



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ELIAS M. MAGOSI

SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

AT THE

**EXTRAORDINARY SADC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT**

VIRTUAL

21ST OCTOBER 2026

Your Excellency Mr. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellency Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia and Incoming Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Outgoing Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

Honourable Mr. Ronald Lamola, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers;

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers;

Senior Officials;

Members of the SADC Secretariat;

Members of the Media;

Good Afternoon.

It is a great honour and privilege for me and the Secretariat to welcome Your Excellencies to this Virtual Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government hosted by the Chairperson of SADC, His Excellency Mr. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa. At the outset, allow me to express our sincere gratitude to Your Excellencies for your participation in this Summit and for your continued commitment to the SADC integration agenda, which once again demonstrates your astute leadership of our region and is testament to your collective resolve to advance the development, prosperity and unity of our region.

I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Daniel Francisco Chapo, President of the Republic of Mozambique and African Union Champion for Disaster Risk Management, on successfully hosting the inaugural International Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in Africa in Maputo, Republic of Mozambique, from 13 to 15 October 2026, under the theme, “Scaling Proactive Governance and Strategic Investment for Disaster Risk Reduction and a Resilient Africa.” The Conference called for the accelerated implementation of disaster risk reduction commitments, strengthened partnerships, and increased investment in resilience-building initiatives across Africa.

I further wish to congratulate Dr. Navanethem “Navi” Pillay of the Republic of South Africa on her award of the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her distinguished contributions to peace, justice, human rights and international law. This exceptional honour reflects a lifetime

of dedicated service to humanity and stands as a source of pride and inspiration for South Africa, the SADC region, the African continent and the wider international community.

Your Excellencies,

This Extraordinary Summit has been convened to conclude two important matters that were deferred during the 46th SADC Summit held in Durban in August this year.

The first is the election of the Incoming Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. As Your Excellencies will recall, during the Summit held in August, two of our Member States had expressed interest in assuming this important responsibility and join the Organ Troika and contribute to advancing the region's peace and security agenda. Summit deferred this decision pending further consultations among the Member States.

I am pleased to report, Your Excellencies, that consultations have since been concluded and, Council has accordingly made a recommendation for consideration and approval by the Summit today. A quorate Organ Troika remains indispensable in advancing peace, security, stability, democracy and good governance in our region, as it continues to provide enabling environment for accelerated regional integration and sustainable development. It is a key structure that also supports the role of the region in matters of peace and security at continental and international levels, continuing the recognition that SADC has enjoyed over the years as a stable and decisive regional block on these matters.

Your, Your Excellencies,

The second item is the appointment of the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, which the Summit also deferred its decision in August and directed that the recruitment process be restarted. I am pleased to inform Your Excellencies that the recruitment process had been successfully completed, and that the SADC Council has made a recommendation for consideration and approval by this Extraordinary Summit. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration is a key pillar and driver of the regional integration agenda, charged with overseeing all programmes and the resource mobilisation agenda. The selection of a suitable candidate to perform this role will ensure the continued response and relevance of our region to make lasting impact as guided by the SADC Treaty, the RISDP and the relevant protocols underpinning our integration aspirations, as well as the multiple agreements SADC has with respective cooperating partners.

With these remarks, I wish Your Excellencies fruitful deliberations and every success in today's discussions and decisions as we continue working together to enhance regional integration and build the future our people deserve.

Your, Excellencies,

It is now my singular honour and privilege to invite His Excellency, Mr. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of SADC, to deliver opening remarks and open this Extraordinary SADC Summit.

I thank you for your attention.

Muito Obrigado! Merci Beaucoup! Asante Sana! Siyabonga!

Ke a leboga!