



Regional Budget Summit on Strengthening Social Accountability in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa

15 August 2017, Birchwood Hotel – Boksburg, South Africa



Communiqué

We, as a regional multi-stakeholder gathering of civil society organisations (CSOs), small scale farmers' associations, members of the media, parliamentarians, government officials and representatives of structures of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), recognise the importance of social accountability for the full realisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SADC regional commitments in health and agriculture, and effective delivery of quality, affordable, accessible and timely services to all our people.

We support a systematic approach to social accountability, which requires sound public resource management practices by government, effective oversight by parliaments, and evidence-based monitoring by civil society and media practitioners.

Through an analysis of two key issues – agriculture inputs for food security; and HIV testing services for adolescent girls – at SADC regional level and nationally in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, we have identified both successes and gaps in national policy, as well as local level implementation.

We hereby submit the following *recommendations* for consideration by Member States (MS) of SADC.

1. Acknowledging and welcoming the SADC online M&E System, MS are urged to ensure social accountability indicators are fully embedded and reported on for enhanced accountability in HIV and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) for adolescents and young people, especially for adolescent girls and young women, as well as food security with a special focus on women.
2. Recognising the value of social accountability in public resource management, we urge MS in collaboration with parliament, CSOs, media and development partners to prioritise social accountability literacy, for improved access to comprehensive HIV and SRH services for adolescents and young people with a special focus on adolescent girls and young women, as well as food security with a special focus on women.
3. Considering the commitments of MS to the SADC HIV, SRH, TB and Malaria Integration Strategy (2016-2020), we urge MS to ensure innovative and sustainable domestic resource mobilisation and adequate budgetary allocations to SRH services for adolescents and young people, especially services tailored for SRH of adolescent girls and young women.
4. Also considering MS commitments to the Malabo Declaration on Agriculture¹, we urge MS to effectively domesticate the SADC Regional Agriculture Policy (RAP), and ensure effective inclusive implementation, with participation of small scale farmers especially women and youth.
5. Given the importance of food sovereignty and the role of small scale farmers, especially women and young people, we urge MS to promote sustainable land tenure, land use management and agricultural production practices, especially agroecology and agricultural value chains.

¹ *Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods* (2014). In Article 2a, African states reaffirmed their commitment to allocate at least 10% of public expenditure to agriculture, and to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness.

6. Recognising the importance of innovative and sustainable domestic resource mobilisation, we urge MS to ratify the SADC Regional Development Fund (RDF) and to expedite the operationalisation of the SADC Agricultural Development Fund (ADF).

We individually, and collectively through supporting the ongoing activities of the Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance, commit ourselves to the following *action points*:

1. Understanding the gaps in capacity among various actors within the social accountability system, including parliamentarians, government, civil society, small scale farmers and media, we resolve to engage and participate in efforts to strengthen our capacity, and those of our peers, to ensure enhanced social accountability within our respective MS.
2. Considering the need to generate evidence to track effective delivery of quality, affordable, accessible and timely services, we commit to facilitate and undertake social accountability monitoring on the issues of agricultural inputs for food security, and HIV testing services for adolescent girls and young women, and to critically reflect on the findings during the planned 2018 Regional Budget Summit to be convened by the PSA Alliance.
3. Acknowledging that social accountability requires a systematic approach, we commit to strengthening our collaboration through building regional, national and local level coalitions with various government, legislative and civil society formations to improve social accountability outcomes, which are measurable and reportable.
4. Applauding the efforts of the SADC Secretariat to develop the SADC Online Monitoring and Evaluation System, we will endeavour to raise awareness about the system, and participate in future rollout and training activities, particularly concerned with the monitoring and reporting of indicators on health and agriculture.
5. Recognising the establishment of the SADC ADF, we will create awareness of the need for commitments to regional and domestic financing through a multi-sectoral approach to operationalise the fund.
6. Considering the importance of small-scale farmers, particularly women, in the participation of national agricultural policy development and programming, with a focus on inputs, we will actively seek to engage small-scale farmers and raise awareness of their roles in social accountability monitoring.

We call on all actors in the social accountability system to make these recommendations and actions points possible towards realising the SADC We Want².

² SADC WE WANT is a broad-based civil society campaign demanding people-centred policies, inclusive regional governance and sustainable development throughout SADC. <http://sadc-we-want.org/>