

SOUTHERN AFRICA GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS HUB



Assessing Regional Integration in Southern Africa

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Form and Approach to Regional integration

2 distinct approaches:

- Cooperation rooted in SADCC
 - No supra-national institution
 - Retain national policy discretion/autonomy
 - Institutional set up responsive to cooperation model
 - Multiple membership not a challenge
- 1992 SADC Treaty and RISDP
 - Changed vision from cooperation to deeper integration
 - Development of Protocols (introduced rules based cooperation)
 - Defined milestones in the RISDP (beyond FTA e.g CU, CM)
 - Loss of some level of policy discretion/autonomy
 - Requires different types of institutional set up



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Basis for SADC Integration Agenda - RISDP

- SADC FTA (2008)
- SADC Customs Union (2010)
- SADC Common Market (2015)
- SADC Monetary Union (2016)
- SADC Economic Union (2018)
- Yet RISDP is Indicative and not a policy instrument

Is the current institutional set up responsive to that agenda?

- The restructured SADC
 - centralization of functions at the Secretariat in Gaborone
 - Lean Secretariat (limited capacity)
 - Mandate of the Secretariat?
- Tribunal
- SADC Parliamentary Forum
- Subsidiary institutions (RERA, SAPP etc.)
- Regional Associations (SBF, SEG, etc.)
- What about the role of other stakeholders?

Challenges

- Ambitious integration agenda (e.g CU by 2010 and wide sectoral focus)
- Too dependent on donor funding
- Limited institutional capacity to drive regional integration
- Lack of implementation and compliance by member states
- Does lack of implementation imply lack of commitment (?)
 - Finance and Investment Protocol (signed and not yet ratified)
 - Protocol on Trade (lacks implementation)
- Institutional set up not strong enough to drive and to enforce regional integration agenda
 - Lack of monitoring compliance and enforcement mechanisms
- At national level:
 - Lack of clear policies /strategies on regional integration
 - Lack of effective institutional structures to drive regional integration (e.g. national committees)

Are targets too ambitious ?

- SADC FTA (2008)
 - not on schedule (compliance issues)
 - need address behind the boarder measures for FTA to work
 - NTBs, Rules of origin still outstanding
- SADC Customs Union (2010)
 - debate ongoing but limited to inter-govt. level
 - working groups on the CU only now being established
 - the role of SACU
 - Stakeholders' involvement

Looking ahead

A streamlined integration agenda that is:

- Focused
- Realistic
- Manageable
- Well resourced (human and financial)



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Responsiveness to emerging issues

- EPAs vs. regional integration
 - Trade in services
- South-South cooperation/relations (China, India, Brazil)
- Customs Union
 - SACU –SADC factor
 - Multiple membership