

### **7.4. We therefore call upon SADC Member States to:**

7.4.1. Put in place comprehensive, sustainable and people centred taxation policies.

7.4.2. Strengthen investment regulations at national, regional and international to minimize tax avoidance and leakages. This includes agreeing on a criteria and time frames for reinvesting profits made by all local and international companies operating in the region.

7.4.3. Establish conditionalities for the movement of capital within the region and controls over the rapid and speculative movement of capital into and out of the region.

7.4.4. Improve transparency and accountability in national budget processes to inspire confidence on tax payers.

## 8. CHILDREN

8.1. **Recognizing** that out of the Southern Africa's population of over 250 million people, approximately 42% are children.

8.2. **Concerned** that Children's issues have not featured so prominently in the SADC priority programmes in spite of children being the biggest demographic group.

8.3. **Deeply concerned** that there is increasing number of cases of children on the move, child trafficking and child labour and that a number of children still do not have access to basic social services such as health, education and shelter.

8.4. **Reiterating** that the SADC We Want is one where child protection and development is at the centre of regional integration and development policy processes.

8.5. **Mindful** of the far reaching potential of increased investment in children - socially, economically and politically.

**8.6. In pursuit of the SADC We Want theme we therefore call upon Member States to:-**

**8.6.1.** Develop a SADC Protocol on Children

**8.6.2.** Urge all Member States to implement the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

**8.6.3.** Develop mechanisms and frameworks for children and child focussed organizations to actively participate in regional integration and development.

**8.6.4.** Scale up the implementation of the Business Plan on Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and the Minimum Package of services to children developed by SADC in 2010.

**8.6.5.** Commit to State Party Reporting as agreed to within the framework of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).

**8.6.6.** Increase investment on children through amongst other strategies increasing budgetary allocations to children's issues to enhance the quality of basic social services like education, health and access to recreational facilities

**8.6.7.** Institute tax incentives on child protection as well as develop child friendly debt management policies.

## **9. INFORMAL ECONOMY**

9.1. **Concerned that** in spite of the key role of the informal economy there still exists unfriendly trade policies including tariff and non tariff barriers (NTB); corruption and extortion; sexual violence and harassment of women and restrictive visa regimes that impede cross border trade.

9.2. **Noting** that the situation is compounded by lack of organisation and negotiation capacity amongst cross border traders; limited access to finance; and to land and operating space.



9.3. **Further noting** with concern that requirements for accessing finance from private banks are generally exclusionary and insensitive to the economic and cultural conditions of street and market traders, especially women traders.

9.4. **Concerned** that informal traders are often excluded from policy formulation processes at local, national and regional levels.

9.5. **Convinced** that that cross-border trade contribute to poverty eradication.

**9.6. We call upon SADC Member States to:**

9.6.1. Promote and facilitate the participation of informal street, market and cross border traders in the formulation, implementation and review of local, national and public policies.

9.6.2. Promote intra-Africa trade through implementation of a Simplified Trade Regime (STR) as is the case with COMESA

9.6.3. Enhance access to finance through development of national and regional mechanisms that support people centred and self-financing initiatives by players in the informal sector.

9.6.4. Develop revenue collection mechanisms which promote voluntary compliance thus reducing corruption.

9.6.5. Include the informal sector within the tripartite structure of government, trade unions and business to deepen social dialogue and engagement.

9.6.6. Put in place programmes to address issues of inadequate infrastructure, inefficient customs procedures, and other bureaucratic impediments to improve informal and cross border trade.

9.6.7. Provide enterprise development and business support programmes taking into account the specific needs of local informal street, market and cross traders.

## **10. MEDIA, ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

10.1. **Concerned by** the continued existence of repressive laws and practices in many SADC Member States that negatively affect freedom of the press and restrict public access to information;

10.2. **Further Concerned** about continued failure by Members States to guarantee media practitioners safety and protection in the execution of their work;

10.3. **Noting with concern** that women's voices remain grossly under-represented in the media, at a regional average of 19% of news sources and that the media

portrays women in a limited range of roles such as sexual objects and victims of violence.

10.4. **Reiterating** that the SADC We Want is one where there is freedom of expression, assembly and association in an environment of media pluralism, rule of law and respect of human rights

**10.5. We therefore Call upon SADC member states to:**

10.5.1. Repeal and reform any existing and repressive media legislation;

10.5.2. Guarantee the safety of media practitioners;

10.5.3. Ensure the state does not have a monopoly over public broadcasting;

10.5.4. Enact laws that guarantee freedom of and access to information

10.5.5. Ensure that public broadcasters and other public media put in place gender policies that guide content production and programming to attain the 50% parity set for 2015 as stipulated in the SADC Gender Protocol.

## **11. FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS IN SADC**

11.1. **Inspired** by the vision of a SADC in which we, the people of SADC, are free to move and settle within our region; where our dignity is not limited by our borders and where all of our rights are respected regardless of where we are.

11.2. **Noting with concern** that there are many challenges that citizens of the region face in trying to move from one country to another within the region particularly VISA requirements by some Member States, harassment of migrants, poor transport and migration infrastructure and protective migration policy regimes.

11.3. **Deeply concerned** that, only six countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe have signed the Protocol on the Facilitation of movement of persons.

11.4. **Convinced that** there is no integration that will take place without free movement of people, goods and services.

**11.5. We therefore call upon SADC Member States to:**

11.5.1. Sign and ratify the Protocol on the Facilitation of movement of persons

11.5.2. Initiate dialogue on challenges to free movement of people particularly economic disparities; peace and security problems as well as key operational challenges such as comprehensive personal identification systems, information communication technology, security systems and absence of 24 hour border operations.

11.5.3. Develop a regional migration policy framework and start dialogue on the harmonization of migration policy regimes.

## **12. SADC GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

12.1. **Re-affirming** our position that the **SADC We Want** is one that is transparent, accountable, inclusive and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the citizens of the region within a democratic and good corporate governance framework.

12.2. **Deeply concerned** with the suspension of the SADC Tribunal and implications thereof regarding the consolidation of rule of law and good governance in our region.

12.3. **Noting with concern** slow progress towards making the SADC Parliamentary Forum a Regional Parliament;

12.4. **Further noting with concern** slow progress in the implementation of agreed protocols, weak enforcement, accountability and compliance mechanisms for effective regional integration and governance;

**12.5. In this regard, we reiterated that a well-governed and accountable SADC will be consolidated through:-**

12.5.1. Re-instatement of the Tribunal with full powers.

12.5.2. Upholding the principle of separation of powers at the regional level resulting in the elevation of SADC PF into a SADC Parliament.

12.5.3. Activation and strengthening of SADC National Committees so that they function optimally.

12.5.4. Continuous accountability of SADC to citizens and stakeholders before and after Summit and other crucial processes

12.5.5. Institutionalization of civil society participation in SADC.

12.5.6. Ensuring balance between sovereignty of Member States and regionalism.

12.5.7. Rules- based integration with the SADC Secretariat and related institutions sufficiently empowered with the authority to ensure enforcement of protocols and agreements.

12.5.8. Ensuring that there is an effective link between regional and national level policies

## **13. DECENT WORK AGENDA IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

13.1. **Recognizing** that growth on its own is not sufficient to generate significant improvements in employment and to eradicate poverty,

13.2. **Mindful** of the SADC Charter of Fundamental Social Rights which commits Member States to cooperate with civil society and specifically trade unions to ensure that labour issues are adequately addressed in regional integration and development.

13.3. **Concerned** that women disproportionately bear the burden of care work for little or no remuneration.

13.4. **Expressing continued concern** with the difficulties faced by SADC citizens when they want to migrate and work in other countries due to restrictive labor migration policies;

**13.5. We therefore urge Member States to:-**

13.5.1. Ratify ILO Convention 189 on domestic work and develop comprehensive domestic policies and legislation to improve conditions for domestic workers.

13.5.2. Develop a regional labour migration policy framework.

13.5.3. Domesticate and fully implement the SADC Charter on Fundamental Social Rights and International Labor Organization (ILO) CORE Conventions.

13.5.4. Ensure the implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation and its Plan of Action.

13.5.5. Eliminate all forms of child labor.

## **14. CONTINENTAL ENGAGEMENT**

14.1. **Recognizing** that poverty eradication, integration and development will not happen in isolation without inter-regional cooperation and integration, solidarity as well as development and implementation of shared values across the continent.

14.2. **Congratulating** the Southern Africa Region for ascending to the position of Chairperson of the African Union Commission

14.3. **Concerned however** that developments within the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC) are tantamount to negation of principles of participation and inclusivity which have already started affecting full participation of citizens of the region in the processes of continental integration.

14.4. **Mindful of the importance of organized civil society in engaging with the African Union we resolved to :-**

14.4.1. Express concern with the undemocratic manner in which the ongoing nomination and election process to the ECOSOCC General Assembly is being conducted.

14.4.2. Submit applications for Membership to the Third General Assembly under protest whilst registering concern with the entire process and where possible explore legal action to stop the election and nomination process in order to pave way for a transparent, broad based and accountable process.

14.4.3. Work together as civil society in Southern Africa to participate and reclaim ECOSOCC and accordingly consult with other sub-regions of the African Union with the possibility of establishing a continent wide Pan African Council of NGOs along the lines of continental labour and churches.

14.4.4. Call for the review of the Statutes and rules of procedure of ECOSOCC and thereafter call for an Extra Ordinary General Assembly to receive audited financial statements and adopt proposed amendments to ECOSOCC Statutes.

## **15. DEMOCRACY, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND STABILITY**

15.1. **Reaffirming** our previous position that human development will not be realized in conditions of political intolerance, absence of the rule of law, corruption, civil strife, war and human insecurity.

15.2. **Noting with concern** that while the SADC region enjoys relative peace and stability recent fighting and violation of human rights in DRC; inconclusive discussions in Madagascar; lack of multi-party democracy in Swaziland and limited progress regarding the creation of an environment for the holding of credible elections in Zimbabwe, to mention a few examples, have negated efforts towards consolidation of democracy.

15.3. **Deeply worried** about the deepening corruption and the culture of impunity in many countries jeopardizing consolidation of development and democracy in our region.

15.4. **Noting with grave concern** that rape continues to be used as a weapon of political violence in countries involved in conflict including but not limited to DRC.

### **15.5. We therefore call upon SADC Member States to:-**

15.5.1. Intervene in the DRC to avoid further killings and suffering of the people particularly in the Eastern part of the country and to call upon the African Union to stop any external aggression in DRC.

15.5.2. Closely monitor the constitutional and forthcoming election process in Zimbabwe and ensure that that the SADC agreed road map towards free and fair elections is fully implemented.

15.5.3. Comprehensively observe national elections in Angola penciled to take place end of August in 2012.

15.5.4. Urgently assess the situation in Swaziland in light of the recent strikes, human rights violations and increasing trend towards curtailment of fundamental

freedoms and to demand that the Monarchy embraces multi-party democracy and respect human rights.

15.5.5. Call upon all Malagasies to put the interest of the country first by bringing to finality the political negotiations and immediately commence implementation of all agreed decisions leading to the holding of credible elections.

15.5.6. Expedite the democratization process at national level by ratifying and implementing the African Union Charter on Democracy and Good Governance.

15.5.7. Ensure constitutionalism and separation of power at national level;

15.5.8. Ensure a conducive political and legal environment for civil society to function without intimidation and harassment by political actors.

15.5.9. Fully implement and respect of SADC Principles and guidelines governing democratic elections and other shared values, including but not limited to media pluralism, culture of tolerance, respect of human dignity and fundamental human rights;

15.5.10. Embrace a human as opposed to a state security approach to security cooperation.

15.5.11. Condemn and sanction those Member States who violate the shared democratic values.

## **16. YOUTH**

16.1. **Recalling** the SADC Position at the African Union Heads of States on the theme “Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”, held in Banjul in July 2011;

16.2. **Reaffirming** the decision taken at the SADC Senior Officials Meeting which took place from 1-2 June 2011 regarding representation of young people in regional and continental structures;

16.3. **Recognizing** the World Programme of Action for Youth, and the Declaration of the World Youth Conference held in Leon, Guanajuato, 27th August 2010;

16.4. **Reaffirming** the African Youth Charter, the African Union Declaration of the Decade for Youth Development, and the Declaration of the theme “Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development” for the African Union Summit in Banjul, July 2011;

**16.5. We call upon SADC Member States to:-**

16.5.1. Establish and/or strengthen the coordination roles of National Youth Councils within their respective countries.

16.5.2. Establish a youth coordination unit at the SADC Secretariat as well as an internship programme.

16.5.3. Encourage, guarantee and facilitate youth political participation and empowerment in elected assemblies and other governance structures and activities.

## **17. SOCIAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

17.1. **Convinced** that the ultimate impact of regional cooperation and integration should be sustainable human development.

17.2. **Noting with concern that** a number of structural, socio-economic, technological and political challenges continue to impede social and human development

17.3. **Further noting** that the SADC region is the worst affected by the devastating impact of HIV and AIDS and other major diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria globally, and that youth, particularly young women are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS;

17.4. **We call upon Member States of SADC**

17.4.1. To prioritize child protection and development

17.4.2. Scale up employment creation and the decent work agenda

17.4.3. Intensify the fight against HIV and AIDS, including testing and treatment programmes.

17.4.4. Prioritize rapid adoption and internalization of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs);

17.4.5. Strengthen national social protection system

17.4.6. Enhance access to social services by all citizens as opposed to rapid commercialization of the same (Education, water, sanitation, housing e.t.c).

17.4.7. Popularize the Regional Poverty Reduction Framework and finalize the establishment of the Regional Poverty Observatory

## 18. INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

18.1. **Convinced** that adequate, affordable, accessible and efficient infrastructure (water, energy, transport, agriculture and communications) is necessary for regional integration and development.

### 18.2. **We call upon SADC Member States to**

18.2.1. Prioritize and scale up infrastructure development programmes, particularly.

18.2.1.1. Regional connectivity (Transport and communications)

18.2.1.2. Energy

18.2.1.3. Water and sanitation

18.2.1.4. Industry and trade infrastructure

18.2.2. Establish a Regional Development Bank for the purposes of mobilizing resources for infrastructure, social services and other investment needs.

## 19. CONCLUSION

19.1. As civil society in Southern Africa, we want a SADC characterised by a people-centred development paradigm; that guarantees the rights to dignity; economic and social justice; free from poverty, within the context of pro-poor, gender-sensitive, dynamic economies with high and sustainable economic growth; rule of law, democracy, equity and equality including in the distribution of productive assets and income.

**SIGNED ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST 2012 IN Maputo, Mozambique**

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