



MINISTERIAL MEETING STATEMENT

The Joint Meeting of the SADC Ministers Responsible for Education and Training; and Science, Technology and Innovation, 20 - 21 June 2019 Safari Hotel Windhoek, Namibia

The SADC Ministers responsible for Education and Training; and Science, Technology and Innovation convened a Joint Meeting on the 20 – 21 June 2019 at Safari Hotel, Windhoek, Republic of Namibia. The meeting was aimed at advancing the role of education, skills development and science, technology and innovation in supporting the implementation of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2015-2020) and the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063). The Ministerial Meeting was attended by SADC Ministers or their representatives from Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Also in attendance, were the following representatives from regional, continental and international organizations: African Union Commission, International Labour Organisation, United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Science Council, Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Development, NEPAD – Southern African Water Sciences Centres of Excellence, and Implementing Agencies. The meeting was preceded by a three-day meeting of Senior Officials responsible for Education and Training; and Science, Technology and Innovation.

A Ministerial Policy Dialogue was held on the 19 June 2019 under the theme: ***“Entrepreneurship, Education and the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Africa.”***

The meeting was jointly chaired by the following Ministers from the Republic of Namibia: Hon. Minister Ms Katrina Hanse-Himarwa,

Minister of Education, Arts and Culture and Hon. Minister Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi; Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation.

Hon. Minister Ms Katrina Hanse-Himarwa delivered the welcome remarks and Hon. Minister Dr Itah Kandjii -Murangi delivered the official opening statement, both ministers highlighted the importance of increased investments in education, science, technology and innovation to support industrial development in the region. The Ministers also highlighted that the youth make up 76% of the SADC population, therefore the need to increase the uptake of TVET to support entrepreneurship and skills development. The Ministers further emphasised the importance of harmonising education policies in the region to facilitate mobility of skills and labour.

The Deputy Executive Secretary-Regional Integration of SADC Secretariat Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo in his remarks underscored the need to bridge the barriers for industrial development such as infrastructure in relation to connectivity and the need to address the skills gap in the region. The Deputy Executive Secretary-Regional Integration also highlighted the need to strengthen linkages between industry and academia in order to support industrial development.

Other speakers who delivered statements were: Prof Hubert Gijzen, Regional Director -UNESCO, Dr Philippe Mawoko, Director-Africa Union Observatory of Science, Technology, and Innovation, and Mr Siphon Ndlovu, Senior Programme Officer, ILO.

The Ministers noted the progress on the implementation of the RSIDP and SADC Industrialization Strategy (2015-2063) in relation to Education, Training; and Science, Technology and Innovation Programmes. within the context of the Revised SADC Regional Indicative

The Ministers also considered key policy and strategic instruments for operation on regional integration in the areas of education and training; and science, technology and innovation (STI).

The Ministers noted the draft Report on the Regional Youth Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership Assessment Study approved by the Ministerial meeting on Youth held in May 2019 where they directed the Secretariat to develop a Comprehensive Regional Youth on Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership Programme (IELP).

Ministers noted progress in the implementation of the the following areas;

- I. preparations for the establishment of the SADC University of Transformation and directed the Secretariat to expedite the finalisation of the comprehensive skills audit, costed and time bound roadmap for the operationalisation of the SADC University of Transformation.
- II. activities implemented during the period 2018/19 in the areas of human capacity development, policy exchange and learning and Cyber-Infrastructure roll out in the implementation of the approved SADC Cyber-Infrastructure Framework.
- III. implementation of the SADC Qualifications Framework (SADCQF) and noted progress and achievements during the support given by of the South African, Zambia and Botswanawho coordinated the activities of the SADCQF between July 2018 – March 2019.
- IV. implementation of the SADC Technical and Vocational Education and Strategic Framework 2018-2027 and update on the national skills competition which took place in Namibia in April 2019.
- V. noted the draft Concept Paper on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIR) to inform development of a Regional Digital Economy Strategy and directed the Secretariat to convene a multi-sectoral regional meeting comprising of private sector, academia and social partners to guide the region in the development of a Digital Economy Strategy to leverage the opportunities of FIR.

- VI. Ministers noted that the draft SADC Intellectual Property Framework was approved by SADC Council of Ministers in August 2018 in Namibia.

The Ministers further took the following decisions;

- I. directed the Secretariat to work closely with existing national, regional, continental and global networks of science academies to support the region with knowledge production and scientific evidence based policy advise towards implementation of the Revised RISDP 2015-2020, Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) and Industrialisation Strategy.
- II. directed the Secretariat to draft a Regional Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Framework to accompany the SADC Regional Framework on Teachers Standard and Competences for approval.
- III. urged Member States to accelerate the domestication of the Continental Education Strategy (CESA) for Africa and the Education 2030 Action Framework, which institutionalise monitoring for both CESA and further directed the Secretariat to provide a regional update on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 targets.
- IV. urged Member States to sign the SADC Charter on Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Organization (WISETO) and further directed the Secretariat to conduct further work on the proposed funding model for contributions to be made through the Ministries responsible for Science, Technology and innovation and develop a draft costed Business Plan of activities.
- V. Ministers further commended the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Mauritius for signing the SADC Charter on SADC Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Organization (WISETO), which brings the total to nine Member States who have signed the Charter.
- VI. Ministers urged Member States to increase investments for science, technology and innovation by meeting the target of 1% Gross Domestic Product allocation for Research and

Development since most Members States reported Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development /Gross Domestic Product of less than 1%.

- VII. Ministers noted and considered the draft Report on the SADC Energy Foresight Study for Renewable Energy Value Chains for submission to Ministers responsible for Energy and Ministerial Task Force respectively for consideration and directed the Secretariat to convene a technical experts meeting to validate the draft report.
- VIII. Ministers noted the recommendations from the regional workshop on “*Health Promoting and Disease Preventing Properties of African Food Plants and Animals*” held in March 2019, South Africa, and directed Secretariat to develop an awareness and advocacy plan in partnership with Member States to be implemented in the region to promote the value and use of Indigenous Knowledge for socio-economic development by June 2020.

Other issues of noted by the Ministers were; progress on the inclusion of the Southern African Liberation History in School Curriculum, Reports from Regional Centres of Excellence and Networks, and the establishment of the Pan African University on Space Sciences in the South Africa region,

Ministers also noted the outcomes conference of African Ministers, senior officials responsible for education, agriculture, science and technology, representatives from Regional Economic Communities and Vice Chancellors of African Universities held in October 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya hosted by RUFORUM.

Ministers thanked the Government of the Republic of Namibia for hosting the Joint Meeting of Ministers for Education and Training, and Science, Technology and Innovation and expressed gratitude to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for offering to host the June 2020 meeting of Ministers.

Done in Windhoek, Namibia, 21th June 2019