



Strengthening our Partnerships towards the SADC We Want

Communique and Action Plan of the 14th Southern Africa Civil Society Forum

13-15 August 2018

Windhoek, Namibia

We, the Southern African Civil Society, convened by the Regional Apex Alliance Partners, namely: the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA), Southern Africa Trade Unions Coordinating Council (SATUCC) and the SADC Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (SADC-CNGO), gathered at the Heja Lodge in Windhoek Namibia on the 13th – 15th of August 2018. We collectively developed a strategic response to ***“Strengthening Partnerships for Effective Engagement, Structural Transformation and Influencing the Policy Agenda of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)”***. We are cognisant of the fact that this response must be complemented by strengthening our own institutional governance and accountability, such that our agenda is informed, influenced and driven by those whose interests and rights we intend to advance, protect and defend.

Acknowledging the continuous struggle by civil society as we call for accountable and democratic societies, respect of the rule of law, equity and equality among diverse beliefs, cultures, practices and race, the right to basic socio-economic assets and services (including land, water, health, education and decent jobs – recognizing that education is key in producing citizens with critical consciousness and knowledge to contribute to the development of the SADC we want), to attaining sustainable economic independence and development – and ultimately, the right to dignity;

Concerned that despite the multitude of progressive protocols, development frameworks and regional policies, the SADC region continues to be confronted by development challenges, with slow progress recorded in several sectoral areas including socio-economic sectors and political spheres. The lack of resourcing and implementation of these commitments has severely impeded the achievement of tangible development progress in the region;

Further concerned with the continued shrinking of civic space, rising xenophobia and gender-based violence, increasing inequalities and corruption, gross violations of human and trade union rights, and the capture of some state institutions and civil society by those who wield political and economic power;

Alarmed at the manner in which elections in some SADC Member States are currently conducted, giving rise to on-going crises of democratic governance;

Reaffirming that SADC Member States should ensure and guarantee the independence and impartiality of the Election Management Bodies by endowing them with constitutional power and adequate resources;

Urging SADC Member States to hold elections only when all preconditions for free, fair and credible elections are in place so that the potential of elections to trigger conflicts is reduced;

Noting that the region needs much stronger people's movements to stand up to these challenges; Creating critical knowledge and consciousness among the Southern African citizenry remains the key driver for transformative change. It should be the prerogative of every SADC Member State to contribute to ensuring that all citizens are capacitated to participate meaningfully in the development and governance processes with special focus on the marginalized and less privileged citizens;

Recognising the importance and emerging role of young people in the region, we are reminded that they are the present and the future of the region, and in them lie the solutions to many of the challenges confronting the SADC region. They remain the source of power for strengthening communities, civil society, development institutions, political spheres and driving sustainable development;

Believing that engaging in, facilitating and strengthening solidarity between and amongst civil society remains the cornerstone for fostering partnerships to fight the injustices against the people of the region;

Reaffirming our commitment to continue to contribute towards the pursuit of democratic rights, the enforcement of human and trade union rights, equality and equity in participation and beneficiation of the region's socio-economic prospects, the protection and respect to access, (and) rights and

participation of vulnerable and marginalised groups, promotion of decent work and the strengthening of the civil society voice in influencing and determining a sustainable development agenda for the SADC region;

Recognising that the Agenda 2030 (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals) re-affirms the importance of the multi-sectoral collaboration and approach to addressing development challenges in our collective endeavour to eradicate poverty, and other social problems confronting the world;

It is with this understanding that the 14th SADC Civil Society Forum collectively agrees to undertake the following actions in pursuit of the SADC We Want:



14TH CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ACTION PLAN

THEME	ACTION(S)	EXPECTED OUTCOME(S)	STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND OR RESPONSIBILITY
1. Civic Space, elections and democratic governance	1.1. To conduct studies on the causes of shrinking political and civic spaces in SADC Member States.	1.1. Improved understanding of the underlying factors behind shrinking of political and civic spaces.	CIVICUS coordinating CSOs, trade unions and churches.
	1.2. Identify, document and share best practices in the SADC region on push back mechanisms against political and civic spaces.	1.2 Improved formulation and utilisation of push back mechanisms against political and civic spaces.	CIVICUS coordinating CSOs, trade unions and churches.
	1.3. Developing young activists to establish, claim and utilise political and civic spaces.	1.3 A trained cadre of young activists.	CIVICUS coordinating CSOs, trade unions and churches.
	1.4. Engage in advocacy and civic education to demand SADC Member States to sign, ratify, domesticate and implement the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.	1.4 Improved management of elections and governance in the SADC region.	SADC CNGO coordinating in partnership with CSOs at national and regional levels.
2. Human and trade union rights	2.1. To lobby for the formulation and implementation of a regional policy framework for harmonised working conditions of multi-national corporations (MNCs) in SADC countries.	2.1 Improved working conditions under MNCs, while curbing the violation of labour rights.	Trade unions (SATUCC) to lead the lobbying efforts, while developing alliances with churches and CSOs.
	2.2 To advocate, develop and implement national and regional campaigns	2.2 Mitigation of precarious work.	Trade unions (SATUCC) to lead the lobbying efforts, while developing

		against labour brokering and casualisation of labour.		alliances with churches and CSOs.	
	2.3	To lobby for the establishment / strengthening of mechanisms / platforms at the national and regional level for facilitating engagement and influencing policy outcomes on human and trade union rights.	2.3	Improved social dialogue on human and trade union rights.	Trade unions (SATUCC) to lead the lobbying efforts, while developing alliances with churches and CSOs.
	2.4	To establish and/or strengthen strategic alliances through developing joint actions and campaign on human and trade union rights.	2.4	Enhanced solidarity among trade unions, churches and CSOs on defending / protecting human and trade and union rights.	Trade unions, churches and CSOs.
3. African Union Convention on Combating Corruption (AUCPCC)	3.1	Advocate and dialogue with SADC Member States to ensure that, countries which have not ratified the AUCPCC within SADC do so and strive to commence implementing the articles therein, including reporting on implementation as prescribed by the AUCPCC.	3.1	Successful influencing for the ratification, domestication and full implementation of the AUCPCC.	Civil society coordinated by the Open Society Foundations together with SADC-CNGO.
	3.2	Redesigning the AUCPCC questionnaire for engagement with the African Union (AU) Member States for purposes of influencing its reform and State Party Reporting.	3.2	The AUCPCC questionnaire includes pertinent questions that will trigger Article 25 of the Convention (e.g. on State capture and illicit financial flows).	Civil society coordinated by the Open Society Foundations together with SADC-CNGO.
	3.3	Developing a template for the “Rules of Procedure” for Civil Society engagement on the Convention for submission to the AU Advisory Board on Corruption.	3.3	Enhanced Non-States actors’ capacity and capability for engagement with the AU on Member States’ compliance with the AUCPCC.	Civil society coordinated by the Open Society Foundations together with SADC-CNGO.
4. Promoting safe,	4.1	To engage SADC Member States for	4.1	Safe, orderly and secure	Trade unions, churches and CSOs

orderly and secure movement of persons across the SADC region.		the adoption of a regional migration policy document and a Plan of Action in line with the AU revised migration policy framework.	movement of persons across the SADC region.	coordinated by the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CORMSA).
	4.2	To campaign and or lobby for SADC Member States to undertake national migration policy reforms in line with the commitments under the Revised AU Migration Policy Framework for Africa.	4.2 SADC Member States domesticating and implementing the Revised AU Migration Policy Framework for Africa.	Trade unions, churches and CSOs coordinated by the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CORMSA).
	4.3.	To develop a migration barometer for measuring / monitoring states compliance with their obligations under the SADC normative frameworks on migration.	4.3 Enhanced Non-State actors' capacity to gather evidence and monitor States' progress on achieving safe, unencumbered movement of people across the SADC region.	Trade unions, churches and CSOs coordinated by the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CORMSA).
5. Education now	5.1	Advocate for Member States to adequately finance SDG 4 in line with the SDG 4 financing benchmark of 15-20% and above or 4-6% of their GDP spending on education by adopting progressive tax reforms taking into consideration issues of size, share, sensitivity and scrutiny of budgets and track pledges and commitments made at the GPE financing conference.	5.1 Improved engagement and influencing of SADC Member States for improved financing of Education.	Action Aid, ANCEFA, Tax Justice Network Africa, EJM of FOCCISA, Education International, National and regional CSOs.
	5.2	Build a national and regional Non-State Actors (NSA) movement against commercial non-tax payment and financial corruption by collaborating with the SADC Anti-Corruption Group.	5.2 A well-resourced and functioning movement working against commercial non-tax payment and financial corruption collaborating with the SADC Anti-Corruption Group.	Action Aid, ANCEFA, Tax Justice Network Africa, EJM of FOCCISA, Education International, National and regional CSOs.

	5.3	Advocate for the creation of a SADC Education Fund in line with the proposed Africa Education Fund following the model of the SADC Basic Income Grant.	5.3	A strong movement of Civil Society Organisations engaging with and influencing SADC Member States on development and sustaining a SADC Education Fund.	Action Aid, ANCEFA, Tax Justice Network Africa, Education International, National and regional CSOs.
	5.4	Advocate for sustained training and deployment of qualified teachers / educators with requisite skills and competences in gender and inclusion.	5.4	A strong Civil Society Movement lobbying for sustainable financing for teachers / educators' training for improved inclusion and gender equality in the education system.	Action Aid, ANCEFA, Tax Justice Network Africa, Education International, National and regional CSOs.
	5.5	Ensure meaningful youth participation and engagement in all policy and decision-making processes.	5.5	Increased participation of youth in decision making spaces on education policy formulation and monitoring of implementation of SDGs 4 (Quality Education) & 5 (Gender Equality).	Action Aid, ANCEFA, Tax Justice Network Africa, EJA of FOCCISA, Education International, National and regional CSOs.
6. Youth employment and empowerment	6.1	Advocate for the adoption and implementation of the SADC Youth Employment Promotion Policy Framework in accordance with the provisions of the African Union Youth Charter and with the provisions on employment in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) and the SDGs.	6.1	Improved youth participation in decision making processes and in the SADC development agenda.	SAAYE, trade unions, churches and CSOs.
	6.2	Advocate for SADC Member States to ensure youth representation in positions of power, as well as development and enforcement of a Youth Empowerment Policy aligned to the Industrialisation Strategy of the SADC region as well as the African Youth Charter.	6.2	Improved youth participation in decision making processes and in the SADC development agenda.	SAAYE, trade unions, churches and CSOs.

	6.3	To undertake capacity development of young people in the SADC region to enable them to participate meaningfully in the development and governance processes, with a special focus on the marginalized and less privileged youths.	6.3	Youth participation capacities enhanced.	SAAYE, trade unions, churches and CSOs.
7. Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)	7.1	To undertake sectoral impact assessment studies at national and regional levels of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) – and ensure the research / studies are disseminated to create awareness, influence negotiations and or non-actors' follow up actions.	7.1	To strengthen civil society influence of the Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) negotiation outcomes.	EJN of FOCCISA, SEATINI and SADC-CNGO.
	7.2	To conduct inclusive consultations of civil society organisations (which include women's groups, farmers, workers, small and medium enterprises, national and domestic producers, cross border traders) on the AfCFTA.	7.2	A structured mechanism for the systematic and effective participation and engagement on the AfCFTA of key Non-State actors and RECs.	EJN of FOCCISA, SEATINI and SADC-CNGO.
	7.3	To develop linkages between trade issues and other related / relevant development programmes implemented by civil society, while advocating that SADC Member States ensure that the AfCFTA is harmonised with existing relevant policy frameworks.	7.3	A more comprehensive civil society approach to trade and development issues.	EJN of FOCCISA, SEATINI and SADC-CNGO.
8. Ending childhood statelessness in SADC	8.1	Raise awareness about statelessness in SADC through media and training.	8.1	Improved public awareness on statelessness.	CSOs at national and regional levels led by SADC Network on Statelessness

			in partnership with Apex Alliance.
	<p>8.2 Advocate (through workshops with government representatives & submissions to national and international human rights bodies) for:</p> <p>8.2.1 The adoption of the “African Union Protocol on Specific Aspects on the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa”;</p> <p>8.2.2 The universal registration of all births without discrimination;</p> <p>8.2.3 Implementation of legal safeguards for the attribution of nationality at birth for stateless children born in the territory of the state; and</p> <p>8.2.4 The systematic identification and documentation of undocumented unaccompanied minors.</p>	<p>8.2 Reduced number of people who are stateless, particularly children in SADC who suffer challenges of discrimination, abuse, denial of essential basic services, among other things because of circumstances regarding their legal status.</p>	<p>CSOs at national and regional levels led by SADC Network on Statelessness in partnership with Apex Alliance.</p>
	<p>8.3 Produce a monitoring tool for assessing the performance of SADC Member States regarding access to the right to a nationality and eradication of statelessness.</p>	<p>8.3 Enhanced State and Non-State actors’ capacity to gather evidence and monitor States’ progress on eliminating statelessness in the SADC region.</p>	<p>CSOs at national and regional levels led by SADC Network on Statelessness in partnership with Apex Alliance.</p>
<p>9. Extractive industries and land rights</p>	<p>9.1 To promote and advocate for participatory processes in the finalisation of the development of a SADC Mining Vision in order to facilitate its adaptation, domestication and implementation in line with the African Mining Vision</p>	<p>9.1 Improved engagement with SADC Member States on the development and adoption of SADC Mining Vision.</p>	<p>EJN of FOCCISA, ZELA to coordinate relevant CSOs and partners.</p>

	(AMV).		
	9.2 To develop the capacities of civil society and mining affected communities to promote and comprehend free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and successfully advocate governments and the private sector to adopt and implement the relevant laws and policies.	9.2 Increased awareness and advocacy capacities of civil society and mining affected communities on FPIC.	EJN of FOCCISA, ZELA to coordinate relevant CSOs and partners.
	9.3 To enhance the capacities of civil society, social movements and mining affected communities to engage companies and governments on the legislative and policy reforms in extractive industries, while demanding participation in decision making processes in the extractive industries.	9.3 Improved participation of marginalised communities of civil society in EI related processes such as: Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Social Labour Plans (SLPs), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and consultative platforms.	EJN of FOCCISA, ZELA to coordinate relevant CSOs and partners
	9.4 To promote, advocate and facilitate the passage of access to information laws thereby ensuring that communities understand their land rights.	9.4 Improved access to information in land rights by communities.	EJN of FOCCISA, ZELA to coordinate relevant CSOs and partners.
10. Land grabbing and expropriation	10.1 To advocate for the SADC Member States to undertake a land audit at national level.	10.1 SADC Member States undertake and disseminate the findings of a national land audit.	Civil Society organizations at national and regional levels in partnership with Alliance Against Land Grabbing in Mozambique (ASCUT), hosted by JOINT.
	10.2 To lobby and advocate for Member States in SADC to undertake an	10.2 Inclusive empowerment of communities.	Civil Society organizations at national and regional levels in partnership with

	equitable, inclusive and transparent land reform process.		Alliance Against Land Grabbing in Mozambique (ASCUT), hosted by JOINT.
	10.3 To establish a civil society movement on land, that addresses land rights, land grabbing and expropriation in the SADC region.	10.3 An inclusive civil society movement on land grabbing and expropriation.	Civil Society organizations at national and regional levels in partnership with Alliance Against Land Grabbing in Mozambique (ASCUT), hosted by JOINT.
11. Children and young people	11.1 To undertake consultations among children and young people to inform the development of a draft SADC policy framework on children and young people.	11.1 A draft template on a regional policy framework informed by children and young people.	Children Rights Network for Southern Africa (CRNSA) to coordinate other CSOs under the Apex Alliance.
	11.2 To draft a proposed SADC Protocol on Children and Young People.	11.2 A template for a regional policy framework on children and young people.	Children Rights Network for Southern Africa (CRNSA) to coordinate other CSOs under the Apex Alliance.
	11.3 Lobby and advocate SADC Member States to develop and adopt a resolution for the development of a SADC Protocol on Children and Young People.	11.3 SADC Resolution on Protocol for Children and Young People.	Children Rights Network for Southern Africa (CRNSA) to coordinate other CSOs under the Apex Alliance.
12. Lesotho	12.1 To advocate at national level for each SADC Member State to agree to the extension of the SADC Preventive Mission to Lesotho (SAPMIL) on the condition that those that were arrested or detained go to trial.	12.2 SADC Member States engaged on the need for fair and swift trials for political detainees in Lesotho.	TRC, DPE and LNC supported by the Apex Alliance.
	12.2 To support and show solidarity to TRC, DPE and LCN in advocating for an autonomous Human Rights Commission with authority to investigate and pass judgement in line	12.2 Improved solidarity with TRC, DPE and LCN.	TRC, DPE and LNC supported by the Apex Alliance.

	with the Paris Principles.		
13. Gender	13.1 Undertake advocacy actions on ending Gender based violence (GBV).	13.1 Increased advocacy actions on ending GBV.	Gender Protocol Alliance and CSO partners
	13.2 Encourage governments to collect gender data and gender disaggregated data.	13.2 Improved data collection on gender.	Gender Protocol Alliance and CSO partners
	13.3 Lobbying for increased budget allocations to sexual and reproductive health rights.	13.3 Improved engagement with SADC Members States on national budget allocations to sexual and reproductive health rights.	Gender Protocol Alliance and CSO partners

Signed this 15th day of August 2018

Economic Justice network of FOCCISA

SADC Council of NGOs

Southern Africa Trade Unions Coordinating Council