



## **STATEMENT**

### **SADC JOINT MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY AND WATER HOSTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE ON 30 OCTOBER 2020**

The Ministers Responsible for Energy, and for Water from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 through video conferencing hosted by the Republic of Mozambique. The Ministers deliberated on programmes of regional dimensions in support of the implementation of the recently approved SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-30 and the SADC Vision 2050, particularly programmes of infrastructure development.

The meeting reviewed progress made towards the delivery of the programmes in the energy and water sectors, and implementation of previous Ministerial decisions from the meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia, in May 2019. The meeting also considered a report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has affected investments in the Energy and Water sectors in the Region, and proposed mitigation measures that could be applied at regional and national level. Ministers reviewed strategic instruments for guiding adherence to COVID-19 and similar pandemics in the energy sector at regional and national level, and called for continuous assessment and monitoring of the impacts.

The meeting was attended by SADC Ministers or their representatives from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The meeting was also attended by representatives from International Cooperating Partners, and Implementing Agencies, and was preceded by a two-day virtual meeting of Senior Officials responsible for the two sectors from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

In his keynote address, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy of the Republic of Mozambique, and Chairperson of the meeting, Honourable Ernesto Max Elias Tonela, emphasised the need for SADC to ensure that efforts are made in support of the regional goals to create an enabling environment to attain consistent supply of energy and water which will provide sustainable development, guarantee industrialisation, reduce poverty, achieve regional integration, stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life of the peoples of the SADC Region.

He pointed out that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 continues to aggressively present negative effects on the socio-economic development of the region and has placed a heavy burden on the development of the two sectors. He also stated that the region was looking at ways in which to adopt and implement basic protection measures against the coronavirus, and applauded SADC Member States for coming up with resilient ways of managing the virus while continuing to enhance strategies to safeguard energy and water operations. Hon. Tonela called upon SADC Member States to adopt and operationalise coordination mechanisms, such as the nexus of “Water, Energy and Food” (WEF) to ensure that water, energy and food security are achieved through joint efforts and integration with various sectors of the economy.

On her part, the SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, said the Ministerial meeting was conducted after the approval by the 40<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government whose theme; *“SADC 40 Years Building Peace and Security, and Promoting Development and Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges”* underscores among others, the importance of accelerating development through industrialisation by implementing priority value chains and energy infrastructure projects.

In relation to the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-30 and the SADC Vision 2050, Dr Tax pointed out that the major focus area in 2020/2021 remains rooted towards implementation of the remaining components of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), which aims to create a conducive environment for the attainment of water and energy security for all.

In the energy sector, the Ministers reviewed security of energy supply, energy infrastructure development, and progress on targets from the previous Ministerial meeting decisions. The Ministers reviewed the initiatives aimed at supporting implementation of the regional power programmes and projects, petroleum and gas sub-programmes, promotion of new and renewable energy sources and energy efficiency issues, and the status on the establishment of energy regulators and modalities of strengthening the Regional Energy Regulators Association.

Ministers reviewed progress on the directives from the Council of Ministers on the regional gas sub-programme and the ongoing regional infrastructure development initiatives in support of regional integration. The Ministers also considered the draft Agreement Amending the SADC Protocol on Energy of 1996, commended progress achieved on the roadmap for finalisation of the review and amendment of the Protocol, and approved the revised Regional Energy Access and Strategic Action Plan that aims to increase access to energy

The Ministers also noted progress on the establishment and operationalisation of the SADC Regional Transmission Infrastructure Financing Facility (RTIFF) and the RTIFF Enabling Roadmap; and encouraged the Secretariat to work with regional organisations namely the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), Regional Energy Regulatory Association (RERA) and SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) to develop a comprehensive engagement and consultation action plan.

The Ministers reviewed programmes and projects undertaken by SACREEE during the first operational phase with support from the International Cooperating Partners. They also urged Member States that are yet to sign the Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Agreement (IGMoA) to do so following the endorsement of the five-year SACREEE Business Plan.

The Ministers reviewed progress towards development of the Regional Gas Programme in SADC in particular, policy, strategic, institutional and regulatory matters and further approved recommendations to promote development of gas infrastructure and markets in the region. They also urged Member States to promptly develop gas infrastructure and markets in the Region and commended progress achieved in the development of the Regional Gas Master Plan Phase I, and noted the roadmap for development of the Regional Gas Master Plan Phase II.

Ministers reviewed the status of the establishment of the energy regulators and strengthening of RERA into a Regional Energy Regulatory Authority and directed the Secretariat to review and analyse the impacts on strengthening and transforming RERA from being an association to a SADC Regional Energy Regulatory Authority (SARERA).

In the water sector, the Ministers received a detailed update on the status of the implementation of the regional water programme which also indicated successful implementation of Ministerial decisions. Ministers reviewed progress on the implementation of the Groundwater Management Programme; noting progress achieved on the design of the follow-on five-year SADC Groundwater programme by SADC-Groundwater Management Institute (GMI) and the World Bank and called for continuity of the project.

The Ministers reviewed progress in the implementation of the fourth SADC Regional Strategic Action Plan Phase (RSAP IV), and other programmes and projects implemented by the subsidiary organisations and the River Basin Organisations affiliated to SADC. They approved the themes to define the intervention areas of the development of the Fifth Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP V), which will be fully developed with the consultation of Member States and in alignment with regional strategies such as the RISDP 2020-2030 and Vision 2050.

Ministers reviewed progress made in the development of the new Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) institutional framework. The outputs of the institutional framework include the Business Case, Financial Sustainability Strategy, Implementation Roadmap, Hosting Criteria and preliminary legal arrangements for the new entity.

Furthermore, Ministers, approved the SADC Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus Framework, which aims to secure the supply of these resources by strengthening synergies, and reducing trade-offs among these sectors.

**Done in Gaborone, Botswana**

**30 October 2020**