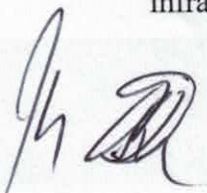


JOINT COMMUNIQUE
EU – SADC POLITICAL DIALOGUE MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL
Luxembourg, 27 October 2015

1. The 2015 political dialogue meeting at ministerial level between Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the European Union (EU), in the framework of the Berlin Initiative that was launched in 1994, was held in Luxembourg on 27 October 2015, under the co-chairing of H.E, Mr. J. Asselborn, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Duchy of Luxembourg, on behalf of H.E., F. Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Hon Mr Kenneth Matambo, Botswana Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Chair of the SADC Council of Ministers. Also in attendance was Hon. Mrs Nyeleti Mondlane, Mozambique Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Chairperson of the Ministerial committee of the SADC Organ on Politics Defence and Security, and H.E., Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC.
2. The Parties reiterated their commitment to an enhanced political dialogue and cooperation within their partnership and focused discussions on how to use and develop the full potential of this Partnership in its key areas of cooperation: first, to generate investment, jobs and sustainable and equitable economic growth; second, to promote stability, peace and security; and third to cooperate more effectively on global challenges, such as climate change and migration.
3. The Parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to achieve consolidated, sustainable and inclusive growth to create jobs contributing in this way to peace and prosperity. In this context, the Parties recognized that non-state actors such a private sector and civil society are important partners.
4. The Ministers discussed the political and economic situation in SADC and in Europe. SADC was praised for its focus on industrialisation and infrastructure development as key pillars to sustainable growth and development and for continued stability and economic growth and its active political and economic role on the African continent. Parties agreed this offers scope for an enhanced and distinct engagement which would be more reciprocal and as it is built on shared and mutual interests. SADC appreciated the continued support by the EU.

Developing the potential of our Partnership

5. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the continued dynamism of the EU-SADC bi-regional relations and the good progress on the regional economic integration cooperation programme. Furthermore, they welcomed the development of enhanced cooperation in areas of mutual interest such as trade, industrialisation, agriculture and infrastructure.



6. The Parties agreed to continue developing their political and policy dialogue and to strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest. They agreed on a number of meeting points over 2016 to seek progress in areas of convergence.

Generating investment, jobs and economic growth

7. The Parties reiterated their shared objective of **generating investment, jobs and sustainable and inclusive economic growth**. The Parties noted how the EU pursues structural reforms aimed at restoring investment levels to overcome the economic challenges and kick-start jobs and growth. It was noted that SADC is following a similar avenue, inter alia, via the SADC's RISDP and its associated Industrialization and Agricultural policies. EU reaffirmed its commitment to support the implementation of SADC policies and priorities as reflected in the recently adopted EU – SADC regional indicative programme signed in June 2015.
8. The parties acknowledge the importance of continuing the dialogue between the SADC region, the European Investment Bank, other European and SADC Financial Institutions regarding the consolidation of an efficient infrastructure network in Southern Africa in order to support economic growth. The SADC Secretariat will organise a conference of all stakeholders in 2016 in order to ensure that the obstacles for developing and funding the main regional infrastructure priorities are efficiently addressed.

EU-SADC EPA: preparing for implementation

9. Turning to trade and investment matters, the Parties acknowledged that in different configurations eleven member states of the SADC out of fifteen are now committed to an EPA with the European Union. Regarding the EU-SADC EPA, while full priority is given to the finalisation of the adoption process, Parties agreed to ensure that preparations for the implementation phase are started in good time.
10. They affirmed that the full development dimension of EPA will only be achieved if the new trade opportunities created by EPA lead to more sustainable and inclusive investment, hence more growth and jobs.
11. The Parties discussed ways and means to streamline cooperation towards a development-focussed implementation of the EPAs, consistent with SADC regional integration agenda. A clear option is to contribute to national economic growth strategies in each of the SADC countries through national EPA implementation plans. These plans would identify priorities to be funded through the broad range of EU development cooperation instruments at national, regional, thematic and all-ACP levels, including those managed by the European Investment Bank.



12. It was agreed to engage in further dialogues in the first half of 2016 on this topic, taking into account the state of play of the EPA processes and progress made, as well as implementation issues of common interest between different configurations.
13. The Parties welcomed the signature of the 11th EDF Regional Indicative Programme, amounting to EUR 1.332 billion for the EA-SA-IO region for the period 2014-2020 as a tangible commitment of the EU to support regional integration in the SADC region. This allocation is intended to cover economic integration and trade support, sectoral policies peace, safety and security programmes and projects at the regional level in support of the priority areas of EU assistance.

Economic governance and involvement of the private sector

14. Both Parties reaffirmed the need to consolidate efforts in supporting frameworks for better economic governance, which will address aspects related to domestic revenues, prevention of financial leakages and contributing to better wealth distribution.
15. The Parties stressed the importance of facilitating and promoting trade and investment, notably foreign investment, for inclusive growth and sustainable development, hence job creation. They will strengthen domestic enabling environments and implement sound domestic policies and reforms. They agreed to pursue joint initiatives strengthening involvement of private sector and contacts between business communities with a view to promoting trade, investment and innovation. In this context, the Parties welcomed the SADC business forum that was held in Brussels in September 2015.

Promoting stability, peace and security

16. Both Parties reiterated their commitment to continue building trust and fostering cooperation in addressing continental challenges to peace and security which are vital for economic stability and growth.
17. The Parties recognized ongoing support and agreed to reinforce their partnership for promoting peace and security, including support to Member States facing political challenges, such as the Kingdom of Lesotho, DRC and Madagascar. The Parties confirmed their willingness to have exploratory talks and exchanges of experiences in areas to be mutually agreed (such as election observation, border control and cross border crime), so as to efficiently mobilize funds from the new Regional Indicative Programme for supporting SADC's agenda on peace and security.
18. SADC welcomes the resumption of development support which came after the lapsing of Article 96 sanctions on Zimbabwe on the 1st of November 2014. They called for the complete and unconditional removal of all remaining sanctions on Zimbabwe.

19. The parties acknowledged the opportunity, under the 11th EDF Regional Indicative Programme, cross-regional initiative on migration, and the implementation of the EPAs, of rapidly mobilising funds available for the region to address the challenges raised by migration and to better take advantage of the development opportunities provided by it.
20. The parties agreed on the importance of generating sound data and research and of monitoring migration flows and recognized the importance of tackling the root causes of irregular migration.

Deepening collaboration on global challenges

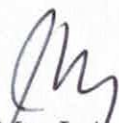
21. The Ministers exchanged views on global challenges and agreed to continue the dialogue and cooperation on regional and international matters, notably migration and climate change.
22. The Parties recognized that migration is a global challenge that requires a global response and underlined the importance of working together as partners to address cross border and migration issues in a comprehensive manner. This includes effective and sustainable management of migration flows, gender violence, fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling, remittances and capitalizing on its migration's development potential.
23. The Parties understand that their regions share similar problems as destinations for various migration flows. In this respect, challenges generated by migration along the "Southern Corridor" to Southern Africa are similar to those created by the "Northern corridor" aimed at Europe, and both flows originate partly from the same area, the Horn of Africa. SADC took note that the Africa-EU Valletta Summit on Migration will take place on 11 – 12 November. The Parties agreed to meet on the topic of Migration after the Valetta Summit, early in 2016, in order to exchange experience on how both regions and its Member States are addressing these challenges.
24. The Parties noted the challenge, in terms of potential loss and damage, resulting from the adverse effects of climate change in the SADC region and committed themselves to strengthen collaboration in this area. This should go beyond providing necessary adaptation and mitigation support and exchange of expertise and also include support for the implementation of a universal, ambitious, legally-binding agreement on climate change at the UN Climate Change conference that will be held in Paris in December 2015.
25. As promoting sustainable development is at the heart of the European and SADC agenda, both Parties are committed to deepen collaboration on pursuing a long-term policy agenda in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand and are mutually reinforcing. The adoption of the "2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development" is a good opportunity for both Parties to take their respective policies further.

26. Both sides recognized the need to implement the 2030 Agenda in an inclusive, participatory and transparent manner, involving not only countries but also the private sector, civil society, academia and others. This is crucial to monitor progress, and ensure the credibility of our commitments and accountability to our citizens.

Ministerial and SOM next Meetings

27. The parties agreed that the next Ministerial meeting will take place in the SADC region, possibly in the second half of 2017.
28. In the course of first half of 2016, the parties will convene thematic meeting points on mutually agreed areas such as EPA Implementation Plans, industrialization, infrastructure, jobs and wealth creation, economic governance, migration, food security, and stability, peace and security.
29. The next Senior Officials meeting will take place in Europe in the Autumn of 2016, inter alia, to take stock of the progress made with the sectorial meetings and direct further collaboration towards the 2017 Ministerial meeting.



H.E, Mr. J. Asselborn
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Duchy of Luxembourg



Hon Mr Kenneth Matambo
Minister for Finance and Development
planning of Botswana, Chair of the SADC
Council of Ministers

Date:

Date: 27 October, 2015