



**REMARKS TO BE DELIVERED**

**BY**

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**DURING THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION NATIONAL  
WORKSHOP ON SADC REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

**17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Lilongwe 3  
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**Mr. Lucky Mbewe, the Executive Director for Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE);**

**Representatives of Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa and entire delegation;**

**Dr. Enock Twinoburyo, SADC Project Coordinator;**

**Representatives from the Civil Society Organisations (CSO's);**

**Distinguished participants;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It gives me great pleasure to be part of this unique national workshop for Civil Society Organisations on SADC Regional Integration, which I am honoured to represent the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bernard Sande who is currently attending the 42<sup>nd</sup> SADC Summit meeting in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I am further delighted to be given this opportunity to interact with you and share knowledge on how civil societies can effectively participate in the SADC regional integration process.

**Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen**

As you might all be aware, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the National Contact point for all SADC matters in Malawi. In this regard, our role is to act as a link between the SADC structures and all key stakeholders at the national level. In other words we are the post office coordinating communication

between the SADC organs and the key stakeholders at that national level.

According to the Article 23 of the SADC Treaty, and I quote **“In pursuance of the objectives of this Treaty, SADC shall seek to involve fully, the people of the Region and key stakeholders in the process of regional integration. SADC shall co-operate with, and support the initiatives of the peoples of the Region and key stakeholders, contributing to the objectives of this Treaty in the areas of co-operation in order to foster closer relations among the communities, associations and people of the Region.”**

The purpose is to indeed ensure that SADC meets its main objectives which are “to achieve economic development, peace and security, and growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through Regional Integration.” It is in this regard that the Article 9(1)(h) and **Article 16A of the Declaration and Treaty of SADC, as amended**, stipulates the creation of SADC National Committees (SNCs) at Member State level in order to effectively implement regional programmes at the national level.

It is through this background that the Government of the Republic of Malawi revitalised the Malawi SADC National Committee (SNC) where His Excellency the President, Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, launched the SNC on 1<sup>st</sup> April,

2021. As already indicated earlier, SNC is a steering body of stakeholders aimed at guiding implementation of SADC decisions and programmes at the national level. In this regard, SNC was used as a platform in guiding Malawi's role during its tenure of SADC Chairmanship and also coming up with the SADC theme for the 41<sup>st</sup> SADC Summit. At the same time, SNC has been the guiding tool for the long-term goals in managing Malawi's Implementation of SADC RISDP and MW2063.

### **Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The Government of Malawi has also taken recognition of the guidance given through the SADC Treaty which calls for inclusion of key stakeholders from a multidimensional pool of functions which include: Government, Private Sector, Non State Actors and Civil Society Organisations. CSO's are Governments important partner in implementation of regional integration agenda and have not been left out in the national committee in Malawi. In fact, in the Malawi Government SNC structure, CSOs are mainly featured under the Social, Human Development and Special Programmes (SHD & SP) Cluster while they also feature in other clusters such as Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI); Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR;) and Infrastructure and Services. The orientation of these clusters are yet to be done, however, it is the Government of Malawi desire to ensure that CSO's are

fully incorporated and are involved in the SADC regional integration process through SNCs structures.

### **Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Malawi recognizes the role of different stakeholders including CSO's in promoting ownership of programmes and their implementation. MW2063 has organically domesticated the SADC-Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030 to ensure that its implementation is done as part and parcel of the national development agenda. The main vehicle for RISDP implementation is also SADC National Committee.

Indeed CSOs have struggled to participate in formal SADC-led regionalism and this is partly due to the absence of the principle guidelines on how overall Non-State Actors can be accredited and actively participate in the implementation of the regional programmes. I am pleased to inform that SADC is moving towards finalizing Mechanism for Engagement with Non-State Actors in the context of the SADC RISDP 2020-2030 and SADC Vision 2050. I am also glad that the project that is being launched today through the support of the SADC Secretariat, CUT International and SDG Center for Africa seeks to address this challenge in SADC member states namely Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I will be failing in my duties if I conclude without recognizing and appreciating the important role of all resource persons and partners who have contributed for the success of this meeting. I, therefore, would like to encourage all participants present to be candid and actively participate during the discussions.

As we engage in this process, we must not lose sight of the principles of development cooperation under this Platform that promotes ownership, accountability, harmonization, mutual trust, respect, and transparency in the implementation of regional integration agenda. Let us use this important Platform to interact in designing projects and programmes that are beneficial to citizens of Malawi and the entire SADC region.

**Thank you for your kind attention**