



## ZAMBIA CHAPTER 2022 SADC PEOPLE'S SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE TO THE SADC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS

### PRESENTED TO ZAMBIA SADC FOCAL POINT AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

We, the grassroots social movements, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), smallholder farmer movements, women organizations, youth organizations, children's rights movements, persons with disabilities/gender/ consumer, and movements representing the various thematic groups which include Governance and Democracy, Agriculture, Energy, Environment, Natural Resources Management, Extractives, Education, Health, Climate Change, Human Rights, Cross Border Trade, Land, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) convened at *St Paul's United Church of Zambia Conference Community Hall Lusaka District of the Republic of Zambia*, on 17th June 2022 and other virtual platforms under the theme: **"Reclaiming SADC and taking ownership of our resources for people-centered development"**

#### Acknowledging:

The Government of the Republic of Zambia's efforts in the ratification of the SADC protocols and implementation of national and regional development plans. The implementation was mainly in the areas of social protection and infrastructure development. These interventions facilitated improved trade, agriculture, education, youth empowerment, WASH, and health services. The Government has prioritized climate change and WASH in various policies and programs and recognized the agriculture sector as an economic driver as well as in setting up an economic recovery plan through various financing mechanisms such as the COVID 19 Bond among others. The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to negatively impact people's livelihoods which is a threat to the attainment of national and regional development goals

#### Recognition:

We recognize the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) report which showed that the government under the flagship projects in Zambia, made some positive strides in areas of industrial development and market integration, infrastructure support for regional integration, agriculture food security, natural resources, and social and human development.

The projects are aligned with the strategic area of Economic Diversification and Job Creation within the just-ended Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) where most of the interventions culminated in improved efficiencies in market opportunity, and cross-border trade leads for small businesses and commitment to climate change adaptation projects.

## Concerns:

### 1. Trade, Economic, and Debt Justice:

- a) **Economic Justice**:- The Government is losing resources (financial- illicit financial flows, tax avoidance, tax havens, harmful tax incentives, capital flight, tax holidays); there are no clear domestic resource mobilization strategies; Government is relying on debt which is a burden to the struggling economies and the outcome of the IMF debt restructuring program under the G20 Framework; Zambia, like most SADC countries, relies on informal economy, but the governments are failing to tax this sector effectively; The sector faces challenges in collecting tax and compliance, lack of transparency in public service provision and the utilization of public expenditure.
- b) **Debt Justice**:- Currently Zambia is US\$ 27 billion (both domestic and external) in debt; No debt transparency, and unclear strategy to dismantle the debts-repayment structure; Most resources generated (revenue) will go towards debt; Bilateral or multilateral agreements have a lot of conditions and lack of transparency (e.g., IMF deal); Debt cancellations difficult to advocate for; Debt is not sustainable and impacts the marginalized groups such as youth, women, and children;
- c) **Trade Justice**:- COVID-19 as a barrier to trade; The movement of goods and people, a lot of roadblock in all the countries – bilateral agreements – border infrastructures are not well to standard. No friendly border services for the region – corruption at border posts; No collective agreements on addressing these trade issues; Violence in some SADC countries targeting foreign national including drivers (xenophobia); No simplified trade regime in SADC to facilitate the movement of people especially the small traders; no one regional passport; Increase of fuel prices – failure to tap from the regional resources such as oil from Angola; Reduced spending in the social sector due to debt servicing, thereby negatively affecting the most vulnerable, especially children, women and persons with disabilities and the elderly; Limited access to the market, long distances to the market for women and persons with disabilities; sexual abuse and exploitation among women, sexual harassment and trafficking in the course of trade; Digital services such as e-wallet, pre-clearance services, payment of taxes – less information on the utilization of these services; Limited E-services to purchase within the region..

### 2. Agriculture, Climate Change, and Natural Resources

- a) **Agriculture**:- No signs to Re-structure Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP)<sup>1</sup> and Re-structure Food Reserve Agency (FRA)<sup>2</sup>; Commercialization of the agriculture sector; No clear position on Genetically Modified <sup>3</sup> Food; Inadequate human and financial resources in the agriculture sector-extension services and research; Women's lack of access and ownership over land; Gender inequalities in agriculture and aquaculture; Unfriendly environment for persons with disabilities in access and ownership of land; Lack of adequate finance and credit for women and persons with disabilities on land and agricultural services; Lack of crop diversification in agriculture is contributing to malnutrition, inadequate food, and hunger.
- b) **Climate Change**:- Deforestation at a high rate, government commitment to transition to alternative energy is low; No legal backing on governance and accountability with

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<sup>1</sup> Farmer Input Support Program

<sup>2</sup> Food Reserve Agency

<sup>3</sup> Genetically Modified Organism

regards to climate change issues; Climate finance is not easily accessible; Internationally secured public climate financing for both adaptation and mitigation, in particular, is a current concern inadequately reaching communities as it largely takes the form of project finance from non-state support and is top-down; Inadequate platforms for meaningful engagement which are mostly tokenistic in nature. There is a need to enhance the participation of the youth and children and youth in climate change adaptation so that they can be active players in protecting and improving the environment.

- c) **Natural Resources:** -The Government must strengthen Natural Resource Governance by adopting the Principles of Free Prior and Informed Consent, United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). Enforcement of the Environmental Act, Preservation of Wetlands, biodiversity and the Ecosystem

### 3. Education and Social Protection

- a) **Education:** - the SADC region has been grappling with the provision of access to quality education for all. This has been attributed to the inability of the member states to abide by the Maputo Declaration that 20% of the National Budget should be allocated to the education sector. According to the World bank (2013), 17% of the youths in Zambia are neither working nor studying; Poor Conditions of service especially – low rural hardship allowances, non-motivational programs, and low salaries for teachers and lectures; Other factors contributing to poor quality education include, inadequate consultative mechanisms on policy direction process Abolishment of PTAs<sup>4</sup> yield possible negative impact in granted schools (mission schools); Lack of education services and schools for children with special needs; Lack of enforcement for monitoring of standard for education service provision both public and private at all levels; Child marriage and teenage pregnancies as well as high dropout rates among girls. Whilst we recognize the efforts made by the Zambian Government to provide inclusive education through free education policy, recruitment of approximately over 30 000 teachers, and the 20% allocation of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) towards Secondary School education and skills development bursaries. For Zambia to continue sustaining these gains, there is a need for improvement in budgetary resource allocation (20%) as opposed to the 10.4% in the financial year 2022 for the provision of better quality education service delivery through improved infrastructure and digital learning platforms.
- b) **Social Protection:** - To guide processes aimed at reducing inequalities, there is a need for Zambia to formulate a National Social Protection Policy (following the expiry of the most recent in 2018). The absence of this leaves a gap in service delivery as it leaves policy direction on social protection open for relevant office bearers to dictate. This should be coupled with improved resource allocation to ensure that most poor communities, especially the elderly, persons with disability, women, and the youth, recover from the negative impacts of Covid-19.

### 4. Democracy and Good Governance, Human Rights and Media

- a) **Democracy and Good Governance:** - By-elections; Lack of accountability of all electoral officials; Inadequate laws on female representation in leadership and low

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<sup>4</sup> Parents, Teachers Associations

representation of women in the governance sphere; Lack of access to an efficient and effective justice system.

- b) **Human Rights and Media:-** Failure to review the oppressive and unprogressive Laws; Lack of Access to Information laws, Cyber Laws, lack of media self-regulatory mechanism; Conflicting laws on Children; Disinformation and misinformation of social media; Political interference in media space; Protecting the whistleblower and the source.

## 5. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene(WASH) and Health

- a) **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene:-** The Zambia resource allocation towards WASH continues to fall short of the eThekweni declaration which commits African governments to spend at least 1.5% of the GDP. An estimated USD584 million is needed annually in this sector given the critical state of WASH in Zambia. Inadequate budgets for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in every year's allocation of funds, have averaged between 1%, to 3% over the last decade. WASH budgets further suffer from poor disbursement. The 2022 budget allocation only covered 24% of the sector investment needs from 2021-30. This left a financing gap of approximately USD444 million per year. Poor access to clean water and Sanitation which is a key to water issues. Community Led Total sanitation is an issue of AFRICAN STATUS as most people use Open Defecation (ODF)-, especially in rural areas where, men, women, and children use the bush as toilets or flying toilets in urban. This is not only unhygienic but also contaminates the underground water. The development of a Waste management system should be taken seriously in urban communities as its lack of this compromises water security at all levels. Sanitation and Hygiene continue to lag behind with only 54% of the population having access to an improved sanitation facility, 10% of the population still practicing Open Defecation, and only 24% of the population having access to basic hand washing facility. Cholera continues to be endemic in Zambia, with the first outbreak having been recorded in 1977, over 40 years ago. The Country has developed and costed a Multi-Sectoral Cholera Elimination Plan which has a legacy goal to eliminate Cholera by 2025. However, this plan is yet to be funded.
- b) **Health:-** Zambia joins other countries in the failure to adhere to the budgetary requirement as set in Abuja Declaration hence the lag in efforts towards quality health service provision. The lack of sufficient equipment and medical staff continues to characterize the public health system. There is continued experience of drug shortages in health facilities despite the Ministry of Health releasing funds following the 2022 budget allocation hence revealing the weak procurement system. To address these inadequacies, there is a need to increase the budgetary allocation for health from the current 8% to 15% as per the Abuja Declaration.

## Recommendations:

### 1. Trade, Economic, and Debt Justice

- a) **Trade Justice:-** Member states must implement simplified trade regimes to facilitate the movement of goods and people; Members states to denounce xenophobia and introduce regional passports; We demand Regional ICT<sup>5</sup> plans be integrated to enable ease of business transactions (some online payment platforms are disabled in other

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<sup>5</sup> Information, Communication and Technology

countries as examples); Employ strategies that reduce the Gender-Digital divide, especially in rural areas;

- b) **Economic Justice:** - Member states to strengthen domestic resource mobilization strategies; formalize the informal sector and taxation, fight illicit financial flows, and avoid offering tax holidays and tax incentives to projects that do not benefit the local people. Public Private Dialogue engagement platforms must involve the local people, CSOs, and other sectors of the economy.
- c) **Debt Justice:-** We demand a debt sustainability plan; demand the publishing of bi-annual reporting on public debt; Employ strict protection mechanisms for women traders within and across borders

## 2. Agriculture, Climate Change, and Natural Resources

- a) **Agriculture:-** We call for SADC and member states to develop a clear agroecology strategy and the use of Farmer-managed seeds systems for food security and sovereignty as this enhances resilience towards climate change. SADC must follow the public spending guidelines and aims of the Malabo Declaration, which calls for Governments to work together to improve livelihoods through agriculture. Governments must invest and scale-up support to smallholder farmers, especially women, and sustainable agroecological approaches to farming. Governments should follow an all-inclusive consultative process when formulating and reviewing national legal frameworks such as biotechnology, biosafety, and land policies.
- b) **Climate Change:-** We call for SADC and member states to develop a clear agroecology strategy and the use of Farmer-managed seeds systems for food security and sovereignty as this enhances resilience towards climate change. SADC must follow the public spending guidelines and aims of the Malabo Declaration, which calls for Governments to work together to improve livelihoods through agriculture. Governments must invest and scale-up support to smallholder farmers, especially women, and sustainable agroecological approaches to farming. Governments should follow an all-inclusive consultative process when formulating and reviewing national legal frameworks such as biotechnology, biosafety, and land policies; Government must scale up electrification of households to reduce dependency on charcoal, which is contributing to the destruction of forests and the ecosystem.
- c) **Natural Resources:** - Enforcement of the environment Act; Preservation of wetlands and biodiversity. The Government must strengthen Natural Resource Governance by adopting the Principles of Free Prior and Informed Consent, United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP).

## 3. Education and Social Protection

- a) **Education:-** Deliberate percentage allocation towards education resources (material and human) - Government to fulfill its commitment to the SADC and Cairo protocol including the implementation of SDG's<sup>6</sup> by increasing the budget allocation to 20%; Investing in new infrastructure, the implementation of the vocational pathway policy a must; There should be revisions allocations with respect to rural hardship allowance; introduction of Staff Motivational programs such as teacher exchange; There should be a defined gradual increment system for teachers and lecturers; Strengthen consultation in education policy processes; Deliberate efforts to have at least one

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<sup>6</sup> Sustainable Development Goals

school in each province for children with disabilities; Schools should have facilities/ infrastructure to people with disabilities; Strengthened enforcement of monitoring system for standard all levels of education service provision; Enhance mechanisms aimed at combating child marriage and teenage pregnancies as well as high drop-out rate for girls.

- b) **Social Protection:-** Set attachment of law and commitment over timeframe within which social protection policies should be revised and developed; This will address inclusive service provision aligned to regional and international development goals.

#### 4. Democracy and Good Governance, Human Rights and Media

- a) **Democracy and Good Governance:** - Abolition of By-elections, the party that won the elections should send a representative in situations of death or resignation or imprisonment; Autonomous Enactment of the Access to Information Law and, Employ 50-50 quota electoral system from political party level; CSOs must push the community to hold leaders to account; Elected leaders must ensure that they provide spaces for citizens to hold accountable for their promises and work; Gender parity should be respected, from the point of adoption in political parties to appointments in Government.

- b) **Human Rights and Media:-** Review laws on public order, cyber laws and enact Media Self-regulatory mechanism, Laws on NGOs, Law on Political Parties Financing Zambia should domesticate its commitments such as UNCRC<sup>7</sup> and ACWRC<sup>8</sup> fully; Media houses to have specific self-regulation in line with the ethics and media conducts; Legal reforms in the justice system for fair and quick disposal of cases

#### 5. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)and Health

- a) **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):-** Government to make sure they make full disbursement on the budget allocation to WASH; More construction of Water points in Rural and urban communities are done; Village WASH and District WASH Formulation in all the districts in Zambia to reduce more on rehabilitation during broken items from water points; Up-scaling of the provision of sanitary pads to children to be mandatory in both public and private schools; Governments to partner with donors or the private sector to promote budget funding approaches and increase investment in WASH. Further, Government to make sure they make full disbursement on the budgets allocated to WASH; Construction of more Water points and Sanitation facilities in Rural and urban communities; Village WASH and District WASH Formulation in all the districts in Zambia to enhance rehabilitation of broken down water points and other facilities; Up-scaling of the provision of sanitary pads to children to be mandatory, especially in public schools; There is a need to address inadequate budget allocation for Water and Sanitation as the availability of clean water facilities is key for WASH Sector Development

- b) **Health:-** Government to improve budget allocation on the essential medicines and medical equipment for our facilities to improve health service delivery and our developmental goals in line with the global action plan.

#### 6. General Corrective Actions to Improve Performance

- a) **Recommendations for the Government of the Republic of Zambia:-** Enhance GRZ agency's capacity to improve their ability to implement projects; Government

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<sup>7</sup> United Convention on the Rights of the Child

<sup>8</sup> African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

must constitute and set up the SADC National Committee (SNCs) to enhance non-state actors' participation in the regional integration agenda; Improve coordination between GRZ departments that are implementing flagship projects; (This can be addressed when the CSO participation is enhanced at the NDCCC level.) So, we can suggest an increase in the CSO representation at the NDCCC level; Scaling up benefits accrued from successfully—replication as regional benchmarks; Delayed projects on account of funding difficult—accelerate its mobilization of resources Revenue for Growth (Domestic Resource Mobilization) from various partners; Effect a law compelling political parties to adopt 50 percent, women, at all levels; Employ safeguards for women and people living with disabilities( PwD), Enhance trade facilitation and address bottlenecks on access and proximity to the market for cross-border trade promotion rates Zambia; rates rate and enhance access to sanitary towels; Legal reforms in the justice system for quick disposal of cases.

- b) **Recommendations for SADC Secretariat:-** Capacity to play its oversight role and coordinate the integration process—inter —country coordination for projects; Improve communication between the SADC secretariat and Zambia Government departments; Continue to roll out National Training on the SADC online M and E systems and framework; Climate change is a key risk factor for member states and should be included in all planning to reduce carbon emissions; Enhance regional peer-review mechanisms across countries

### CSOs commitment:

Our commitment as CSOs is to continue demanding better and increased spaces for non-state actors in our sustained engagement of government on accelerated efforts towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063, and the Zambian Vision 2030 through the transparent, accountable, and inclusive implementation of all pro-poor programs in the country's national development plans. We maintain that together with a voice for the voiceless on national issues is solely motivated by our wish to see national unity d a just society where citizens live in peace, with one another and with creation. It is also our mandate to observe and air our views to guide the nation appropriately.

We, now, therefore, call on the Government of the Republic of Zambia to address the concerns and issues raised as indicated above by the different clusters that convened and contributed virtually to the development of this Communique through a consultative process.

We, the undersigned Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), small-scale farmers, farmer movements, women organizations, Youth, and Social Movements will continue to speak together with the voiceless and advocate for an improved policy environment in the country and the SADC region and believe that delayed full recovery of social and economic impact is due to the shrinking space for CSOs to hold duty bearers accountable for the implementation of SADC guidelines and protocols.

### Endorsed by:

1. Action Aid Zambia (AAZ)
2. Action for Development
3. Action Governance Foundation (AGF)
4. Alliance for Accountability Advocates Zambia (AAAZ)
5. Arts in Business Society
6. Caritas Zambia

7. Chakunkula Women Empowerment Organization (CWEO)
8. Chama District Development Association (Chama CWEO)
9. Chipangali Women's Development Foundation
10. Chipata District Farmers Association
11. Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR)
12. CUTS International
13. Development Community and Education programme (DECOP)
14. Disability and Vulnerability Care Foundation (DIVACAFO)
15. Disability Human Rights Watch
16. Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESSAF)
17. Edusport Foundation Zambia
18. Environment and Public Health Trust (EAPHET)
19. Farmers Representatives
20. FIAN International Zambia
21. Former Mine Workers Association
22. Future Preenuers Zambia
23. Good Life for All (GOLFA)
24. Individual Activists
25. Isoka District Farmers Association
26. Kafue Arts Foundation
27. Manna Widows
28. Media Network on Children's Rights and Development (MNCRD)
29. Metro FM Media
30. Namfumu Conservative Trust
31. Non-governmental Gender Organizations Coordinating Council (NGOCC)
32. Participatory Ecological Land-Use Management (PELUM) Zambia
33. Pasogolo Women Club
34. Rural Children's Hope
35. Rural Women Assembly (RWA)
36. Save the girls (STG)
37. Society for Women and AIDS in Zambia (SWAAZ Isoka)
38. Southern Africa Cross Borders Traders Association (SACBTA)
39. Teachers Response Against Child Abuse (TRACA)
40. Water Aid Zambia (WAZ)
41. Women Environs in Zambia (WEZ)
42. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
43. Young Emerging Farmers Initiative (YEFI)
44. Youth Representatives
45. Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN)
46. Zambia National Association of the Blind living in Urban and Rural Areas (ZANABURA)
47. Zambia Network Coalition on Education (ZANEC)
48. Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) general members
49. Zambia Social Forum membership

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**CONTACT DETAILS:**

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