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**Civil Society Statement on the occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Southern  
Africa Civil Society Forum held on the 13 -15<sup>th</sup> of August 2010,  
Windhoek, Namibia**

*15 August 2010*

**1.0 PREAMBLE**

- 1.1** *We*, representatives of civil society organizations from across the Southern Africa Region, meeting under the auspices of the Fellowship of Christian Councils of Southern Africa (FOCCISA), Southern Africa Development Community – Council of Non Governmental Organizations (SADC-CNGO), Southern Africa Trade Union Coordination Council (SATUCC) and the NANGOF Trust of Namibia on the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2010 in Windhoek present the **6<sup>th</sup> Southern Africa Civil Society Forum statement** to the SADC Heads of States.
- 1.2** *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 Member States on issues of common interest such as poverty eradication, promotion of democracy and good governance and justice.
- 1.3** *Cognizant* of Articles 16A and 23 of the SADC Treaty which commits SADC member states to engage fully peoples of the region and civil society in regional integration and development,

**1.4** *Reaffirming and recommitting* to a Southern Africa Regional Community in which every human being lives a dignified, peaceful and secure life and participate freely in issues that affect them,

**1.5** *Congratulating* all the peoples of the SADC region for the 30-Years Anniversary,

## **2.0 GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY**

**2.1** *Realizing* that 2010 is the African Union Year of Peace and Security,

**2.2** *We note with deep concern* the shrinking of operational space for civil society, the continued harassment and killings of human rights defenders in some member states, denial of citizens' right to participate in political processes, violence against women, people with disabilities and children, as well as increasing human insecurity.

**2.3** *Expressing continued concern on the* restrictive media laws and targeted attacks on the media in some member states, particularly in Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, South Africa, and Swaziland.

**2.4** *We further note* with concern the slow progress in the full implementation of the Global Political Agreement in Zimbabwe and the Maputo Accord for Madagascar.

**2.5** *We therefore call upon* SADC Member States to:

- a) Guarantee the rights of civil society and ensure an end to targeted attacks on civil society representatives, particularly human rights activists
- b) Impartially investigate all disappearances and extra-judicial killings and bring those responsible to court, while ceasing the arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention and prosecution of human rights defenders
- c) Respect decisions of the SADC Tribunal and censure Member States which undermine decisions of the Regional Court,
- d) Sign, ratify and implement the African Union Charter on Democracy and Good Governance,
- e) Guarantee media freedom, pluralism and enact right to/ access to information legislation
- f) Recognize the Democratic Republic of Congo and Swaziland as problem cases that require the urgent attention of the Heads of States given the precarious political situation and deteriorating human rights violations in these countries
- g) Respect the rights of indigenous peoples, commonly known as *San Communities*, of the region to participate in development and integration issues
- h) Supervise the next Zimbabwe elections to prevent politically motivated violence and ensure full compliance with SADC Principles and Guidelines on the conduct of democratic elections. This includes a deployment of monitors

to Zimbabwe 3 months ahead of elections and a month after, to prevent electoral violence.

- i) SADC should bar Zimbabwe and Madagascar from taking up any post on the SADC Organ on Politics Defence and Security until mediation ends, to preserve the independence of the Organ.

### **3.0 CLIMATE CHANGE**

**3.1** *Stressing* that climate change is far more than an environmental issue but a serious socio-economic and political crisis, a result of a variety of systemic global forces, with far reaching effects on various sectors of society, including survival of some states,

**3.2** *Emphasizing* the imperative of industrialized countries to fulfill their obligations under the Kyoto Protocol as signatories of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to reduce their domestic emissions and to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries to address the climate crisis,

**3.3** *Noting with concern* that the Copenhagen Conference on climate Change failed to address the concerns and expectations of developing countries.

**3.4** **We therefore call upon** Member States to:

- a) Continuously demand that negotiations continue under the UNFCCC on Kyoto and Long Term Cooperative Action tracks,
- b) Scale up policy reforms to ensure appropriate changes in agro-ecological methods, transport system and energy,
- c) Demand compensation for climate harms by the developed countries and payment of technology transfer costs to member states
- d) Pursue renewable energy options and not apply for any funding that exacerbates climate change and increases foreign debt,
- e) Oppose the Copenhagen Accord as it is an illegitimate document that ignores years of work in legitimate UN processes.

### **4.0 TRADE AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

**4.1** *Noting with concern* that the current model of regional economic integration which is trade or economics driven, premised on liberalization of trade and investments, has not translated into improved standards of living for the people of the region.

**4.2** *Further noting* the marginalization of social and people aspects of regional integration, including free movement of goods, labour and services and rights of informal and cross traders.

- 4.3** *Recognizing* 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.
- 4.4** *Expressing continued concern* at the harassment and difficulties faced by cross border traders including complex rules of origin which do not accommodate micro-traders, corruption at border posts and lack of requisite infrastructure for small traders.
- 4.3** *We therefore call upon* Member States to:-
- a) 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; tariff and non-tariff barriers; customs administration and mitigating the effects of regional economic integration like loss of customs of revenue.
  - b) Full Implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade
  - c) Strengthen their infrastructural, productive and industrial capacities
  - d) Strengthen consultations, dialogue and engagement at regional level in order to speak with one voice and enhance cooperation and coordination when engaging trading partners, World Trade Organizations and other relevant organizations.
  - e) Develop a supportive policy and operational framework for cross border traders to ensure their free movement and of their goods and services.
  - f) Implement the Declaration on Consumer Protection and Competition which was signed in Zambia in 2008

## **5.0 DECENT WORK AGENDA IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

- 5.1** *Recognizing* that growth on its own is not sufficient to generate significant improvements in employment and to eradicate poverty,
- 5.2** *Recalling* the Ouagadougou Declaration (2004) on Employment and Poverty Alleviation and its Plan of Action and follow up mechanism,
- 5.3** *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 labor issues are adequately addressed in regional integration and development,
- 5.4** *Expressing continued concern* with the difficulties faced by SADC citizens when they migrate and seek to work in other countries due to restrictive labor migration policies,

**5.5** *We call upon Member States to:*

- a) Develop a regional labor migration policy framework and a SADC Protocol on Employment and Labor in line with the Maputo resolutions
- b) Domesticcate and fully implement the SADC Charter of Fundamental Social Rights and the International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions
- c) Ensure the implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation and its Plan of Action
- d) Ensure an end to all forms of child labor, labor broking and abuse of domestic workers

**6.0** **FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS IN SADC**

**6.1** *Noting with concern* the many challenges citizens of the region face in trying to move from country to country within the region particularly VISA requirements by some member states, harassment of migrants at border posts, poor transport and migration infrastructure and restrictive and varied migration policy regimes.

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

**6.3** *We call upon Member States to:*

- a) Sign and ratify the Protocol on the Facilitation of movement of persons
- b) 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
- c) Develop a regional migration policy framework and start dialogue on the harmonization of migration policy regimes

**7.0** **ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND SADC**

**7.1** *Concerned* that apart from isolated and event specific collaboration and engagement, 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.

**7.2** *We therefore call upon Member States to:-*

- a) Ensure that civil society participation in SADC processes including consultative meetings, Joint Task force Meetings, Core group meetings and Thematic/cluster meetings and other such meetings is institutionalized,
- b) Ensure the Executive Secretary of SADC hold pre and post Council and Summit debriefing meetings with civil society in order to share with these

stakeholders the direction SADC is taking on issues, as per decisions and deliberations, held at the policy meetings.

- c) Ensure that representatives of civil society are accredited to participate at the official opening and closing ceremonies of Council of Ministers and Summit. (accreditation with full observer status)

## **8.0 GENDER**

**8.1 Welcoming** the signing of the SADC Gender and Development Protocol by majority of Member States, we however remain concerned that Botswana and Mauritius have not signed the Protocol and that only 3 countries: Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe have ratified the Protocol,

**8.2 Mindful of our watchdog role as civil society**, we will keep track of Member States' implementation of the 28 targets set for 2015, especially the following:- reducing by 50% current levels of gender based violence and having 50% women representation and participation in key areas of decision making across all sectors,

**8.3 Recalling** the African Union resolution to scale up efforts towards reducing maternal mortality,

**8.4** We therefore, in this regard, **call upon** Member States:-

- a) To ensure that those that have not signed the Protocol on Gender and Development do so as matter of urgency and that all member states ratify the Protocol and ensure its implementation through the requisite policy, budgetary and strategy reforms
- b) To ensure an end to all forms of violence against women and the girl children
- c) To put in place comprehensive policies and programmes to improve maternal health as well as increased access to reproductive health information and facilities
- d) To demand 50% gender parity in decision making by 2015

## **9.0 YOUTH AND CHILDREN**

**9.1 Welcoming** the development of the SADC Business Plan on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children and Youth, we however remain concerned with high levels of child abuse, child trafficking, child mortality, child labor and lack of access to basic services by nearly 50% of the children's population in the region.

**9.2 Concerned** with the limited involvement of young people in the process of regional integration and development

**9.3 We call upon** Member States to:

- a) Promote the full implementation of the Business Plan on OVC and Youth
- b) Involve young people in regional integration and development

- c) Develop policies and strategies to address cross-border challenges faced by children on the move

**10.0 SADC CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE IN MASERU AND FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS**

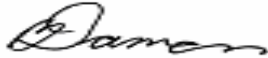
**10.1** *Mindful* of the progress the region had made in involving civil society in regional integration, culminating in the Mauritius SADC International Conference on Poverty and Development,

**10.2** *We are concerned that*, to date, there has not been formal communication to civil society on their involvement and specific role during the SADC Consultative Conference in Maseru, later this year.

**10.3** *We therefore call* upon Member States to

- a) Ensure the participation of civil society at the forthcoming SADC Consultative Conference along the lines of the SADC International Conference on Poverty and Development in Mauritius
- b) Institutionalize the participation of civil society in SADC Consultative Conferences
- c) Grant accreditation and full observer status to Civil Society to participate in the SADC Consultative Conference.

**SIGNED ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST 2010 IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**



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