



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**REMARKS BY  
HONOURABLE VERÓNICA NATANIEL MACAMO DLHOVO,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE AND CHAIRPERSON OF  
SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**ON**

**THE OPENING OF THE SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
MEETING**

**Maputo, 12 - 13 March 2021**

**Honourable Ministers;**

**HE Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC;**

**Deputy Executive Secretaries;**

**Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners;**

**Distinguished Colleagues;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I am very pleased and honoured to address Honourable Ministers on the occasion of the SADC Council of Ministers Meeting that Mozambique has the honour to chair.
2. Therefore, allow me, sisters and brothers, to extend to all participants greetings and good wishes from His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of Mozambique and Chairperson of SADC.

Honourable Ministers,

3. Last time we met, we believed that by this time, conditions and constraints arising from the spread of COVID-19 would have improved enough to hold a face-to face meeting.

4. However, we have to continue to conduct business in this virtual format.

Honourable Ministers,

5. The meeting we are holding today is critically important as it is part of a series of activities that we have been carrying out in preparation for the SADC face-to-face Summit.
6. Therefore, I would like to express our appreciation for your participation in this meeting. Your participation will certainly provide unique opportunity to jointly and openly discuss the future of our organization and the challenges it faces.
7. We are therefore optimistic that our deliberations will be successful.
8. However, we recognize that the range of issues on which we will decide is considerable, but I am reassured to know that we are up to the challenge.
9. It is against this background that we intend to undertake an extensive exercise with a view to making the Summit agenda viable, a step we consider useful and indispensable for improving our working methods and promoting efficiency.

10. In terms of the agenda, in addition to reviewing the financial health of our organization, we aim to review progress on the implementation of Summit's decisions.
  
11. In this regard, we will propose recommendations to the Summit on issues that are important to our region, including:
  - (a) Impact of COVID - 19 Pandemic;
  - (b) Impact of climate change and humanitarian emergency issues;
  - (c) Establishment of Regional Parliament;
  - (d) Industrialization of the countries in our region; and
  - (e) Promotion of free trade between our countries.
  
12. We will also look at important organizational aspects, namely:
  - (a) Appointment of our Executive Secretary and his Deputy;

- (b) Modernisation of travel documents for SADC officials;
  - (c) Relationship between SADC and the United Nations, including the candidature for the United Nations Security Council;
  - (d) Candidatures for the African Union Commissioners.
13. Not least important is the assessment of the activities related to the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of our Organisation, only to mention few examples.
14. In this regard, we would like to extend our gratitude to the Senior Officials for their excellent work in preparing this Council of Ministers meeting.
15. Indeed, the quality of the documents submitted to this Meeting will certainly allow our debates to be smooth and our decisions to be more explicit and informed.

Distinguished colleagues,  
Excellencies,

16. It is my conviction that today is not the best day for comprehensive speeches and remarks.
17. May I seize this opportunity to extend my warmest greetings to you, Excellencies, for your participation and I wish you all the best in this meeting.

May success materialise under the banner of our theme *"SADC: 40 Years Building Peace and Security, and Promoting Development and Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges"*

I thank you all for your attention.

**Muito obrigada!**  
**Merci beaucoup!**  
**Assante sana!**