

Speaking Points for the Launch of the SADC Success Stories

14th August in Pretoria

Honorable Executive Secretary Dr. Tax,

Dear SADC-colleagues,

Dear Media-representatives,

- First of all I would like to warmly thank you for giving me the opportunity to launch together with you, Madame Executive Secretary, the second volume of the "SADC Success Stories" at this 37th SADC Summit of the Heads of State and Government here in Pretoria.
- This year, both Germany and the European Union (EU) turn the spotlight on Africa; including its cooperation with the African Union and its regional organizations such as SADC.
- Germany hosted the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July and has put Africa at the core of the agenda of its G20 Presidency. This regional focus on Africa is new for the G20. A core element of this initiative is the Africa Partnership to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by promoting more private investment and sustainable economic growth. The EU is working on a new Africa strategy. The 28 member states want to redefine the basis for cooperation between the EU and Africa by replacing the Cotonou Agreement with a new partnership agreement.
- As a founding member of the EU, Germany itself has experienced that regional integration is the engine for economic growth and development. Against this background, Germany can look back on a long and trusting partnership with SADC. In supporting SADC's integration agenda bilaterally and through the EU, Germany aims to strengthen regional

cooperation for the benefit of the people by contributing to peace, prosperity and security in the region.

- At the German-SADC intergovernmental negotiations that took place in June this year in Berlin, Germany pledged a sum of 47.5 million euros. Germany continues its successful cooperation in the areas of regional economic integration, cross-border water management and natural resource management, including enhancing climate change resilience, as well as strengthening national-regional linkages in the SADC region. Since the 1990s, Germany has made available to SADC a total amount to around 400 million euros. To this must be added Germany's substantial bilateral development cooperation with eight of the fifteen SADC Member States.
- Southern Africa is a region of tremendous opportunities, and regional integration has great potential to improve peoples' lives in SADC Member States. However, in Europe we learnt and are still learning that regional integration cannot take place without the citizens. That is why German Development Cooperation, implemented by GIZ, supported the development of the first and also this second volume of the "SADC Success Stories". The stories are an innovative way to make SADC achievements visible for the people in the SADC-region.
- Please let me highlight some of the stories to shortly illustrate the positive change regional initiatives have created in Southern Africa. This reaches from the development of disease intolerant tomatoes in Mozambique and Zimbabwe over the promotion of innovative techniques to protect the Lesotho wetlands to the promotion of the co-existence of growing human populations with wildlife in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA).
- I would like to congratulate SADC to the development of the second volume of the "SADC Success Stories". Germany remains committed to support SADC in its efforts to develop even more Success Stories of regional integration for the benefit of the people in Southern Africa.