His Excellency Lt. General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana and the Chairperson of Southern Development Community (SADC), convened a special workshop on Food Security and Poverty Eradication on May 16, 2016 in Gaborone Botswana.

The workshop was aimed at coming up with intervention that will be deployed to tackle the persistent regional Food insecurity and Poverty which challenges are a major threat to the socio-economic growth and stability of the region. The workshop emanated after reports and climate data suggest that the SADC region was currently experiencing its worst drought since 1992 and this was expected to further increase food deficit.

In his keynote statement during the gathering, the Chairperson underscored that given the severity of the drought which is looming in the SADC region, it was equally important for policy makers and implementers, and independent bodies and representatives of the civil society to take stock of the situation.

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The Executive Secretary of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), H.E. Dr. Stergomena L. Tax, paid a courtesy call on H.E. John Pombe John Magufuli, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Deputy Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation (Organ), on the 19 May 2016 in Dar es Salaam. Being the first official visit, since he was elected as the 5th President of the United Republic of Tanzania in October 2015, Dr. Tax congratulated President Magufuli for the successful and credible elections, and for his exemplary leadership since assuming Office.

Dr. Tax briefed President Magufuli on various economic, political and security issues prevailing in the SADC Region. In particular, the Executive Secretary explained the role of the Organ ensuring that the SADC Region remains politically stable and secure, and seized with developments in the region. She re-affirmed that the political situation in the Region was stable despite of few challenges being addressed ably by the Region.

President Magufuli, thanked Dr. Tax for the brief and assured her of Tanzania's unwavering commitment to SADC and regional integration in general. Tanzania as one of the SADC founding Member States remains committed to the objectives enshrined in the SADC Treaty; in particular, the promotion of sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development that ensures poverty alleviation with the ultimate objective of its eradication. "This is why my government has embraced the motto of 'Hapa Kazi tu', because without hard work and dedication our vision and that of SADC will remain statements", he said. President Magufuli emphasized that measures to sustain peace, security and political stability must go hand in hand with measures to enhance socio-economic development, He urged the Executive Secretary and SADC to put the adopted strategies into tangible actions in order to enhance the region's productive capacity and competitiveness, thus contributing to socio-economic growth for the benefits of SADC citizens.

President Magufuli will assume chairmanship of the SADC Organ in August this year.

SADC tackles poverty

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President Khama mentioned that according to the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Synthesis Reports, 40% of all SADC citizens were currently living in abject poverty therefore for this reason Poverty Eradication has become the overarching objective for the SADC Regional integration agenda.

Also in attendance was the SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax. In her welcome statement, Dr. Tax mentioned that according to the World Health Organisation statistics, poverty headcount of people living below the poverty line of $1.25 a day was at 43.6 percent in the region in 2012 and that the region has only realized a 2.6 per cent annual growth rate. Dr. Tax said that food security and poverty eradication measures and the growth of agriculture sector are also vulnerable to natural hazards such as droughts, cyclones and floods.

The one day workshop ended on high note and a number of issues and outcomes were drafted to aid Member States on drawing up interventions to mitigate these encounters. The workshop was attended by a broad-range of stakeholders, including Ministers of SADC Member States, representatives of Financial Institutions, International cooperating Partners, Farmers Organizations, Private Sector, Civil Societies and Government officials.
The consultative workshop on Aquaculture Environmental Management for the Southern Africa Region was organised by SADC Secretariat in partnership with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) with support from the European Union. The workshop was in Maputo, Mozambique from, 25th - 28th February, 2016.

The overall focus of this workshop was to embark upon the development of appropriate regional frameworks on environmental management for sustainable aquaculture development that shall provide the basis for sectoral policy and management. The specific objectives of this workshop therefore were to (i) inform and enable participants to apply the principles of ecosystems approach to aquaculture (EAA) at the sectoral level; (ii) identify key components to develop and implement appropriate mechanisms for specific regional and national environmental management of aquatic animal production systems; (iii) formulate draft regional frameworks for environmental management for commercial aquaculture development and zonation for Southern African region; and (iv) to validate the draft SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan that incorporates and promotes EAA approaches.

The meeting was attended by 10 SADC countries which include Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Also in attendance were participants from Comoros, FAO, Research and Academic Institutions in Southern Africa CSO’s and the Private Sector.

The meeting was officially opened by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries of the Government of Mozambique, Dr Narci Nuro de Premegi on behalf of the Minister of State for Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries, Honourable Agostinho Salvador Mondlane on the 25th February, 2016. Welcome messages and statements of support were also made by AU-IBAR, Mr. Obinna Anozie on behalf of the Director, Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhi, SADC, Dr. Motseki Hlatshwayo on behalf of the Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, and South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) and FAO represented by Mr. Aubrey Harris.

The opening session was followed by presentations on the continental Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture and the SADC Protocol on Fisheries. Status of aquaculture in Southern Africa was also discussed, based on the SWOT analysis which was made during the development of the draft SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan. Several other presentations setting the scene were made; outlining the nature of aquaculture in terms of resources use, inputs and outputs as well as impacts; status of natural resources and effects of climate change on prospects for aquaculture development in the Region; and Ecosystem approach to aquaculture and implications for planning sustainable aquaculture development. Private sector and researchers were also given a chance to share experiences on progressive environmental changes and effects on operations, production and returns.

AU-IBAR and SADC Secretariat also provided an overview of international and regional policies and regulations on environmental management for aquaculture. This was followed by presentation of national environmental management strategies and their status of implementation in the Southern African countries. There were also dedicated discussions on environmental impact assessment (EIA) in aquaculture, looking at its components and processes, including issues of site selection and estimation of carrying capacities. Through group discussions priority components to develop and implement appropriate mechanisms looking at ecosystem and bio-security and socio-economic issues were identified and will be used as framework for developing the regional guideline for aquaculture environmental management, which is also in line with the PFRS and SADC Protocol on Fisheries.

Following the extensive discussions and provision of inputs, the meeting validated draft SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan, and identified the development of a regional framework for environmental management for commercial aquaculture development and zonation in Southern Africa as one of the regional programmes to be implemented in the Region.
Kenya benchmarks on SADC agenda

Members of Parliament from Kenya and Tripartite Member/Partner States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) as well as Southern African Development Community (SADC) are in a quest to lobby African countries Governments to ensure that the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) comes into effect. The Members of Parliament from Kenya who form part of that task team paid a visit to the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana on the 12th May 2016.

During the four days visit, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with the SADC Secretariat Directorates. The purpose of the visit was to benchmark on issues of trade, financing, investment, infrastructure, food agriculture and as well as policy planning and resource mobilization. The visit was mainly aimed at exchanging views with the SADC Secretariat on overcoming common challenges of regional integration in the areas covered in the SADC agenda.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax met the delegation, and had the opportunity to share ideas and insights on issue of regional integration. Speaking at the event organised for the Kenya delegation, Dr. Lawrence Tax said the SADC Region was moving in the right direction on issues of developing partnerships, harmonisation of policies and strategies to accelerate regional integration and sustainable development. She mentioned that as part of the tripartite and African Union (AU) initiative, SADC was working towards achieving greater solidarity, political and economic independence. She noted that the tripartite initiative signifies the concerted efforts toward the African integration agenda.

It is anticipated that when the TFTA becomes operative, it will provide an expanded market of about 632 million people with a combined GDP of about USD1.3 trillion. Dr. Tax said that there are still major pending matters for the market to materialise and that Members of Parliaments such as the Kenyan delegation will assist in motivating and encouraging their Governments to ratify the statutory agreements and instruments. She added that SADC has aligned its programmes to the Tripartite Free Trade Area as well as to the African Agenda 2063. The leader of the Kenyan Parliamentary delegation and Member of Parliament, Honourable Christopher Murungi expressed his gratitude to the SADC Secretariat for the hospitality.

Aquaculture management workshop

The meeting was informed of the upcoming World Aquaculture Conference to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, 26-30 June 2017, under the theme “Sustainable Aquaculture—New Frontiers for Economic Growth”. More information is available on the following web link: http://ww- w.marevnt.com/2017WA_capetown/WA17RegBro8-4.pdf. The SADC Secretariat and FAO indicated that they will host a joint site event at this meeting and encouraged AU-IBAR to also consider doing the same. The meeting recommended that AU-IBAR in partnership with SADC Secretariat should ensure that the draft SADC Regional Aquaculture Environmental Management Framework is finalized for approval at the next SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries meeting to be supported by AU-IBAR proposed for June 2016 in Gaborone, Botswana. The meeting also recommended that a consultative workshop should be organized towards the development of a regional guideline for aquaculture best management practices and other outputs or products identified in the draft SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan that will enhance harmonization and ultimately domestication of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries.

Members recognized and commended both AU-IBAR and SADC Secretariat for the workshop, and encouraged better coordination of this kind of work continentally and regionally, in order to ensure that countries benefit fully from this kind of interventions and supported accordingly in order to ensure domestication of continental and regional instruments in respective Member States. AU-IBAR and SADC Secretariat thanked everyone for making time to participate in this important workshop, and also thanked development partners present, FAO and World Fish Center (WFC) for their continued support.
The SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax visited the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC) in Lusaka, Zambia on 26th May 2016.

In his welcoming remarks, the Head of SPGRC, Dr Paul Munyenyembe informed the Executive Secretary of the uniqueness of the 27 year old SPGRC as a regional gene bank in Africa, and explained achievements attained over the years which include conservation of about 45,000 seed samples, of which 18,000 are conserved at the SPGRC, and the remaining in SADC Member States; the establishment of a long-term storage facility; and the development a web-based documentation system where Plant Genetic Resources data can be exchanged instantly online. The Head of the SPGRC thanked SADC Member States and International Cooperating Partners for their continued support. Special recognition was given to the Government of Norway for the substantial support that facilitated the establishment and sustenance of the Centre.

In her response and address to the staff, the Executive Secretary expressed her pleasure visiting and interacting with SPGRC staff. She commended the Center for the achievements made over the years, and applauded the Centre for being at the forefront in coordinating the development and harmonization of plant genetic resources policies in the region. The Executive Secretary appreciated efforts made by the Centre and said she was confident that the genetic resources of SADC will continue to be conserved for many generations to come, and will continue to contribute to the region’s food and nutrition security, and environmental management efforts.

She urged the Centre to shift its focus from mere conservation to greater utilization of the conserved material as a contribution to food security in the region. She also urged the Centre to conceive innovative approaches to resource mobilization in order to sustain its activities, especially in the face of the declining budget as a result of financial challenges faced by Member States. For SPGRC to maintain its status as a regional centre of excellence in plant genetic resources conservation, the Executive Secretary urged the Management and staff to be up to date with the best technologies and practices that meet international standards in plant genetic resources conservation. She also urged the Management to take advantage of the ongoing review of SADC Secretariat structure so as to enable the Centre function more effectively.

In his remarks, the SPGRC Board Chairperson, Mr Godfrey Mwila thanked the Executive Secretary on behalf of the Board, Management and staff for finding time in her busy schedule, to visit the Centre. He welcomed the Executive Secretary’s commitment to drum up support for the Centre. He said that the Centre was very important for addressing some of the topical issues such as climate change and food and nutrition security. He therefore urged SADC Secretariat’s support for positioning SPGRC to play regional and global roles not only in conservation but also in sustainable utilization of germplasm materials. He also emphasized the need for expanding Gene bank space that will include construction of a biotechnology laboratory that will see the Centre using modern technologies to conserve vegetatively propagated materials, conducting more accurate characterization using molecular markers.

During her visit, the Executive Secretary held discussions with Technical Departments that include Ex-situ Conservation, In-situ conservation, and Documentation & Information. As part of the discussions, she was introduced to the regional Genebank and the field where germ plasm materials are multiplied and regenerated.

Directors of Water from SADC Member States had an experience of seeing the water, energy and food nexus in practice when they visited Mhlume Sugar Mill in Swaziland as part of their 27th Water Resources Technical Committee (WRTC) meeting excursion.

In this photo, an engineer at the sugar milling company explains to the Water Directors that the same water which is used to generate power in Maguga is used to irrigate the sugarcane crop that is milled at one of the country’s largest sugar refineries.
On the 12th May 2016, SADC Secretariat convened the 6th staff member’s general meeting to reflect and discuss pertinent matters concerning staff welfare and operational issues. The Secretariat’s staff is the driving force in the realization of the SADC Region in attaining integration agenda and cooperation. The meeting also focused on discussions on priority issues that the Secretariat was currently undertaking.

On top of the list of the agenda was the introduction new staff members, who had just joined the Secretariat. The new recruits were mainly those who joined in the first quarter of the year and were aptly welcomed and encouraged to help the organisation in advancing its skill-base and improve on business functions. The meeting also discussed in length staff ideas, suggestions and concerns and such issues involving medical aid services, housing, remuneration, code of conduct, security and training.

During the gathering, the new Staff Association Committee was presented and the committee will be tasked to act as representatives of staff members and will execute the role of liaison between the workforce and senior management. The Committee will also represent the ideas and views of their colleagues and undertake consultation processes in keeping both parties abreast with workplace matters.

The meeting was graced by the motivational speaker, Mr. Max Moyo who made an inspiring presentation to staff by encouraging them to excel in the work environment through discovering their identity, talents and purpose of their existence. In his presentation entitled, Create Your Horizon, he told staff that excellence never lies within the boxes drawn in the past and for them to be excellent they have to embrace change and find their own path in life. He also inspired staff members to stay disciplined, focused and to follow through on the right track as well as embracing their passion and pulling through together.

The Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax in her address to staff said that the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government has adopted two crucial strategic policy documents for SADC, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2015-2020), and the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063. She mentioned that these instruments provide a clear vision and trajectory for SADC’s future, while repositioning and reaffirming the role of the Secretariat in implementing its mandate.

She encouraged staff members to put the interests of the organization forward and align work activities more clearly and directly with the objective of SADC as outlined in the SADC Treaty. She also informed staff that Member States are concerned about the quality and relevance of the Secretariat’s work and that they should reposition the Secretariat to remain the key regional agency for the SADC community.

She further said that the Secretariat is in the process of undertaking a skill and competence review exercise to identify gaps and provide inputs and advice that will inform the recommendations. The Secretariat is keen towards delivering on its mandate and have an impact in the context of the SADC regional integration agenda. Dr. Lawrence Tax also mentioned that the Results Bases Monitoring and Evaluation and Performance Management Framework will not only gauge the performance of the SADC Secretariat, but will also align performance of the secretariat with Member States’ performance and contributions to regional integration.

In conclusion, she thanked staff for the achievements recorded during the first quarter of this year and encouraged employees to embrace team spirit in practice so as to reap the benefits of working more collectively towards achieving of the regional integration aspirations.

The secretariat has a staff compliment of over 300 members.
The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat has established a Team to coordinate a regional response to the impacts of the 2015/2016 El Niño phenomenon on livelihoods in close collaboration with Member States.

Eleven of the out of 15 SADC Member States are significantly affected by the El Niño-induced drought which is affecting the quality of lives especially for women, children and the elderly in the affected areas.

A SADC Regional Situation Update on El Niño-induced drought released by the Team in May 2016 reveals that four Member States, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe have already declared national drought emergencies. South Africa has declared a drought emergency in seven of the country’s nine provinces. Mozambique declared a 90 day institutional red alert for some southern and central areas.

The report further reveals that Member States are currently conducting their annual vulnerability assessments and results are expected in early June 2016. These results will provide the effect of drought on food and nutrition security and vulnerability situation as a whole.

The SADC Regional Situation Update on El Niño-Induced Drought can be accessed from this link: http://www.sadc.int/-files/1714/6347/5407/SADC_Regional_Situation_Update_1_El_nino_induced_Drought_as_at_15__May_2016_Circulation_FINAL.pdf

The SADC El Niño Logistics and Coordination Team comprises eight staff from the Secretariat and a total of 10 personnel from the UN Agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The Team has been established in response to a directive from the SADC Council of Ministers at their meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana on 15th March 2016.

The Team will analyse and communicate the regional extent of the impacts of El Niño and the financial and logistical requirements for an effective response; coordinate the systems and institutional requirements for an effective importation and distribution programme of food and non-food commodities in the SADC region to mitigate the impacts of the El Niño event of 2016. It will also perform monitoring and evaluation of the response to allow for effective decision making during and after the response; and based on lessons learnt during the response, make recommendations for future disasters.

The SADC, Chile to explore matters of mutual interest

The Ambassador of Chile in South Africa, H.E. Mr. Carlos Parker, paid a courtesy call on the SADC Secretariat Acting Executive Secretary in Gaborone, Botswana on 30th May 2016. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo, welcomed Mr. Parker to the SADC Secretariat on behalf of the Executive Secretary.

During the meeting, Mr. Parker expressed his willingness to establish close relationship with SADC through official accreditation; and to explore ways to enhance cooperation between SADC and the Government of Chile on matters of mutual interest. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration thanked Mr. Parker for visiting SADC, and conveyed the Secretariat’s interest in working closely with Chile, as well as the Secretariat’s readiness to facilitate the accreditation.

The Ambassador of Chile in South Africa, H.E. Mr. Carlos Parker, was accompanied by the Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Patricio Williams.
Following an invitation from United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the SADC Secretariat participated at the 1st World Humanitarian Summit that was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 23rd to 24th May, 2016. The Summit was an initiative of the UN Secretary-General and was organized by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).

The SADC delegation was led by the Executive Secretary. The main goal of the Summit was to re-inspire and reinvigorate a commitment to humanity and to the universality of humanitarian principles, initiate a set of concrete actions and commitments aimed at enabling countries and communities to better prepare for and respond to crises, and be resilient to shocks; and to share best practices which can help save lives around the world and put affected people at the centre of humanitarian action, and alleviate suffering.

The World Humanitarian Summit builds on several years of preparation, including consultations with more than 23,000 people in 153 countries. Among notable background documents and inputs for the Summit include a Synthesis Report summarizing the findings of the consultations and a report by Secretary-General titled “One Humanity, Shared Responsibility” that was based on the findings of the consultation process. In the report, the Secretary-General noted five core responsibilities to improve humanitarian action - Prevent and end conflict; Uphold the norms that safeguard humanity; Leave no one behind; Work differently to end need; and Invest in humanity.

Given the rising numbers of people requiring humanitarian assistance, the UN Secretary General felt the need to start a dialogue on how to make humanitarian assistance interventions more effective and efficient. World leaders were expected to participate in the Summit and announce the actions they will take to end the suffering of millions of women, men and children affected by armed conflicts and disasters.

The Summit was thus called to: reaffirm commitment to humanity and humanitarian principles; initiate actions and commitments which enable countries and communities to prepare for and respond to crises and be more resilient to shocks; and share best practices which help save lives around the world, placing affected people at the centre of humanitarian action and alleviating suffering.

The Summit came at a time when the SADC region is facing one of the worst El Nino-induced droughts in 30 years, which has resulted in widespread crop failures and thousands of livestock deaths, and rendered more than 30 million people food insecure. The SADC Council of Ministers consequently mandated the Secretariat to coordinate a regional humanitarian response to deal with the emergency.

SADC’s participation at the Summit was intended to allow officers from the Secretariat to exchange experiences with humanitarian actors from other regional economic communities and the world at large on implementations of humanitarian interventions aimed at reducing suffering for those affected by disasters and raise awareness on the plight of the citizens of the region affected by the 2015/2016 drought.

The Summit featured high-level roundtable discussions, special sessions, side events and exhibitions. With an attendance of more than 8000 delegates, the Summit helped put humanitarian issues higher on the agenda in the politics, business and society at large.

During the Summit, the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Tax, participated in the “Zero Hunger by 2030” side event, convened by the United Nations World Food Programme, and Food and Agriculture Organisation, to engage stakeholders in a conversation about how to end world hunger in 15 years. The event was moderated by Ms Femi Oke of Al Jazeera News Network. It featured a number of high-profile delegates including the President of Ireland, H.E. Michael D. Higgins, Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organisation and Ms Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, World Food Programme. Dr Tax gave her views on how to make progress in interventions aimed at reduced poverty and hunger.
The speakers outlined the commitments they are making at the summit to advance the Secretary General’s Agenda for Humanity; the transformations, strategic collaborations and resources needed to achieve Zero Hunger and other SDGs by 2030; and the obstacles that must be overcome. The ES, in her intervention, stated that there are a lot of initiatives but we must prioritise on the ones that will have the most impact. She urged for concerted efforts by all stakeholders towards addressing the current humanitarian issues.

"Policies and strategies alone are not likely to make us move away from poverty and hunger, we need to act jointly and swiftly if our goal of Zero Hunger by 2030 is to be realised", she said. The President of Ireland, in his part, believes that a lot rests on political commitment to end the various conflicts that are rendering a lot of people across the world vulnerable. Peace would allow communities to go beyond survival and thrive.

The most concrete outcome of the Summit was on the aspect of efficiency of aid financing. Thirty (30) of the biggest donors and aid agencies signed a so-called “Grand Bargain” to make aid more flexible, efficient, transparent and effective, including harmonising time-consuming donor proposals and reporting, reducing overhead costs, introducing collective needs assessments, and earmarking less funding to specific projects. A shift towards greater use of cash transfers as aid was generally endorsed, but specific targets were limited to individual pledges rather than collective agreement, and more so among NGOs than governments, though the United Kingdom and Italy were notable exceptions. For example, World Vision and the International Rescue Committee pledged that half and one quarter of their programs, respectively, would be in the form of cash by 2020, well above the current sector average of six percent. Some donors also began announcing multi-year humanitarian grants for the first time, and agreed to raise the ceiling of the Central Emergency Response Fund, which allows UN agencies to respond faster and more flexibly, from $500 million to $1 billion.

With a funding gap estimated at around $15 billion in responding to crises, the Summit emphasised the need for innovative approaches to financing. Several initiatives were announced, including a humanitarian impact bond, in which private investors make an initial investment into a humanitarian response programme and are reimbursed (with a profit) by traditional donors only if certain outputs are met; an autonomous, global Islamic endowment fund for humanitarian needs; and a private-sector led initiative to increase risk financing in the most vulnerable countries, backed by a fund to help pay the premiums.

In order to ensure that aid is locally-driven, the Summit agreed to direct 25 percent of Grand Bargain humanitarian funding as directly as possible to local and national agencies. The summit also saw the long-awaited launch of NEAR, a network aiming to “reshape the top-down humanitarian and development system to one that is locally driven and owned, and is built around equitable, dignified and accountable partnerships”. Twenty-seven international NGOs also signed the new Charter4Change, committing to passing 20 percent of their funding to national NGOs by 2018 as well as addressing the negative impact of recruiting local staff into international NGOs, which drains local organisations of their capacity. The Summit, emphasising that education is a humanitarian priority, launched the “Education Cannot Wait fund” after years of lobbying, a demonstration that education is just as important as food and shelter in a crisis. People with disabilities were given due attention at the Summit. Around 100 governments, aid agencies and others key players signed on to a Charter, committing not to discriminate against people with disabilities in humanitarian action, to better meet their needs, and to include them in the design of relief programmes.

The Summit made a strong recommendation for investment in prevention and risk mitigation, noting that investing in disaster preparedness for crises would save resources in instead of responding to them. It was highlighted that in order to strengthen preparedness, the UN would focus on improving its risk analysis. The Summit provided an opportunity to discuss the role of regional inter-governmental organisations, which had long complained that, despite being well-positioned to respond to crises in their regions faster and in a more culturally sensitive way, they do not have enough of a place at the humanitarian decision-making table. The Summit resulted in the formation of a Regional Organisations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN), with the objective to formalise the role of regional organisations in the international humanitarian architecture.

The Summit deliberated on the need for the humanitarian sector to better respond to conflicts, noting that humanitarian sector’s organisational set-up, financing and approaches, largely built in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami are tailored for responding to natural disasters while about 80 percent of humanitarian response takes place against a backdrop of protracted conflict. Conflicts in the Middle East, including the Syrian war, and the resulting refugee crisis have forced the realisation that protracted conflicts should be at the core of humanitarian work. The Summit resolved that the system must be reformed to ensure that it can respond to protracted crises in a more coherent and systemic way. UN Secretary General said in his closing remarks “Together, we will put people first, secure their safety, uphold their dignity and give them a chance of a better future.” The commitments and the recommendations have been made, now is the time to act.
Regional integration boosts industrial development

The French Head of Regional Economic Service for Southern Africa, based at the Embassy of France in Pretoria, South Africa, Mr. Serge Boscher, paid a courtesy call on the SADC Secretariat Acting Executive Secretary in Gaborone, Botswana on 23rd May 2016. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo, welcomed Mr. Serge Boscher to the SADC Secretariat on behalf of the Executive Secretary, and exchanged notes on SADC’s long term strategies for development and Regional Integration.

During the meeting, Dr. Mhlongo explained that SADC has just undergone a review and revision of its Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (the revised RISDP 2015-2020), which main priorities are: Priority A – Industrial Development and Market Integration; Priority B – Infrastructure in support of regional integration; Priority C – Peace and security cooperation; and Priority D – Special programmes of regional dimension, which, among other issues, include Natural Resources and Food Security. He indicated also that SADC has prioritized Industrialization as guided by the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015 – 2063) adopted by the Summit in August 2015, and which is aligned with the Agenda 2063.

Mr. Boscher reaffirmed the importance of Industrialization as a pillar for Regional Integration, as well as Infrastructure to facilitate and support the processes. In this regard, he expressed his willingness to encourage French Institutions, such as the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement - AFD), to engage closely with SADC in view of supporting these strategies. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration thanked Mr. Serge Boscher for visiting SADC, and appreciated the continued cooperation to the SADC Secretariat. He conveyed the Secretariat’s readiness to continued cooperation with the Government of France, in order to accelerate Regional Integration in Southern Africa.

SADC to observe elections in Zambia

Lusaka, Zambia: On 26 May 2016, the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, paid a courtesy call on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia.

The Executive Secretary met Ambassador Chalwe Lombe, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials from the Ministry. Dr Tax confirmed receipt of an invitation from the Government of the Republic of Zambia to observe the country’s upcoming Tripartite Elections (Presidential, Parliamentary and Local) which will be held on 11 August 2016.

The Executive Secretary also briefed Ambassador Lombe on the current Pre-election activities SADC is undertaking in preparation for the constitution and deployment of the SADC Election Observation Mission (SEOM) to Zambia. These activities include the Pre-election SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) Goodwill Mission to Zambia scheduled to take place from 5 to 12 June 2016. The objective of the Mission is to engage electoral stakeholders in order to assess the level of preparedness and readiness of the country to hold the said elections.

In addition, the SEAC members will also assess the broader socio-political and security environment to determine its conduciveness towards holding of credible elections in conformity with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. Additionally, the Executive Secretary also advised that the SEOM is expected to be launched on 30 July, 2016 in Lusaka, Zambia.

Ambassador Lombe thanked Dr Tax for the brief and assured Government of Zambia's commitment to upholding democratic practices and ensuring adherence to the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections during the forthcoming elections.

The Ambassador also presented Dr Tax with the country's new Constitution and noted that among other aspects, it will help to enhance national democratic institutions and values that benefit the country and its citizens.
The consultative workshop for the East Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region and the 4th Meeting of the SADC Task Force on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing was held on the 09-11, May, 2016 at the Hotel Cardoso in Maputo in the Republic of Mozambique.

The meeting was organized by SADC Secretariat in collaboration with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Secretariat, and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique with the support from the European Union (EU), the World Bank (WB) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The overall objective of the meeting was to develop a regional and sub-regional collaborative mechanism for effective management of shared fisheries resources in the EA-SA-IO region and to validate the draft Charter for the establishment of the Regional Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCS) in Southern Africa.

The meeting was attended by government representatives from 12 SADC Member States and other countries in Eastern Southern Africa, viz. Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Djibouti, DR Congo, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Also in attendance were officials from the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), European Union (EU), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA), East Africa Community/Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (EAC/LVFO), Nile Basin Initiative/Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NBI/NELSAP), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF), South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), The World Bank, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), together with consultants and representative from the Interpol Regional Bureau of Harare.

The meeting was officially opened by Dr. Narci Nuro de Premegi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries in Mozambique. He reiterated the commitment of the Government of Mozambique in supporting the initiative of combating IUU through a collective and regional approach. He commended SADC and IOC for providing leadership in the regions and the AU-IBAR for the continental leadership.

The opening session was followed by presentations from partners in the EA-SA-IO region sharing lessons and experiences on regional fisheries projects and interventions being implemented. There were several interventions from the participants, which enriched the reports. Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe, Project Officer at AU-IBAR made a presentation on African Union Strategy for Monitoring, Control & Surveillance (MCS) system to combat Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in Africa and he pointed out that strengthening MCS to curb IUU fishing is of high priority to AU-IBAR fisheries governance work.

This was followed by group working session where participants identified priority actions at both national and regional levels on the five thematic areas of: regional cooperation/collaboration framework; capacity building; improvement of legal frameworks; funding mobilization; and knowledge of fisheries resources and information sharing systems. The final session was the discussion of the draft Charter for the establishment of the Regional Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre in Southern Africa.

The key outcomes from the meeting were the validation the draft Charter for the establishment of the MCS Coordination Centre in Southern Africa together with the roadmap for its operationalization. A roadmap/framework for regional cooperation on MCS for the EA-SA-IO region was agreed upon and priority areas for regional cooperation on MCS were developed. Also, key priority areas to inform the formulation of the 11th EDF on fisheries were agreed upon and IOC, IGAD, EAC, COMESA, SADC, in collaboration with AU-IBAR would establish a Task Team that will work closely with EU Delegation in Mauritius to draft a comprehensive fisheries programme in EA-SA-IO region for funding consideration under the 11th EDF cross-regional envelope.
The SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, met the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), H.E. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina, on 26 May 2016 at Mulungushi Conference Centre in Lusaka, Zambia in the margins of the 2016 AfDB Annual meetings. The objective of the meeting was to follow-up on the meeting between the SADC Ministers of Finance and the AfDB President held in October 2015 in Lima, Peru; and to discuss cooperation and collaboration between the AfDB and SADC in the implementation of the SADC Regional priorities.

The meeting noted that the AfDB High 5 initiatives are in line with the SADC Regional priorities as outlined in the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020. It was agreed that cooperation between SADC and the AfDB would be on a programmatic approach, focusing on industrialization as the Region’s major priority, anchored on the 3 SADC Industrialization pillars of (1) revitalizing regional integration, (2) enhancing competitiveness, and (3) fostering industrialization.

Specific attention would be given to projects that will address binding constraints, notably in infrastructure (energy, ICT, transportation, water); and in areas that will enhance competitiveness and facilitate industrialization; specifically in agro-processing and downstream processing, mineral beneficiation, and in national, regional and global value chains.

Programmer to be supported will be in line with the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2065, and SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Masterplan (RIDMP).

The President of the AfDB re-affirmed the Bank’s commitment to fast track the operationalization of the INGA power project as part of AfDB power Africa initiative, and a SADC project under the SADC RIDMP. To this effect, immediate measures to be taken. The meeting further noted the devastating effects of climate change, noting that some of the SADC countries are affected by severe drought and El Nino conditions, thus are at risk of food insecurity. To this effect, SADC appreciated the Bank’s announcement to provide financing of $549 million to support African countries to address the adverse effects of droughts and reduce vulnerability. Both parties agreed to solicit additional funds to address climate change impacts.

The meeting between Dr. Tax and Dr. Adesina was preceded by a technical meeting between SADC Secretariat, the AfDB Executive Directors (SADC Constituency) and AfDB Senior staff held on Monday, 23 May 2016 in Lusaka, Zambia. SADC Technical Team was led by Mr. R. Makumbe, Director of Infrastructure and Services. The Bank’s 10 year Strategy for Regional Integration offers an hour opportunity to identify and support programmes aligned to the SADC Regions priorities.
The history of South Africa starts more than 100,000 years ago, when the first humans inhabited the region. Much of this history, is characterized by clashes of culture, violent territorial disputes between European settlers and indigenous people.

The discoveries of diamonds and gold in the 19th century had a profound effect on the fortunes of the country. The discoveries also led to new conflicts culminating between the Boer settlers and imperial Britain, fought essentially for control over mining industry. Following the defeat of the Boers in the Anglo-Boer or South African War (1899–1902), the Union of South Africa was created as a dominion of the British Empire. The country became a self-governing nation state within the British Empire in 1934. The dominion came to an end in 1961. From 1948 to 1994, South African politics were dominated by Afrikaner nationalism centered around racial segregation and white minority rule known officially as apartheid. In 1994, after decades of armed struggle and international opposition to apartheid, during which military and political support was provided primarily by the Soviet Union to the non-racial African National Congress (ANC), the ANC achieved victory in the country's first democratic election. Since then the ANC has dominated the politics of the country in an uneasy alliance with the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions. South Africa, on the continent’s southern tip, is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the west and by the Indian Ocean on the south and east. South Africa is one of the most diverse and interesting countries in the world. Tourists flock to South Africa for its natural beauty, wildlife and sunshine. South Africa's immensely varied terrain supports a rich diversity of animals, birds, and plant-life and offers an incomparable range of experiences. Nature has worked a special magic on the South African landscape.

The Seychelles consist of an archipelago of about 100 islands in the Indian Ocean northeast of Madagascar. The Seychelles were uninhabited when the British East India Company arrived on the archipelago in 1609. Thereafter, they became a favorite pirate haven. The French claimed the islands in 1756 and administered them as part of the colony of Mauritius. The British gained control of the islands through the Treaty of Paris (1814) and changed the islands’ name from the French Séchelles to the Anglicized Seychelles.

The islands became self-governing in 1975 and independent on June 29, 1976. They have remained a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. Their first president, James Mancham, was overthrown in 1977 by the prime minister, France-Albert René. At first René created a Socialist state with a one-party system, but later he reintroduced a multiparty system as well as various reforms. While the islands spent years under European rule, the population was mainly of African origin, with immigration also from sub-continental Asia, Madagascar and other island nations of the Indian Ocean. The result is a creole culture which mixes the best bits from a global range of influences that have somehow combined on the archipelago. There are some, steeping and granite-based, which rise dramatically out of the sea and afford spectacular views to the energetic traveller willing to forego a day on the sun lounger, while the coral islands are largely for observers of wildlife and flora.