

**Ministerial Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa on:
Addressing Mixed and Irregular Migration in the SADC Region: Protection of the
Unaccompanied Migrant Child
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
7 - 9 of July 2015**

The Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Home Affairs/Interior from SADC Member States, meeting at the 3rd MIDSA Ministerial Conference on *Addressing Mixed and Irregular Migration in the SADC Region: Protection of the Unaccompanied Migrant Child* held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on the 9th of July 2015 and preceded by a two-day preparatory meeting of Senior Officials:

Recalling that at the 2013 MIDSA Ministerial Conference held in Maputo, Mozambique, the Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Home Affairs/Interior and of Labour/Employment identified the need for, and recommended the development of a comprehensive strategy to address the growing phenomenon of mixed and irregular migration in the SADC region;

Noting that, as a follow up on the above recommendation, a MIDSA Technical Workshop on Irregular and Mixed Migration was convened in Lilongwe, Malawi in July 2014 at which senior officials took stock of efforts to implement the provisions of the Dar es Salaam Action Plan on Irregular and Mixed Migration that was adopted in 2010;

Acknowledging the conclusions of the Senior Officials who noted that the contents of the Dar es Salaam Action Plan remained valid and recommended the formulation of a follow up action plan that will continue/sustain the efforts initiated under the Dar es Salaam Action Plan;

Having been advised that the current draft of the Regional Action Plan on Irregular and Mixed Migration was prepared by the MIDSA Secretariat following the recommendation made by senior officials at the Lilongwe Technical Workshop, and was reviewed and revised by Senior Officials in December 2014;

Noting that the Draft Action Plan has 6 major pillars, as follows:

- (a) Legislative and Policy Review
- (b) Capacity Building
- (c) Operations
- (d) Communication and Outreach
- (e) Data Collection, and
- (f) Coordination and Cooperation.

Recognizing that each of the pillars of the Action Plan is further elaborated in terms of specific actions, indicators, time-frames and identified stake-holders, as well as an indicative implementation budget; and,

Commending the efforts of SADC Member States, the SADC Secretariat, the MIDSA Secretariat, and International Co-operating Partners in responding to the recommendation made during the 2013 MIDSA Ministerial Conference.

Hereby:

Endorse the Regional Action Plan as a relevant and feasible framework to develop a common regional approach to respond to, and address the complex challenges of irregular and mixed migration;

Recommend that

- the current SADC Chair transmits the Regional Action Plan to the appropriate SADC structures, and to align it with existing SADC initiatives, including initiatives by the Ministerial Committee of the Organ, with a view to having the Regional Action Plan formally adopted at a regional level.

- SADC Member States individually and collectively implement the Regional Action Plan;

- individual SADC Member States consider the development of National Action Plans consistent with the framework provided by the Regional Action Plan;

- SADC Members States individually and collectively prioritize the sections of the Action Plan pertaining to the protection of unaccompanied migrant children and to begin the implementation of the proposed actions, as well as pursuing preliminary work on statelessness, alternatives to detention and return pending the formal adoption of the Action Plan by SADC;

- SADC Member States individually and collectively develop and implement a regional policy framework and national policy frameworks, including the development of Identification and Referral guidelines and a Case Management System, and to engage in awareness-raising and training activities to respond to the challenges of providing protection to unaccompanied migrant children. These actions should be based on the 'best interests of the child', as provided for in the appropriate international and regional instruments;

MIDSA SUSTAINABILITY

Consistent with our on-going support for, and recognition of the value of the MIDSA Process, we believe that it is necessary and important to take appropriate steps to ensure its sustainability and to align the MIDSA Process more closely with the formal

SADC structures and processes. In this regard, we reiterate the following recommendations put forward at the 2nd MIDSA Ministerial Conference that was held in 2013:

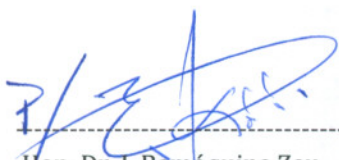
- (a) that the MIDSA Secretariat should continue its efforts to achieve a closer alignment of the MIDSA Process with the formal structures and initiatives of SADC and in particular, to avoid duplication;
- (b) that the current organisational arrangement in which the Chair of SADC is the host of MIDSA during its tenure and supports the MIDSA Secretariat with the organisation of MIDSA events, including providing financial support to the extent possible, should be maintained and strengthened;
- (c) that all SADC Member States provide financial support to the MIDSA Process to the extent possible. In this regard, we commend the Member States who have and continue to provide financial support to the MIDSA Process.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS

1. We commend the SADC Secretariat for the progress made in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Labour Migration;
2. We take note of the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative and the forthcoming regional consultation pertaining to this initiative.

FINALLY,

We urge all SADC Member States, the SADC Secretariat, the MIDSA Secretariat, and International Co-operating Partners to make every effort to pursue and implement the recommendations agreed to and put forward in this statement, including engaging in the necessary processes to ensure that sufficient resources are mobilized for the successful implementation of the Regional Action Plan.




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Hon. Dr. J. Bamóquina Zau
Secretary of State for the Penitentiary Service
Angola



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Hon. E. B. Mabudj-Ma-Bilenge
Vice Prime Minister and Minister: DRC



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Hon. B.R Randimbisoa
Minister of Public Security
Madagascar



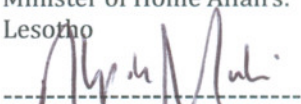
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Hon. E. Jenamiso Batshu
Cabinet Minister
Botswana



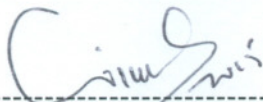
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Hon. Adv. L. Rakuoane
Minister of Home Affairs:
Lesotho



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Hon. A. Muluzi M.P.
Minister of Home Affairs
Malawi



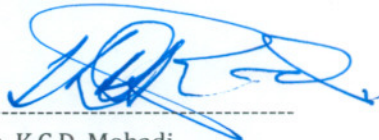
Mr. J. Do Santos Coimbra
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Dep Minister of Home Affairs
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Hon. K.C.D Mohadi
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