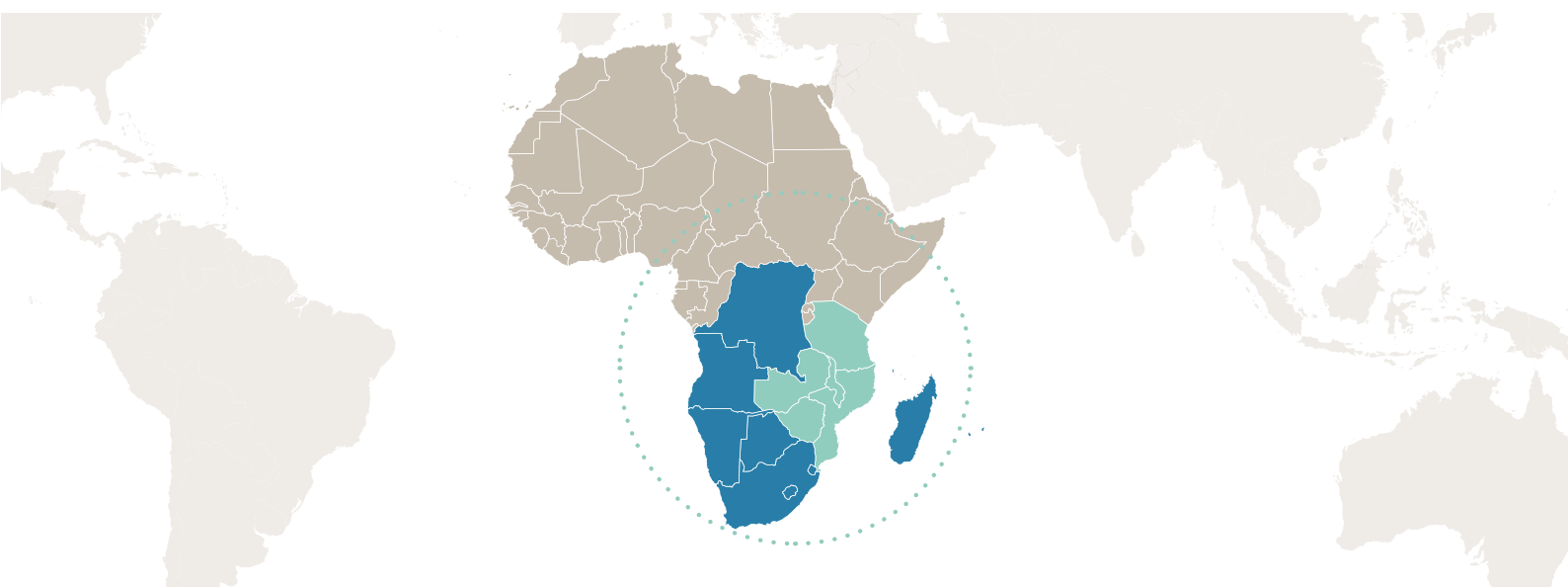


Accelerating SADC’s Development through the Socially Accountable Generation and Use of Public Resources

Third Regional Dialogue for Non-State Actors on the SADC RISDP 2020-2030

13-14 September 2023



Background

The Southern African Development Community (SADC), a regional economic community of 16 member states,¹ is home to approximately 354 million people (2019).² While its member states are diverse in terms of wealth, geographic and population sizes, systems of government, and energy and natural resource endowments, they share common development challenges, exacerbated by the burdens of debt and climate change. Recognising these challenges, as well as the potential of the region, SADC’s Vision 2050, and its 10-year regional strategy – the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020 to 2030 – envision “a peaceful, inclusive, middle to high income industrialised region, where all citizens

enjoy sustainable economic well-being, justice and freedom.”³

While the RISDP 2020-2030 is a regional strategy, how it is supported in national policies, programmes and budgets will determine whether, and to what extent, its goals are realised. Critical to development across the region is the ability of SADC and its member states to generate sufficient financial resources to meet their strategic goals, as well as the sound and socially accountable management and use of available resources. Well-functioning public resource management contributes to accountability and efficiency in the use of public resources, while a weak system can result in significant wastage of scarce resources.

1. SADC consists of 16 member states: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo), eSwatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
 2. <https://futures.issafrica.org/geographic/recs/sadc/#demographics>
 3. The RISDP 2020-2030 was adopted by the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit in August 2020, with its regional implementation plan and costings approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in August 2021, followed by its associated national plans and costings in August 2022.

The goals of RISDP 2020-2030 reflect those of international and regional commitments, particularly the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063. Few SADC member states, however, have met the minimum thresholds required by the AU's Abuja and Malabo Declarations⁴ to increase investment in health (to 15%) and agricultural development (to 10%). The 2023 SADC SRHR Strategy Scorecard Report⁵ indicated a median of 8.7% of national budgets, a drop from 9.5% in 2021, were directed toward health across the 16 SADC member states. The 2021 CAADP Biennial Report⁶ indicated that with the exception of Eswatini, Seychelles, and Zambia, most SADC member states are off track in increasing levels of investment in agriculture.

Deepening debt triggered by repeated climate-change induced disasters, and inflation in fuel, fertiliser, and food prices following the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing war in Ukraine have exposed the region's overdependence on external credit and donor funds. SADC member states have responded to the increasing costs of debt by reprioritising national budgets, often away from vital social services, and seeking debt relief from multilateral creditors. National efforts to expand available resources to support development have included exploring opportunities to domestically generate additional public resources, access funds through various development and climate adaptation financing facilities, and expand industrialisation and trade through participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). SADC plans to finance the RISDP 2020-2030⁷ include the creation of the Regional Development Fund (RDF). While it was proposed a decade ago, only nine member states have signed the agreement to operationalise the RDF, and none have deposited instruments of ratification or paid the initial subscription fee of US\$120 million.⁸

Recognising the importance of accountable financial management in advancing development, the SADC Parliamentary Forum (PF) adopted a Model Law on Public Financial Management (PFM) at its Plenary in July 2022. The model law, which provides guidance on ensuring financially transparent, accountable, and

efficient PFM frameworks, seeks to also empower parliaments to exercise adequate and timely oversight. Already some member states, such as Malawi and Zimbabwe, are in the process of revising legislation in line with its standards.

To ensure social accountability in the roll-out of the RISDP 2020-2030, people of the region must also be involved in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of associated national and local level initiatives. While the RISDP 2020-2030 highlights the importance of government partnerships with non-state actors (NSAs) to ensure the successful implementation of regional policies and programmes, there have historically been few formal opportunities for NSAs to inform or monitor SADC processes at either the national or regional levels. Multi-stakeholder SADC National Committees (SNCs), although required by the SADC Treaty, continue to be non-existent or non-functional in most member states. Recognition of this gap has, however, led to recent investment in the strengthening of SNCs in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia, among others. Additionally, at regional level, there are promising opportunities for increased accountability with the formation of a long-awaited Regional NSA Engagement Mechanism approved at the August 2022 SADC Council of Ministers. The operationalisation of the mechanism by the SADC Secretariat is underway, which is expected to include a NSA accreditation process, convening forum, and a liaison office. Other actions to increase accountability underway in SADC include improved monitoring and reporting systems for both regional strategies and protocols.

A Regional Dialogue for Non-State Actors (NSAs)

In June 2021, a collection of regional civil society organisations⁹ convened a virtual regional dialogue for non-state actors (NSAs) focused on the implementation of the RISDP, held under the theme of *Building Back Better - Ensuring Social Accountability*

4. Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods (2014); Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases (2001).

5. SADC. 2023 Milestone Scorecard. *Fast-tracking the Strategy for SRHR in the SADC Region*. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/sadc.srhr.scorecard2239/viz/SADCSRHRSCORECARD2023/2023English>

6. SADC & RESAKKS-ESA. 2021. *CAADP Third Biennial Review Brief SADC. Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard: Performance and Lessons*. <https://www.resakss.org/sites/default/files/2021%20CAADP%20Biennial%20Review%20Brief%20SADC.pdf>

7. Activists raise the alarm over lack of funds for SADC's regional development plan. Daily Maverick. 20 Sept 2022. <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2022-09-20-activists-raise-the-alarm-over-lack-of-funds-for-sadcs-regional-development-plan/>

8. SARDC. *SADC development fund key to unlocking integration, industrialization*. 18 August 2022. <https://www.sardc.net/en/southern-african-news-features/sadc-development-fund-key-to-unlocking-integration-industrialization/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Agreement%20signed,fee%20of%20US%241%20million.>

9. The co-conveners in 2022 included: Southern Africa Trust, Economic Justice Network (EJN) of the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA), Southern African People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN), Southern Africa Coordination Council (SATUCC), GenderLinks, Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), and the Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance (a consortium of ActionAid International (AAI), Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) of Rhodes University, Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) and SAfAIDS).

in *Southern Africa's Development*.¹⁰ The event raised awareness about the commitments contained in the RISDP and its draft Implementation Plan, and provided an opportunity for NSAs to exchange ideas and formulate recommendations towards ensuring a sustained recovery through the provision of resilient, accountable and gender-responsive public services.

In September 2022, the same regional civil society organisations convened a hybrid (in-person and virtual) dialogue. While maintaining a focus on the implementation of the RISDP, the second dialogue highlighted the importance of socially accountable public resource management in SADC's development, contributing to increased NSA consultation by SADC structures in participating countries, NSA input into the Regional NSA Engagement Mechanism operationalisation, and development of a SADC PF scorecard to assess alignment of legislation with the PFM Model Law.

Building on both the 2021 and 2022 events, an expanding group of co-conveners¹¹ will host the third RISDP NSA Dialogue from 13-14 September 2023, using the same hybrid (in-person and virtual) approach. Participants will revisit action plans and assess how SADC member states have worked toward strengthening accountability in the generation and management of public resources to ensure support for gender-responsive public services, as included in the RISDP. The dialogue will focus on identifying progress and challenges in the key social sectors of health, education, and agricultural sectors; assess regional actions supportive of women and young people; and interrogate the generation of resources for development through industrialisation and trade. This year's Dialogue will also explore how the region is responding to the growing impact of climate change on development in SADC. The regional meeting will consist of parallel regional and national dialogues to assess progress and provide recommendations on advancing the implementation of the RISDP's regional and national plans.

The Dialogue seeks to build on other regional events convened by NSAs in August and September 2023, including the Southern African Peoples' Summit, Africa Climate Week, and the International Conference on Transparency and Accountability.

Objectives

The overall objectives of the 2023 dialogue are to support and convene space for NSAs to:

- Assess regional and national progress in the implementation of the SADC RISDP 2020-2030, noting achievements and challenges, with a focus on the social sectors of health, agriculture, and education; cross-cutting issues of gender, youth, climate change; and role of industrialisation and trade in resourcing development.
- Develop recommendations to SADC and its member states to advance socially accountable public resource generation and management to facilitate realisation of the RISDP's goals, and ultimately, sustainable development in the region.
- Inform the strengthening of SADC-led NSA engagement mechanisms (SADC National Committees and the Regional NSA Engagement Mechanism) to ensure social accountability in the implementation of the RISDP.

Date & Venue:

13-14 September 2023 – parallel, integrated regional and national hybrid meetings in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa (regional).

Invited Participants

- Regional and national civil society organisations
- Regional and national smallholder farmers associations
- Regional and national private sector associations, including chambers of commerce
- Regional and national workers' organisations
- Regional and national level media outlets
- SADC Secretariat
- SADC National Contact Points and National Committees
- SADC Parliamentary Forum.

10. The final summary and recommendations are available here: <http://copsam.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/RISDP-NSA-Dialogue-Report-Final-16.07.2021.pdf>.

11. The co-conveners in 2023 include: Southern Africa Trust, Economic Justice Network (EJN) of the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA), Southern African People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN), Southern Africa Coordination Council (SATUCC), SADC Council of NGOs, Care International, Global Campaign for Education, and the Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance (a consortium of ActionAid International (AAI), Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) of Rhodes University, Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) and SAfAIDS), Trust Africa and SADC Youth Forum (SAYoF), Agenda 2063 Media Network.

Programme

DAY 1: 13th September

Morning:

- Highlights of communiqué and action plan from the Sept 2022 Regional RISDP NSA Dialogue – moving the agenda forward
- Keynote address – Socially accountable generation and management of finances for development in SADC
- Update on the implementation of the SADC RISDP 2020-2030
- SADC PF Transformation into the SADC Parliament & SADC PF Model Laws (PFM & GBV) - Moving from regional discussion to national actions
- Thematic Reflections on SADC RISDP Recommendations for 2023 – 2024 - Focus on social sectors of health, agriculture, and education; cross-cutting issues of gender, youth, climate change; and role of industrialisation and trade

Afternoon:

National Breakaway Meetings - Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

- National resourcing, implementation and monitoring of RISDP
- Review and updating national NSA action plans

Regional Breakaway Meeting

- SADC balance scorecard - monitoring and reporting plans, and role of NSAs
- Resourcing the RISDP
- Review and updating regional action plan for NSAs

Evening:

- Highway Africa & PSA Alliance Regional Media Awards on Social Accountability Reporting

DAY 2: 14th September

Morning:

- Report back from Day 1 breakaway sessions
- Operationalisation of the SADC Non-State Actors Engagement Mechanism
- SADC National Committees- Status and role in monitoring the RISDP

Afternoon:


- Reviewing and updating action plans and recommendations – National and Regional Breakaway sessions
- Presentation of communiqué
- Closure and Way Forward

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