

SADC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE

BOTSWANA - GABORONE: 29TH AUGUST, 1994

The Summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met in Gaborone, Republic of Botswana, on 29th August, 1994 under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Sir Katumile Masire, President of the Republic of Botswana.

Delegations of member States were led by the following:

Swaziland	:	His Majesty, Mswati III King
Malawi	:	H.E. B Muluzi President
Mozambique	:	H.E. J A Chissano President
Namibia	:	H.E. S Nujoma President
Tanzania	:	H.E. A H Mwinyi President
Zambia	:	H.E. F J T Chiluba President
Zimbabwe	:	H.E. R G Mugabe President
Lesotho	:	The Rt. Hon. N Mokhehle Prime Minister
South Africa	:	His Honour T Mbeki Executive Deputy President
Angola	:	Hon. V de Moura Minister of Foreign Affairs
Botswana	:	Hon. A M Mogwe Minister of Mineral Resources and Water Affairs

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU), and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) were specially invited to the Summit as observers. Their delegations were led by:

- * Dr Salim Ahmed Salim
Secretary General OAU

- * Mr Layashi Yaker
Executive Secretary ECA

His Excellency Sir Katumile Masire, President of the Republic of Botswana and Chairman of SADC delivered a welcome address and statement reviewing the activities of the Organisation as well as developments in the region and the world.

A statement marking the accession of the Republic of South Africa to the Treaty of SADC was delivered by His Honour T Mbeki, Executive Deputy President. A response statement was made by H. E. R G Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The Summit welcomed the Republic of South Africa as the eleventh member State of SADC, and also congratulated the Government and people of that country for a peaceful and successful transition from minority rule to democracy through all-race multiparty elections. The Summit also welcomed H.E. President Muluzi and commended the people of Malawi for conducting the country's first multiparty elections since independence in a peaceful and orderly manner.

The Summit reviewed political and economic developments in the region, and received briefing from the President of Zimbabwe, in his capacity as Chairman of the Front-line States (FLS), regarding mediation efforts in the Lesotho crisis by the Presidents of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The Summit was also briefed by the Prime Minister of Lesotho and the Foreign Minister of Angola on recent developments in their countries.

The Summit expressed serious concern at the recurrence of instability in Lesotho involving the army and police resulting in the kidnapping of several Cabinet Ministers and the assassination of Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Selometsi Baholo in April 1994. The Summit condemned in strongest terms the actions of the Lesotho security forces. At the same time, the Summit expressed strong objections to the recent decision by His Majesty, King Letsie III to unlawfully dissolve Parliament and disband the democratically elected Government in gross violation of the constitution of the Kingdom.

The Summit advised His Majesty to act in the best interests of his country and the region at large by immediately and unconditionally reinstating the legitimate Government of Prime Minister Mokhehle.

The Summit commended the Front-line States, and in particular, Presidents Mugabe, Masire and Mandela for their personal contributions towards efforts to bring peace and stability to Lesotho.

The Summit noted with satisfaction progress being made in Mozambique in the implementation of the Rome Peace Accord. In particular, the Summit noted that:

- * preparations for multiparty general elections schedule for 27th - 28th October, 1994 were at an advanced stage;

- * significant progress has been made to demobilise armed forces, integrate and train a new national army of 30,000 soldiers; and

- * activities have begun to rehabilitate and reconstruct infrastructure such as roads, schools and hospitals.

The Summit urged member States and the international community to fully support the process towards speedy demobilisation and integration of the armed forces as well as to provide material support to Mozambique's efforts to resettle returning refugees and other displaced persons.

With regard to Angola, the Summit noted that the United Nations (UN) - sponsored Lusaka negotiations had made a significant breakthrough in reaching agreement on principles of national reconciliation predicated on UNITA's acceptance to participate in government structures. UNITA has been offered posts in the cabinet, local government and the foreign services in an envisaged Government of National Unity. Agreement has also been reached on the mandate of UN peacekeeping forces to consist of 7000 troops.

The Summit, however, regretted that the war in Angola had intensified and continued to delay the process of peaceful negotiations and rehabilitation of major economic sectors. The Summit called on the international community to assist intensify pressure on UNITA to commit itself to a speedy and complete peaceful resolution of the crisis in Angola. The Summit also urged SADC member States to give appropriate support to mediation efforts by the UN, OAU and President Mandela.

The Summit considered a Report of the SADC/PTA Joint Committee of Ministers on harmonisation and rationalisation of activities of the two organisations. The Summit agreed that it was important that problems emanating from an overlapping membership of SADC and PTA be resolved taking into account the benefits and advantages that each organisation offers to member countries, and also to enable the two organisations to play their central roles as building blocks for the African Economic Community.

The Summit, therefore, decided that the current Preferential Trade Area (PTA) region should be divided into two regions, namely;

i) A Preferential Trade Area for the South which will comprise all SADC member States. Preferential trade arrangements in the South region to be carried out under the auspices of SADC. The process of separating the two regions into North and South will involve over time, and the modalities regarding which area SADC member States will belong to shall be determined by individual member States in their sovereign right.

ii) A Preferential Trade Area for the North comprising non-SADC countries.

The Summit reviewed the activities of the SADC Joint Planning Committee (JPC) and agreed that together with the SADC Resident Mission, the JPC should be wound up as they had fully achieved their respective missions. The Summit thanked the Ministers and the Representatives of member States in South Africa whose respective tasks were to oversee the JPC and Resident Mission.

The Summit noted progress reports on the on-going activities intended to involve citizens of member States in the implementation of the Framework and Strategy for building the Community. The Summit reaffirmed its earlier decisions that the work of SADC organs must focus primarily on the Community Building process in the Southern Africa and the region's contribution to the establishment of the African Economic Community.

The Summit approved the establishment of a Sector on Politics, Diplomacy, International Relations, Defense and Security; and that 17 August be declared "SADC Day" to be commemorated every year with popular activities and cultural/sporting events.

The Summit reviewed and noted the draft Annual Report for the period covering July 1993 to June 1994. The Summit noted the continued reduction of the size of the SADC Programme of Action to ensure that only projects with a regional impact and that can be viable and self sustaining remain in the Programme. The Summit urged member States to mobilise more resources for implementation in the SADC Programme of Action which is currently costed at about USD 8.7 million.

The Summit noted with concern that the region was likely to experience a serious shortage of cereal due to adverse climatic conditions. The Summit further noted that the worst affected member States included Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania. The Summit appealed to member States with food surpluses, and to the internal community, to act speedily to assist avert a more devastating food crisis situation in the affected member States.

The Summit elected His Excellency, Sir Katumile Masire, the President of Botswana as Chairman of SADC for a two year term of office, and His Majesty, the King of Swaziland, King Mswati III to a similar term as Vice-Chairman of SADC. The Summit paid tribute to H.E. President Masire and Vice-Chairman His Majesty King Mswati III for their dedicated service to the organisation.

The Summit accepted the invitation of H.E. President Nelson Mandela to host its next meeting in South Africa.

The Chairman and President of the Republic of Botswana, H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire delivered a closing statement. A vote of Thanks was passed by H.E. Baliki Muluzi, President of the Republic of Malawi.

The Summit thanked H.E. President Masire, the Government and people of Botswana for the cordial and brotherly welcomed and hospitality accorded to Heads of State or Government and their delegations.