

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

Summary of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan





1. **The RISDP defined**

Based on SADC Vision, Mission, Common Agenda and Principles, the RISDP is a 15 year regional integration development framework, setting the priorities, policies and strategies for achieving the long-term goals of the Southern African Development Community. It is intended to guide Member States, SADC Institutions, regional stakeholders, and International Cooperating Partners in the process of deepening integration to turn the Community's Vision into a reality.





2. The Rational for RISDP

Since its establishment as SADCC in 1980 SADC has gone through a number of changes and is currently facing daunting challenges and opportunities, including the following:

- Transformation from a Coordination Conference (SADCC) into a development Community – 1992;
- Expansion in areas of cooperation and integration and in its Program of Action – to reach over 20 Sectors and 500 development programmes/ projects;
- Increase in membership – from 9 in 1980 to 14 in the current phase;
- Restructuring of Institutions – moving from member states coordinated programmes to a centralized structure based at the Secretariat;
- Challenges and opportunities deriving from the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), the Globalization Process, Poverty, HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases;

The RISDP is designed to address these challenges and opportunities facing the cooperation and integration prospects of SADC. This is done by aligning current

priorities and by articulating the necessary policies and strategies leading to deeper regional integration and to the achievement of the Community overarching goals.

3. Objectives of the RISDP

- Review the main cooperation and integration areas;
- Define the priority integration areas for the next fifteen years;
- Set up a logical implementation program of the main activities necessary for the achievement of the regions broader goals;
- Ensure effective sectoral linkages and enhance synergy amongst sectors;
- Provide member states, SADC Secretariat and other Institutions, regional and international stakeholders with a coherent and comprehensive long term implementation agenda;

4. Key Integration Enablers

Peace, Security, Democracy and Political Governance

SADC Member States are committed to “promote common political values, systems and other shared values which are transmitted through institutions that are democratic, legitimate and effective” (SADC Treaty Article 5). In line with this SADC firmly acknowledges that economic growth and development will not be realized in conditions of political intolerance, the absence of the rule of law, corruption, civil strife and war. SADC member states are cognisant of the fact that poverty thrives under such conditions, nurturing further political instability and conflict, creating a destructive repetitive cycle, which perpetuates under-development and extreme deprivation.

Economic and Corporate Governance

In the context of the RISDP, good economic and corporate governance include the following;

- Sound macroeconomic management;
- Transparent public financial management and accountability;
- First class banking and supervision and financial regulation;
- Rigorous best practice corporate governance

Other integration and development enablers include:

- Intensifying the fight against HIV and AIDS;
- Gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women;
- Private sector development;
- Rapid adoption and internationalization of ICT;
- Diversification of regional economies;
- Trade Liberalisation and development;
- Liberalization of factors of production;
- Research science and technology innovation, development and diffusion;
- Enabling institutional environment;
- Productivity and competitiveness improvement.



5. RISDP Main Intervention Areas, Policies and Strategies

Besides their contribution to achieving SADC overall goals, the main intervention areas were selected according to their potential contribution to:

- Poverty eradication;
- Regional development integration;
- Regionally balanced and equitable development;
- Integration into the continental and global economies;
- Sustainable development and;
- Gender equality.

The main intervention areas of the RISDP are divided into two main groups namely, Cross-sectoral intervention areas and sectoral intervention areas. Each intervention area is presented with the overall goal, areas of focus, key strategies and broad targets. The targets take into account the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed parameters.

A. Cross-Sectoral Intervention Areas:

- Poverty Eradication;
- Combating HIV and AIDS pandemic;
- Gender equality and Development;

- Science and Technology;
- Information and Communications Technology;
- Environment and Sustainable Development;
- Private Sector Development;
- Statistics.

B. Sectoral cooperation and Integration Intervention areas:

- Trade/Economic Liberalization and Development;
- Infrastructure Support for Regional Integration and Poverty Eradication;
- Sustainable food Security, and;
- Human and Social Development.

6. Coordination and Implementation Strategy

6.1. Institutional Coordination:

- SADC Secretariat;
- Member States, and;
- other stakeholders.

6.2. Alignment with other initiatives and activities:

- Sub-regional;
- Continental;
- Global.



6.3. Enhanced Involvement of Member States

- The Role of SADC National Committees.

6.4 Dynamism of the RISDP

- Maintaining the RISDP focus;
- Need for flexibility and adaptability;
- Need for updating to keep in line with prevailing challenges.

6.5 Requirements of Cooperating Partners

- The need for coordination, flexibility;
- The need for sustainability.

6.6 Principles for RISDP Implementation

- Comparative advantage;
- Additionality;
- Broad participation and consultation;
- Subsidiarity;
- Engagement of regional expertise and institutions;
- Implementing Agents;
- Decentralised management approach;
- Maximum impact;
- Development discrepancies;

- Variable geometry;
- Poverty eradication.

6.7 Institutional Arrangements for the Implementation of the RISDP

Political Level

- SADC Council of Ministers;
- Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM).

Operational Level

- SADC Secretariat;
- SADC National Committees.

Programme Level

- The Secretariat;
- Cooperating Partner/s;
- Technical Advisory Committees and Sub-Committees;
- Programme Steering Committees;
- SADC National Committees;
- Other Stakeholders;
- Implementing Agent;
- Contractors.

7. Sustainable Financing of the RISDP

The RISDP is a long term development strategy for economic growth and development and requires major commitment for sustainable financial and human resources both from within and outside the region. The following mechanisms are envisaged:

7.1 Self-Financing Mechanisms

- Dedicated resources of the regional institution, distinct from national budgets for the sake of aforementioned autonomy;
- Permanent, to guarantee a regular flow of finances of the institution;



- Automatic, to ensure a greater adequacy between the programming and implementation of regional projects and programs;
- Steadily growing, to maintain in real terms, the capacities of the institution and to sustain the necessary extension of the integration scope;
- De-linked from funds of national treasuries and other government revenue to protect SADC from the implications of shifts in priorities that may occur at national level;
- Equitable, equity in this context being not tantamount to arithmetical equality, but relative equality in terms of capacities to contribute.

7.2 Regional Development Fund

- Finance SPA;
- To generate financial resources for investing in peripheral areas;

7.3 Member States Contribution

- SADC member states contribute to fund the Organisation's activities, based on an agreed formula.



7.4. **Development Finance Institutions Network**

- Provide long-term capital and other services particularly to the private and the public sectors;
- Extended credit to Small and Medium scale entrepreneurs.

7.5 **International Development Cooperation**

- Mobilization of resources to support SPA according to RISDP defined intervention areas.

8. **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The objectives of monitoring and evaluation of the RISDP are to :

- Ensure that the correct milestones as planned are achieved;
- Act as an early warning system in cases where targets are unlikely to be achieved;
- Provide regular information to all stakeholders on progress of the RISDP and an informed basis for any reviews;
- Ensure the continuous sharpening and focusing of strategies and assist in the mobilization of appropriate interventions.

The RISDP will be monitored regularly at three levels as follows:

8.1. **Policy level**

- The SADC Summit to ensure consistency of outputs against the Vision and Mission, and overall objectives of the Community;
- Council to monitor progress and achievements in set targets;
- Summit or Council may direct a change of focus and/or strategies if and when necessary.

8.2 **Stakeholder Level**

- SADC Secretariat will produce an annual report on the overall implementation of the Plan;
- The stakeholders engagement will promote transparency in implementing the RISDP, create a platform for adding value to the Plan and continue to broaden ownership.

8.3 **Technical Level**

- The Secretariat and the SADC National Committees will be responsible for ensuring that progress on the RISDP is monitored on a regular basis.
- The SADC National Committees will monitor





implementation plans at national levels and provide status reports to the Secretariat on a continuous basis.

- An integrated monitoring system for the Plan will be developed by the Secretariat to provide an early warning mechanism and to maintain a good grasp on the development and implementation of the Plan.

Evaluation

- Independent evaluation of the implementation of the RISDP should be conducted every three years;
- Assessment of the impact of the RISDP on the overall objective of poverty alleviation and its ultimate eradication.



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