

SADC
PEOPLE'S SUMMIT
2020



We Demand a people centred post-COVID response and recovery plan

Declaration of the SADC PEOPLE'S SUMMIT,
(Convened virtually by the Southern Africa People's Solidarity
Network. Hosted by the Mozambique Civil Society Alliance)

**18 – 21
AUGUST 2020**

DECLARATION

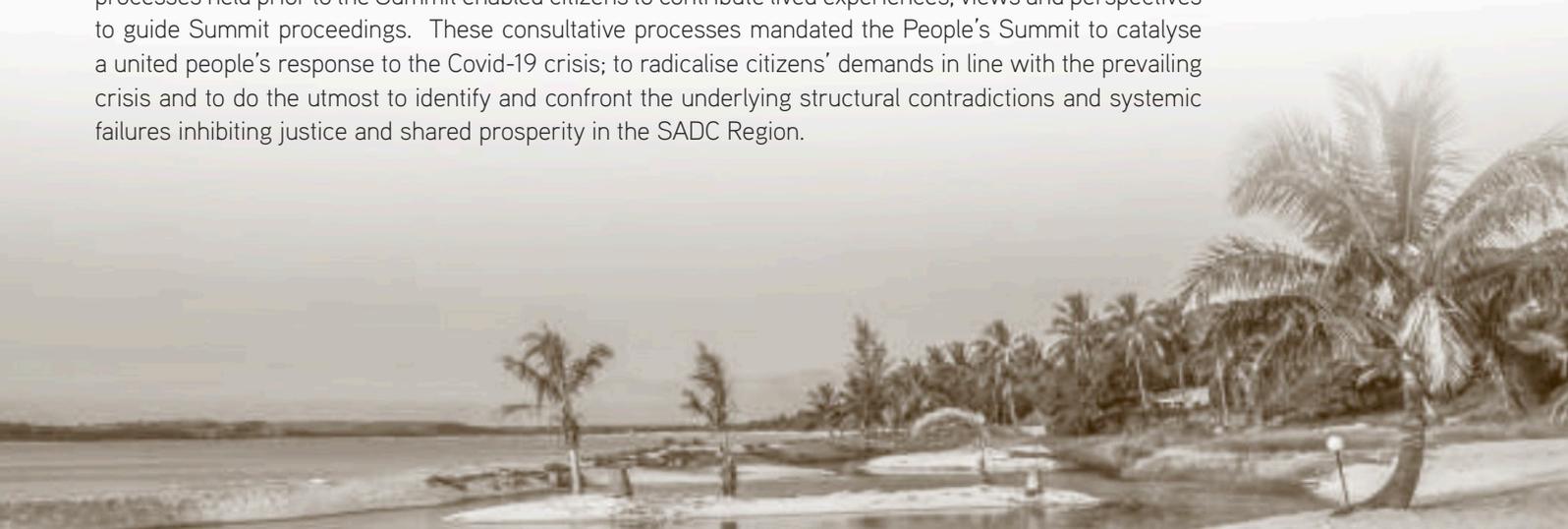


This Declaration summarises the shared consensus, critical demands and commitments on issues of our concern as deliberated during the 2020 edition of the SADC Peoples' Summit, - an annual regional gathering of articulated social movements and progressive groups in the Southern African Region, held on virtual platforms from the 18th – 21st of August 2020, under the theme **SADC @40: Towards a People Centred Post Covid Recovery Plan.**

01

SADC PEOPLE' SUMMIT, A PEOPLE'S PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL SOLIDARITY AND COLLECTIVE ACTION

The Southern African People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN) met virtually over three days to critically reflect on the prevailing situation in the SADC region and build consensus around a people driven programme of action to resolve key challenges affecting the people of the Region. National and thematic consultative processes held prior to the Summit enabled citizens to contribute lived experiences, views and perspectives to guide Summit proceedings. These consultative processes mandated the People's Summit to catalyse a united people's response to the Covid-19 crisis; to radicalise citizens' demands in line with the prevailing crisis and to do the utmost to identify and confront the underlying structural contradictions and systemic failures inhibiting justice and shared prosperity in the SADC Region.





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02

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY, NEOLIBERALISM, MILITARISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE ARE FUELLING HUMAN SUFFERING AND INSTABILITY IN OUR REGION.

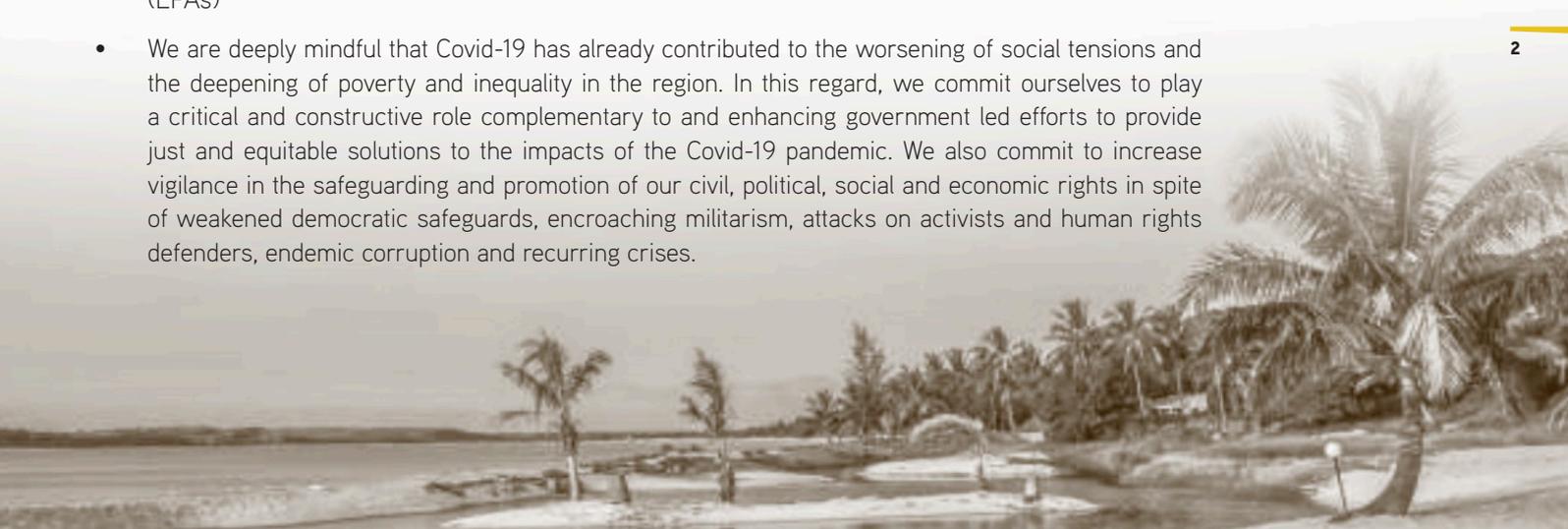
- i. Increasing poverty and inequality in the region is man-made, unnecessary and preventable insofar as it is the inevitable result of a flawed socio-economic system of development and capital accumulation that depends on the systemic exploitation of women, workers and nature.
- ii. The unaccountable power, benefits, access and influence that our leaders give to vested interests, foreign and domestic lenders, investors and donors undermine democracy, enable the exploitation of our people and aid the plundering of our resources. It is time for the people to organise themselves to ensure that economic and political elites play by the rules imposed by our constitutional orders, pay taxes and do not undermine our government's ability to sustainably mobilise resources to meet our needs.
- iii. Conflicts and militarism are increasing in the region. The unaccountable presence of military personnel on our streets, state bureaucratic functions and economic spheres is a growing threat to the enjoyment of democratic rights and fundamental freedoms. Likewise, the failure to resolve latent conflicts, facilitate equitable resource sharing and protect citizens' rights is a major driver of preponderant resource-based conflicts in the Southern Africa region.
- iv. The region is daily confronted by the reality of climate induced shocks and stressors including back to back cyclones, severe droughts, heatwaves and flash floods have regularly afflict the Southern Africa region. Yet the vast majority of the region's people lack both the information or resources to build the resilience required to survive the deepening impacts of climate change. Addressing climate change in an urgent, just and equitable manner must therefore be at the core of SADC post-Covid response and recovery plans.

03

WE OBSERVE A REGION UNDER-PREPARED TO ADDRESS THE IMPACTS OF COVID 19.

Our leaders have squandered the policy space and resources necessary to mount the kind of ambitious, redistributive and transformational policy responses necessary to reverse the negative impacts to the Covid-19 pandemic crisis on people's lives and livelihoods. Almost all SADC countries are failing to raise stimulus packages of at least 5% of GDP in order to facilitate economic recovery and meet increased demands for public goods and services. Many citizens feel let down.

- In this emergency life and death context of the Covid-19 we urge a critical reconsideration of the terms of trade and investment agreements that stand in the way of the provision of relief funds and the local production of vital health equipment, medicines and other inputs necessary to address the pandemic. SADC countries must collectively negotiate for reprieve from Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) embedded in various trade regimes such as in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)
- We are deeply mindful that Covid-19 has already contributed to the worsening of social tensions and the deepening of poverty and inequality in the region. In this regard, we commit ourselves to play a critical and constructive role complementary to and enhancing government led efforts to provide just and equitable solutions to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. We also commit to increase vigilance in the safeguarding and promotion of our civil, political, social and economic rights in spite of weakened democratic safeguards, encroaching militarism, attacks on activists and human rights defenders, endemic corruption and recurring crises.





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04

WE ARE MINDFUL THAT COVID-19 IS NOT THE ONLY MAJOR CRISIS AFFECTING THE REGION TODAY

The region is in the midst of a climate change crisis. Our leadership continues to use the neo-liberal logic to justify their plunder, as can be seen in their insistence on the imposition of austerity measures, deregulating our economies, privatising our public goods and services, leaving the region's citizens at the mercy of predatory, rentier and jobless economic systems. At least 5 countries in Southern Africa are either in high risk of debt distress or are already in debt distress. The average economic growth rate for the region continues to fall as the Covid-19 crisis prolongs. A violent insurgency in Northern Mozambique and armed conflict in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo continues to kill, torture and displace our brothers and sisters, children and elderly. Democratic reversals and declining human rights conditions in some countries threaten peace and stability. Endemic and epidemic diseases including cholera, typhoid and malaria continue to recur in many countries in the region. These unresolved aspects of regional crisis are magnified by the Covid 19 pandemic in complex and unforeseen ways. They present an opportunity for regional leaders to steer SADC back to its original vision to ensure 'economic well-being, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice and peace and security for the people of Southern Africa.'

05

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SADC.

As we celebrate the numerous contributions of SADC to the region's growth and development, we would like to remind our leaders that the prevailing reality of under-resourced, uncoordinated and inward-looking national responses by SADC nations goes against the founding principles and vision of SADC. Regional cooperation and integration remain critical to address the complex and escalating challenges transcending national boundaries and as more and more countries. In our view only a people centred SADC can deliver on the promise of a people centred Post-Covid recovery plan. We therefore call for the deepening and broadening of democratisation of SADC through:

- The approval and operationalization of the SADC Institutional Mechanism for Engagement with Non-State Actors (NSAs) and the revitalization SADC National Committees whose mandate is to facilitate the interface between regional integration processes and national stakeholders.
- The enhancement of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a representative regional legislative body to democratically preside of over regional interventions to address shared problems.
- The institutionalization of an inclusive tracking and monitoring system to enable SADC leaders' accountability to citizens for the implementation of SADC's own protocols and normative frameworks. In addition, the monitoring system must facilitate the acceleration of program implementation and have measures in place to address gaps in implementation of regional protocols and normative frameworks.

06

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE.

We call upon all peace-loving citizens of Southern Africa to stand in solidarity with the people of Mozambique as they contend with multiple and intersecting crises including military conflict, religious extremism, drug traffic, serious human rights violations ,democratic reversals as well as the unaccountable plunder of natural resources by vested local and foreign interests. We understand that the growing conflict in Northern Mozambique is ultimately the result of extractivism and theft of natural resources at high costs to local small-scale food producers (farmers, fisherfolk, livestock holders, herders, and others) and host communities.



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07

WE DEMAND GENDER JUST RESPONSES TO COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affects women and young girls of Southern Africa. Yet throughout the region, they are being compelled to subsidise failed public service delivery particularly through unremunerated care work during this time of crisis. We know that while the informal sector, where most women earn a living for their families, was placed under emergency and lockdown regulations, transboundary extractive, agrarian and speculative capital did not take a break from exploiting our resources. We also know that the risks of sexual and other forms of violence, including xenophobic violence targeted at women escalated sharply in the context of lockdown and emergency settings.

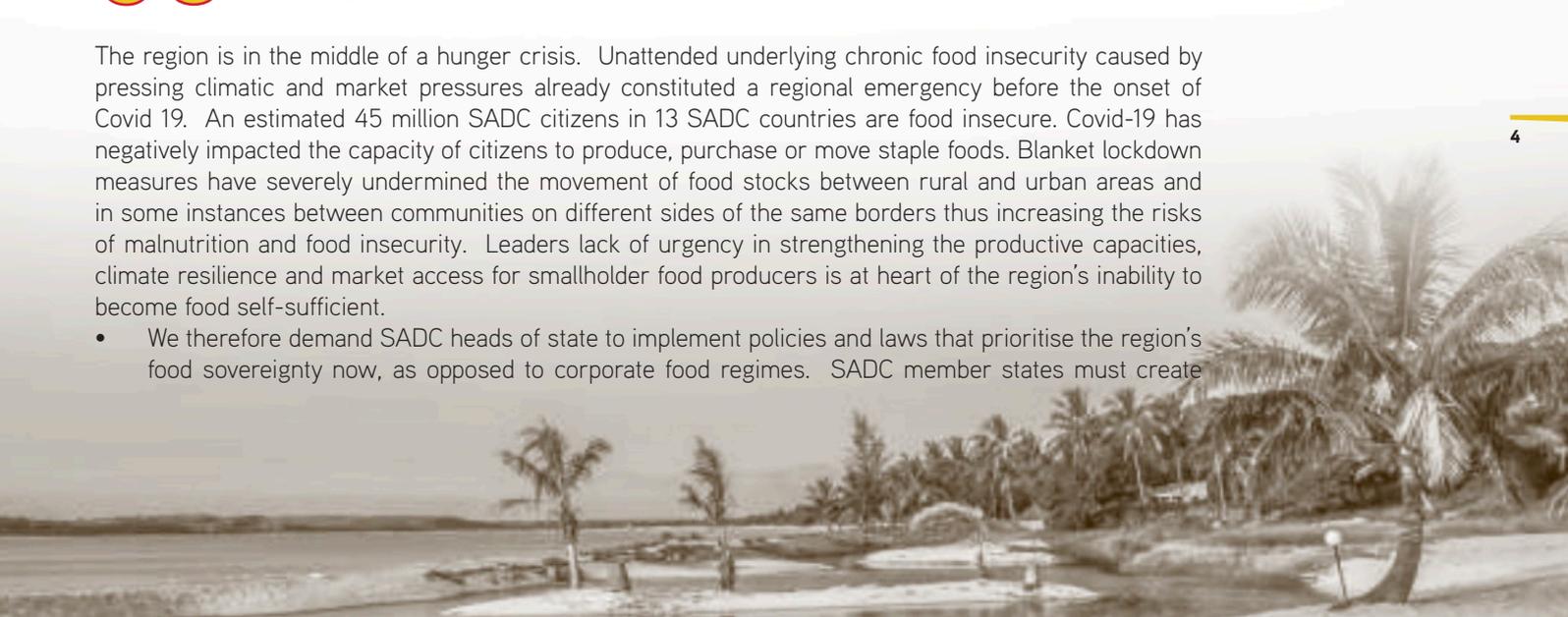
- Women and young girls in Southern Africa therefore reiterate the call for a people centered post-Covid recovery plan. This plan must among other things compel SADC member states to increase investment in primary public health service provision with earmarked resources for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), maternal health and child care. Women also want to see joint regional procurement and distribution of free personal protective equipment for women in the care economy; gender sensitive testing, tracing and treatment protocols as well as increased SRHR and mental health support for survivors of sexual violence;
- We call upon SADC leaders to review the 'self-isolate at home' and other policies that essentially shifts the responsibility of care away from the public sphere and onto women's shoulder. Rather we ask for the recognition and incentivization of the unremunerated care-economy
- We also demand that SADC address Sexual and Gender based violence and SRHR, recognizing the disproportionate effects of lock down measures and the limited access to health care, social services and justice on women and young girls. This must go hand in hand with increased investment in continued learning and ensure a safe return to school especially for girls. Scale up efforts to implement the commitments to ending child marriage including monitoring the SADC Model Law and other such instruments.
- Women in SADC also call upon their governments to invest and scale up women's economic empowerment, and entrepreneurship especially focusing on women farmers, women informal workers, cross border traders. We want relevant women-led businesses to be given quotas to support the mobilization of PPE products to combat COVID19 such as production of liquid soaps, sanitizers and protective clothing.
- Encourage and support the domestication, resourcing and full implementation of the SADC model law on child marriage and protecting children already in marriage.

08

TOO MANY OF OUR COMPATRIOTS ARE HUNGRY AND FOOD INSECURE.

The region is in the middle of a hunger crisis. Unattended underlying chronic food insecurity caused by pressing climatic and market pressures already constituted a regional emergency before the onset of Covid 19. An estimated 45 million SADC citizens in 13 SADC countries are food insecure. Covid-19 has negatively impacted the capacity of citizens to produce, purchase or move staple foods. Blanket lockdown measures have severely undermined the movement of food stocks between rural and urban areas and in some instances between communities on different sides of the same borders thus increasing the risks of malnutrition and food insecurity. Leaders lack of urgency in strengthening the productive capacities, climate resilience and market access for smallholder food producers is at heart of the region's inability to become food self-sufficient.

- We therefore demand SADC heads of state to implement policies and laws that prioritise the region's food sovereignty now, as opposed to corporate food regimes. SADC member states must create





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conducive environments where small-scale food producers, have the freedom and the liberty to decide on food systems while giving them necessary means to secure production and productivity towards building agrarian justice in our countries

- We call upon SADC governments to increase budget allocations towards sustainable agriculture and food production systems with a priority focus on improved extension services, inclusive financing, access to information and technology and diversified value chains for small-scale food producers. To this end, we call on SADC governments to integrate their efforts in the UN Decade of Family Farming, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines (VG) Small scale Fisheries, the FAO VG on Land Tenure and Governance, as well as the domestication of the UN Peasant Rights Declaration (UNDROP).
- We call upon all SADC governments to put in place mechanisms that minimize disruptions to farming operations, and which enable access to inputs, markets and other critical supplies essential to farming operations even in the context of Covid induced lockdown and other restrictions;
- We demand greater investments by Governments and local authorities should in improving sanitation facilities at markets, where necessary increase market spaces as a way of decongesting popular markets, and develop innovative ways of promoting social distancing within the markets;
- We also call for financial rescue packages and other targeted measures to ensure that smallholder farmers and Micro, Small and Medium Agro-Enterprises (MSMAE) remain viable. This must also include the restructuring of public agricultural loans and support measures;
- We call upon Governments, development partners, agri-businesses and mobile phone operators to work together to ensure that mobile technologies are used to provide extension services to farmers and for pest and disease surveillance, to disseminate information on markets prices, and to facilitate use of mobile money payment platforms;

09 WE URGE SADC LEADERS TO SECURE THE FUTURE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

Young people are the majority and most critical part of the region's citizenry. Securing their future in this time of crisis therefore requires an unprecedented commitment from our leaders, structures and organizations to increase their capacity and resources towards the immediate promotion of youth development.

- We encourage SADC to facilitate the meaningful participation and engagement of young people in regional decision making processes and, in the development, and implementation of key regional normative frameworks and commitments including: a stand-alone SADC Youth Protocol dedicated to young people's issues and the SADC Youth Strategy (2023-2027).
- We also call upon our governments to endorse and implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2535 aimed towards creating an environment that allows young people to be active agents in peacebuilding processes.
- Young people in SADC also make an urgent call to SADC for the establishment of a SADC Youth Fund to support young people who have lost their incomes during the pandemic as well as to provide youth-centered social protection mechanisms.
- Given the political polarization in the majority of SADC Member states, young people also call for increased democratic oversight and diplomatic pressure for SADC member states to create a conducive environment for young people to participate in decision making and political processes.
- Improve access and availability of spaces for adolescents and young people especially girls and young women in youth friendly services in health facilities.
- Improve health infrastructure at all levels to respond to emergency outbreaks such as COVID 19, Cholera and Typhoid



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10

WE CHALLENGE THE REGION TO DO MORE TO ADDRESS THE DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS OF THE COVID 19 ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

(those with visible and invisible disabilities). SADC has approximately 34.5 million persons with disabilities. We are concerned with how persons with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 in SADC region due to attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers that are reproduced in the measures implemented by member states. We also note with concern the structural discrimination and other limitations in accessing livelihoods that persons with disabilities encounter within the region. In many countries, persons with disabilities have been side-lined in consultations and excluded from participation in the National COVID19 Taskforces. We continue to be worried by lack of adequate social protection initiatives for persons with disabilities during the Covid19 crisis who are dependent on support for their daily living, finding themselves isolated and unable to survive during lockdown measures, especially because most earn a living from the informal sector.

- We therefore recommend that SADC member states implement laws and policies that address the unequal representation of persons with disabilities in all efforts aimed at combating COVID-19 and other socio-economic challenges, guided by international standards such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [UNCRPD].
- We also call upon member states in Southern Africa to increase the allocation of resources through budgets and other ways to support persons with disabilities and their organizations as well as improving on targeting of social protection measures that match market realities
- We further call upon SADC member states to ensure access to internet for remote learning and ensuring that the software is accessible for persons with disabilities. SADC governments must also provide guidance and distance support for parents and those providing support to persons with disabilities in setting up equipment and to support the education program of children with disabilities.
- We demand that SADC member states develop a disaggregated database of persons with disabilities, capturing their specific needs. Furthermore, they must ensure that reporting mechanisms, hotlines, emergency shelters and other forms of assistance are accessible to and include persons with disabilities.
- We urge all SADC member states to carry out monitoring of the situation of persons with disabilities, particularly those living in isolation, by engaging in proactive outreach including through community and voluntary networks.

11

WE STAND AGAINST THE RAMPANT ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION, LAND GRABBING, INTERNAL DISPLACEMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, ANTI-UNIONISM, CORPORATE THUGGERY, ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS AND CLIMATE INJUSTICE IN THE EXTRACTIVE SECTOR.

- We reiterate that Southern Africa is not for sale!
- We call for the immediate stop of all fossil fuel, extractive and industrial agriculture projects (especially genetic modification technologies) during the Covid crisis and beyond, across all SADC countries. With Life as a central principle, the region is calling for Climate Justice;



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- We urge the rapid implementation of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015–2063 for inclusive, long-term modernisation and economic transformation in the SADC region
- We call for democratically-led processes to review and provide resources to people and communities affected by such extractive projects, including workers in these sectors;
- We further call for strengthened Parliamentary oversight in all mining agreements, including fiscal terms and conditions. All deals in the extractive sector must be publicly disclosed, and companies should be made to rehabilitate damaged and polluted ecosystems;
- We also demand that SADC member states urgently finalize the formulation of the SADC Regional Mining Vision and Country Mining Visions to enhance harmonization of taxes. We demand that SADC member states strengthen transparency and accountability arrangements in commodity price contracts, revenue collection and management.
- We call for strengthened domestic resource mobilisation through efficient, just, equitable and redistributive taxation systems and to insulate against commodity price fluctuations and other pitfalls of primary resource dependence.
- We condemn in the strongest possible terms, the spill of over 1000 tons of oil by Japanese owned ship MV Wakashio, that ran aground off the coast of Mauritius. We further regret and condemn the demonstrated incompetence of the incumbent authorities in preventing in it, and in with dealing with the spill's aftermath;

12 TOO MANY OF THE REGION'S CITIZENS DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE WATER TO MITIGATE AGAINST COVID-19

Millions of households in the Region lack handwashing, toilet and safe water facilities and are therefore vulnerable to communicable and non-communicable diseases. This challenge extends to schools, markets and public facilities.

- We call for a moratorium on the privatisation of water privatisation and a reversal of efforts to privatise water in the Region
- We urge SADC leaders to prioritise and scale up WASH as the first line of defence against Covid 19;
- We call upon all SADC countries to allocate 0.5% of national budget allocations to the WASH sector in accordance with the e-Thekwini declaration of 2008

13 WE DEMAND URGENT EFFORTS TO STEM-OUT AND RESOLVE THE GROWING REGIONAL DEBT CRISIS

Our governments cannot continue servicing and accruing debts when citizens' basic needs are unmet and macroeconomic conditions are in rapid decline. We are concerned that COVID -19 induced new debt borrowings and economic stimulus packages will push SADC countries further into debt crisis. We are also concerned by the growing resource leakages to service private sector debt accounts.

- We call on SADC governments to implement a debt moratorium and divert resources meant for debt repayments towards rebuilding the public health system and investing in critical social service sectors including energy, water, sanitation and housing infrastructure to build the resilience of SADC people to withstand the impact of the crisis. Additionally, we call for a regional strategy to manage loan



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contraction and negotiations for debt relief during the COVID crisis.

- We call for Parliamentary oversight and accountability to citizens on all new borrowings and utilization of borrowed and sovereign funds
- We urge all SADC Countries to strengthen public debt management processes and facilitate transparent reporting on debt
- We demand that resources earmarked for critical public services like health, social protection, food security, child care and education must not be diverted to service pressing private sector debt accounts

14

WE STAND AGAINST THE PRIVATISATION OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH DELIVERY SERVICES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

with limited social safeguards. We are worried about the profiteering agenda in provision of health services at the expense and disenfranchisement of poor and underprivileged civilians.

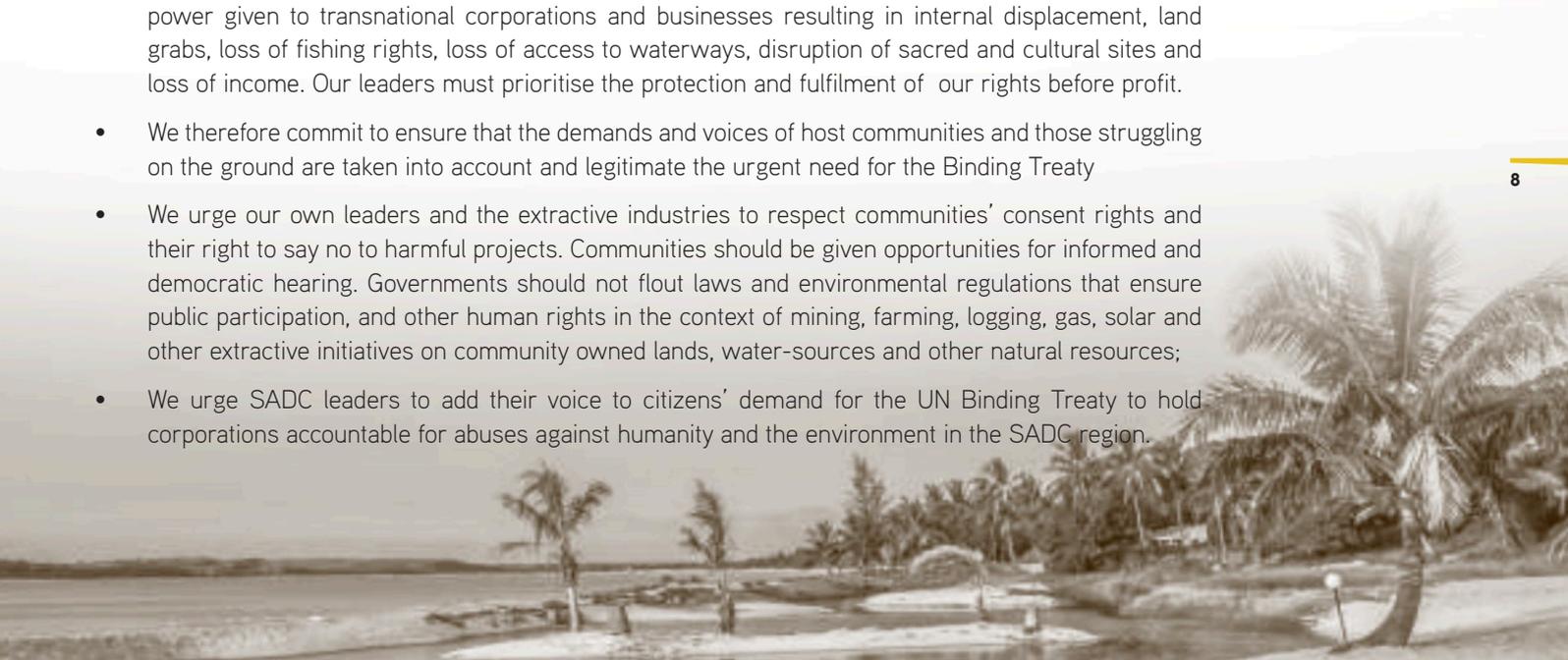
- We therefore call for strengthened regulation and monitoring of private actors in health services delivery
- We call upon SADC member states to facilitate consistent public scrutiny and transparency in negotiation and access to privatisation and public private partnership (PPP) agreements
- We also call upon our leaders to proactively disclose documents and information related to public contracting in a manner that enables meaningful understanding, effective monitoring, efficient performance, and accountability of outcomes in order to mitigate the financial impact of delays and re negotiation on the cost of PPPs borne by the public sector.
- We also demand that SADC member states include PPPs in national accounts, i.e. registered as a government debt, and therefore are part of the debt sustainability analysis, rather than being off balance sheet;

15

WE SUPPORT ONGOING EFFORTS TOWARDS A UN BINDING TREATY TO REGULATE IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, THE ACTIVITIES OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

Too many of the hardships and internal conflicts affecting our communities are the result of the unaccountable power given to transnational corporations and businesses resulting in internal displacement, land grabs, loss of fishing rights, loss of access to waterways, disruption of sacred and cultural sites and loss of income. Our leaders must prioritise the protection and fulfilment of our rights before profit.

- We therefore commit to ensure that the demands and voices of host communities and those struggling on the ground are taken into account and legitimate the urgent need for the Binding Treaty
- We urge our own leaders and the extractive industries to respect communities' consent rights and their right to say no to harmful projects. Communities should be given opportunities for informed and democratic hearing. Governments should not flout laws and environmental regulations that ensure public participation, and other human rights in the context of mining, farming, logging, gas, solar and other extractive initiatives on community owned lands, water-sources and other natural resources;
- We urge SADC leaders to add their voice to citizens' demand for the UN Binding Treaty to hold corporations accountable for abuses against humanity and the environment in the SADC region.





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16

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH CROSS-BORDER TRADERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE DEMAND AN END TO THE WAR ON THE INFORMAL ECONOMY.

The majority of Cross-border traders have lost incomes and livelihoods as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. Movement restrictions, closure of informal market spaces, violent policing, border shutdowns and digital divides have destroyed the economic viability of cross-border traders. Yet transnational capital has been facilitated to continue operations during the lockdown of our economies. Many cross-border traders will not be able to resuscitate their businesses after the pandemic. Our working capital has been depleted due to the fact that most of the traders had to divert their profits in order to take care of household needs. Over 70% of cross border traders are women who head households or are primary care givers, who depend on the proceeds from cross-border trade to take care of their families. Most cross-border traders are marginalised through restrictive bureaucratic processes from the limited cash transfer programmes and other social security safety nets targeting registered small to medium entrepreneurs.

- We reiterate our call for the removal of non-tariff barriers. We demand a simplified, just and equitable taxation regime that recognises the unique constraints faced by informal economy actors and incentivises their contributions to the Region's growth and development.
- We call for the removal of structural and systemic barriers to accessing finance, market intelligence, training and economic opportunities
- We demand urgent income substitution grants to help Cross-border traders survive and resuscitate their businesses
- We demand that the transitioning from informality to formality be guided by ILO Recommendation 204.
- We demand inclusive financing facilities to help Crossborder traders increase their capacity to participate in the digital economy and diversify livelihood options
- We ask SADC leaders for a speedy resolution to the setting up of a SADC Simplified Trade Regime (STR)

17

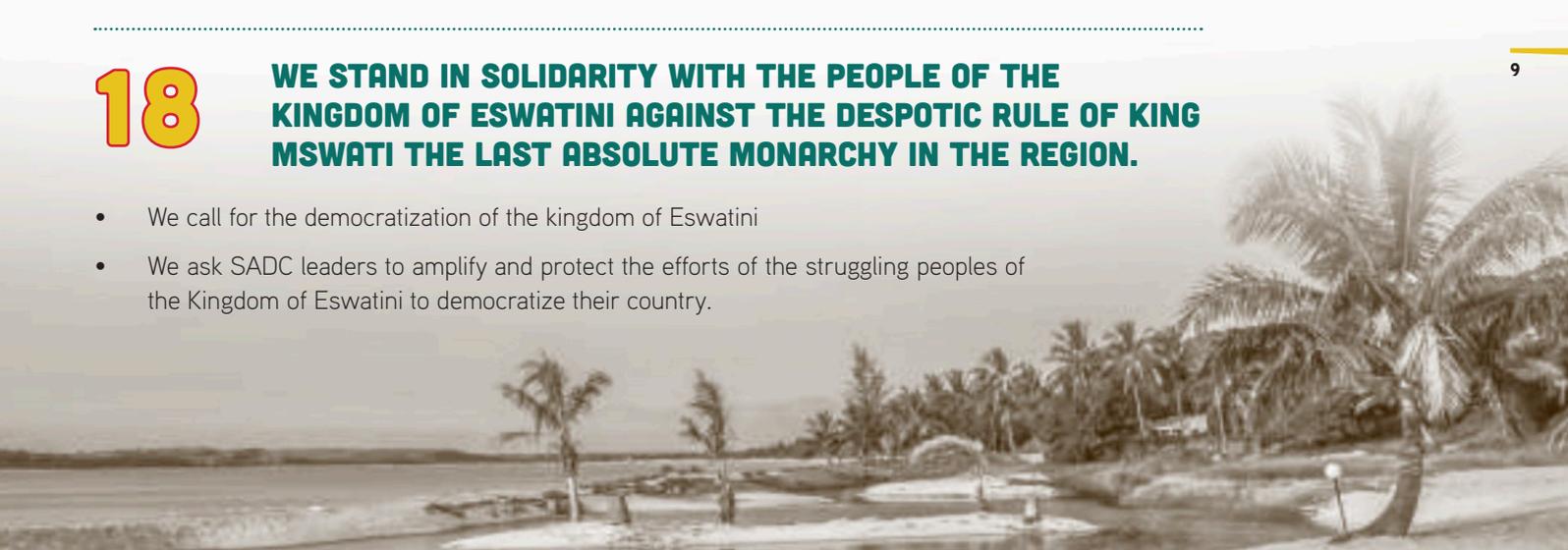
WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN OUR REGION

We urge SADC and its relevant oversight bodies to hold accountable those in power, especially the police and the military, and the rising cases of abuse and unjustifiable violence must stop immediately during this pandemic and afterwards. Independent bodies of inquiry and Ombudspersons must be put in place to allow citizens to speak up freely and safely without human rights abuses. The violence against citizens expressing their rights and fundamental freedoms must stop.

18

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI AGAINST THE DESPOTIC RULE OF KING MSWATI THE LAST ABSOLUTE MONARCHY IN THE REGION.

- We call for the democratization of the kingdom of Eswatini
- We ask SADC leaders to amplify and protect the efforts of the struggling peoples of the Kingdom of Eswatini to democratize their country.



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19

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF LESOTHO

In their ongoing efforts to institute credible reforms to democratize their democratic and governance processes.

20

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF MALAWI

As they celebrate a historic and peaceful democratic transition in which the people stood up in the face of violent persecution to safeguard their own constitution and democratic order.

21

WE STAND TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS

As they contend with the biggest environmental disaster in their history. We salute and commend the Mauritian people in their incredible collective efforts, passion and commitment towards containing the spill and its impacts. We are One with you in mourning the loss, and in the commit our best to support the recovery!

22

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN NAMIBIA IN COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA

For a rapid, sizeable and realistic response to the Covid pandemic despite ongoing social and economic challenges.

- We echo the call for the government of Namibia to extend universal basic income to mitigate the pandemic's impact on poor and vulnerable groups
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23

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

As they prepare to exercise their democratic and constitutional rights to determine their own future during the General Election scheduled for the 28th October 2020

- We call for a democratic, free and fair Election in Tanzania
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24

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FACILITATE THE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS

In efforts to achieve the Zambian vision 2030 and Agenda 2063. We acknowledge and echo their calls for:

- Better and increased space for non-state actors and detracting to freely enjoy their fundamental freedoms of speech, assembly and association without fear of victimization



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- The transparent, accountable and inclusive implementation of all pro-poor programs in the country's national development plans.
- The government of Zambia to increase budget allocation to the education sector from the current 12.4% to at least 20% as stipulated in the SADC and Cairo protocols with priority given to life skills (practical skills) among the learners in all levels of education.

25

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE

As they contend with worsening economic conditions and renewed reversals to their constitutionally enshrined democratic rights and freedoms.

- We echo their calls for an inclusive national dialogue process to help the people of Zimbabwe find their own solutions to historic grievances, pressing challenges and the demands of the escalating Covid 19 crisis.
- We encourage SADC leaders to rally behind President Ramaphosa's ongoing efforts to facilitate inclusive dialogue and engagement involving all critical stakeholders.
- We urge restraint and democratic oversight in the deployment and use of military force in the context of Covid-19 lockdown and National Disaster settings.