



STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,**

**WHEN HE PRESENTS THE REPORT OF THE
CHAIRPERSON OF THE ORGAN ON POLITICS,
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

**TO THE 39TH SADC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT**

ON SATURDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 2019

**STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA**

- **YOUR EXCELLENCY DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND CHAIRPERSON OF SADC;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE GEINGOB, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF SADC;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCIES, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT;**
- **HONOURABLE MINISTERS;**
- **DR. STERGOMENA L. TAX, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SADC SECRETARIAT;**
- **DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

BEFORE I PRESENT MY REPORT AS OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION, ALLOW ME TO CONVEY MY HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES ON THE LOSS OF OVER 70 PEOPLE THAT PERISHED IN THE OIL TANKER DISASTER IN MOROGORO.

THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA MOURN WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY AND OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA. WE PRAY THAT GOD ALMIGHTY GRANTS FORTITUDE AND SOLACE TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES AND THE ENTIRE NATION AS THEY BEAR THIS GREAT LOSS.

AT THE OUTSET, I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI, THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA FOR THE WARM RECEPTION, AND GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY WHICH HAS BEEN ACCORDED TO MY DELEGATION AND I, SINCE OUR ARRIVAL IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY OF DAR ES SALAAM.

BEING IN THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY EVOKES MEMORIES OF THE STRONG FOUNDATION LAID BY OUR FOUNDING FATHERS, DR. KENNETH DAVID KAUNDA AND MWALIMU JULIUS KAMBARAGE NYERERE, WHO ALONGSIDE SIR. SERETSE KHAMA FORMED THE FRONTLINE STATES IN 1974, TO WORK AS A UNITED FRONT FOR COMMON SECURITY, AND MAJORITY RULE IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION.

I ALSO WISH TO EXTEND MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR ASSUMING THE CHAIR OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC). WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP, OUR REGIONAL ORGANISATION WILL ACCELERATE PROGRESS IN OUR INTEGRATION AGENDA.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

IN AUGUST 2018, ZAMBIA TOOK OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION. IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO YOUR EXCELLENCIES FOR THE HONOUR BESTOWED UPON ME, AND FOR THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT RENDERED DURING MY TENURE AS CHAIR.

I AM PROUD TO AFFIRM THAT OUR REGION BOASTS OF A STRONG SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP, BROTHERHOOD AND COOPERATION, WHICH HAS BEEN THE HALLMARK OF SADC OVER THE DECADES OF ITS EXISTENCE.

INDEED, IT IS THIS SPIRIT WHICH, EVEN TODAY, SPURS OUR REGIONAL BODY TO SEEK COMMON SOLUTIONS TO THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS THAT, FROM TIME TO TIME, AFFECT US AS A SADC FAMILY.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME, THAT THE ORGAN IS THE BACKBONE OF SADC AS IT BECAUSE IT SEEKS TO PROMOTE PEACE, SECURITY AND POLITICAL STABILITY, WITHOUT WHICH, SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT BE REALISED IN OUR GREAT REGION.

AS IT WAS WITH THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF OUR ORGANISATION DURING THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE FOR OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, A COMMON VISION WAS FORGED AND IT IS CARDINAL TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF OUR COLLECTIVE DESIRE FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT.

IN THIS VEIN, **YOUR EXCELLENCIES**; THE ORGAN HAS CONTINUED TO DISCHARGE ITS FUNCTIONS IN LINE WITH ARTICLE **10A (3)** OF THE SADC TREATY AND ARTICLE **4 (3)** OF THE PROTOCOL ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION, WHICH PROVIDES THAT THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ORGAN SHALL CONTINUOUSLY CONSULT WITH THE TROIKA AND REPORT TO THE SUMMIT.

IT IS NOW, MY HONOUR TO REPORT ON THE KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGAN DURING MY TENURE, COVERING THE PERIOD OF AUGUST **2018** TO AUGUST **2019**. I WILL FOCUS ON CRITICAL MATTERS, AND DETAILS ON OTHER ISSUES ARE AS PRESENTED IN THE SUMMIT ANNOTATED AGENDA BEFORE YOU.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION IN THE REGION HAS GENERALLY REMAINED STABLE, NOTWITHSTANDING SOME CHALLENGES IN A FEW MEMBER STATES. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT MEMBER STATES CONTINUED TO ADHERE TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND PRACTICES BY HOLDING REGULAR NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS.

DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WERE HELD IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2018, WHILE THE FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR WERE HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER AND 19TH DECEMBER **2018** FOLLOWED BY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ON **27TH MAY 2019**.

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO HELD ITS PRESIDENTIAL, LEGISLATIVE AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS ON **30TH DECEMBER 2018**; THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA HELD ITS GENERAL ELECTIONS ON **8TH MAY 2019**; AND LAST, BUT NOT THE LEAST, THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI HELD ITS TRIPARTITE ELECTIONS (PRESIDENTIAL, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS) ON **21ST MAY 2019**.

IT WAS, INDEED, A BUSY AND EXCITING ELECTORAL PERIOD! THEREFORE, ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENTS, OF ALL THESE MEMBER STATES FOR HOLDING PEACEFUL, AND SUCCESSFUL ELECTIONS.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

REGARDING THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, I WISH TO REPORT THAT DURING THE **2018-2019** PERIOD, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DRC AND SADC HAS BEEN SUSTAINED AND FOCUSED TOWARDS MUTUALLY ATTAINING LONG-LASTING SOLUTIONS TO THE SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING THE COUNTRY.

THE SADC INITIATIVES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND CONGOLESE STAKEHOLDERS HAVE INCLUDED MILITARY SUPPORT, MEDIATION, AND PREVENTATIVE DIPLOMACY, PEACE-KEEPING AND PEACE-BUILDING, AND SUPPORT TO THE DECEMBER **2018** ELECTIONS.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

I WISH TO NOTE THAT SADC TROOPS FROM THREE MEMBER STATES, NAMELY THE REPUBLICS OF MALAWI, SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ARE CURRENTLY DEPLOYED IN EASTERN DRC UNDER THE FORCE INTERVENTION BRIGADE (FIB). THE **FIB** OPERATES WITH A CHAPTER **VII** MANDATE UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION STABILISATION MISSION IN THE DRC (MONUSCO), WITH THE SPECIFIC AIM OF NEUTRALISING THE NEGATIVE FORCES IN THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY.

OUR FOCUS DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW HAS BEEN THE STRENGTHENING AND RE-ORGANISATION OF THE **MONUSCO-FIB**, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS-SADC JOINT TASK FORCE.

FURTHER, IN MARCH **2019**, THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION **2463** FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE MONUSCO MANDATE TO DECEMBER **2019**. IN THIS REGARD, I WISH TO REITERATE THE NEED FOR MEMBER STATES TO VOLUNTEER TROOPS IN ROTATION, TO ENHANCE THE COMPOSITION OF THE **FIB**, AND TO REDUCE THE BURDEN ON THE THREE MEMBER STATES WHICH HAVE CONTINUED TO ASSIST IN THIS REGARD.

ALLOW ME, **YOUR EXCELLENCIES**, TO ALSO CALL UPON THE DOUBLE TROIKA MEMBER STATES PLUS TROOP CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT TASK FORCE, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INDEPENDENT STRATEGIC REVIEW OF MONUSCO WHICH IS TO BE COMPLETED BY **20TH OCTOBER, 2019**.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SADC DECISIONS ON THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO, I WISH TO REPORT THAT FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS OF THE SADC PREVENTATIVE MISSION TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO (SAPMIL), AND ITS CLOSURE IN NOVEMBER **2018**, THE SADC FACILITATOR HIS EXCELLENCY MR. CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REMAINED SEIZED WITH EFFORTS TO FIND LASTING SOLUTIONS TO THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY CHALLENGES AFFECTING THE KINGDOM.

I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT, AS REPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO, IN THE SUMMIT ANNOTATION, THE RELATIONS AMONGST THE SECURITY AGENCIES HAVE IMPROVED BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE HEADS OF SECURITY AGENCIES HAVE BEGUN MAKING JOINT STATEMENTS ON SECURITY ISSUES OF CONCERN, AND ON THEIR CONDUCT OF JOINT OPERATIONS AND MEETINGS, TO ELIMINATE OVERLAPPING MANDATES.

HOWEVER, THIS SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT NEEDS TO BE COMPLEMENTED WITH TANGIBLE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE REFORMS PROGRAMME.

DESPITE THE VARIOUS PROGRESS REPORTS, WHICH MAINLY COVER ACTIVITIES OF A PROCEDURAL NATURE, AND SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES USED, PROGRESS REMAINS VERY LIMITED.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

I FURTHER WISH TO REPORT, WITH CONCERN, THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND SECURITY SECTOR REFORMS WHICH THE DOUBLE TROIKA SUMMIT OF APRIL **2018** URGED TO BE COMPLETED BY MAY **2019**, REMAIN UNFULFILLED.

IN THIS REGARD, ONCE AGAIN, THE REGION CALLS UPON THE STAKEHOLDERS IN THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO TO REMAIN COMMITTED AND FOCUS ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF TANGIBLE PROGRESS ON THE REFORMS.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF FIRST AND SECOND PLENARIES OF THE NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE NEED TO BE COMPLEMENTED BY CLEAR AND ACTIONABLE ITEMS INCLUDING TIMEFRAMES TO BE STRICTLY OBSERVED FOR THE GOOD OF THE KINGDOM, AND ITS PEOPLE.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

WITH REGARD TO THE OVERALL CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION, I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL MEMBER STATES FOR THE VITAL SUPPORT RENDERED TO SADC ELECTORAL OBSERVER MISSIONS (SEOMS) DURING THE **2018/2019** ELECTORAL CYCLE, THROUGH THE DEPLOYMENT OF OBSERVERS FOR THE IMPORTANT ELECTIONS WHICH WERE HELD.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION IS ALSO EXTENDED TO OUR SISTERLY GOVERNMENTS THAT PROVIDED LOGISTICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SOME OF THE COUNTRIES THAT HELD ELECTIONS.

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, **YOUR EXCELLENCIES;** DURING THE REMAINDER OF **2019**, BOTSWANA, MAURITIUS, MOZAMBIQUE AND NAMIBIA ARE SCHEDULED TO HOLD ELECTIONS.

IN LINE WITH OUR TRADITION, AND IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION, I URGE ALL MEMBER STATES TO CONTINUE TO LEND THEIR USUAL SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES BY TAKING PART IN THE SADC ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS (SEOM) TO THESE COUNTRIES.

DURING THESE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS, I BELIEVE WE, AS MEMBER STATES, HAVE THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BETTER OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE VARIOUS ELECTORAL CHALLENGES THAT MEMBER STATES ARE FACED WITH, AND DRAW LESSONS FROM THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS IN THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

WE ALSO AVAIL OURSELVES OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN BEST PRACTICES FROM EACH OTHER, AS WE CONTINUE TO GROW OUR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I WISH TO COMMEND OUR COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TOWARDS CONSOLIDATING DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION, AND SAFEGUARDING OUR FREEDOM, AND SOVEREIGNTY.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

WITH REGARD TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY, I AM PROUD TO INFORM YOU THAT, DURING THIS YEAR, SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY WAS COMMEMORATED AS A REGIONAL EVENT FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE **23RD MARCH 2019** IN THE VILLAGE OF CUITO CUANAVALE, CUANDO CUBANGO PROVINCE, IN THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA. THE EVENT WAS ATTENDED BY HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT FROM THE SADC REGION, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNTRIES THAT SUPPORTED THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THIS MILESTONE SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A ONE-OFF EVENT, AND OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS SHOULD NOW FOCUS ON CREATING A CONSISTENT PROGRAMME OF EVENTS TO MARK THIS DAY.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

FURTHER, I WISH TO NOTE THAT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUTURE OF OUR YOUTH, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CURRICULA ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION HISTORY, AS WELL AS A ROADMAP ON THE ROLL OUT OF THE CURRICULA BY MEMBER STATES IN THE REGION, BE FINALISED EXPEDITIOUSLY.

IN THIS RESPECT, I INVITE THE SUMMIT TO COMMEND THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA FOR HOSTING THE FIRST REGIONAL EVENT IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

REGARDING STRENGTHENING COLLECTIVE REGIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY, I WISH TO STATE THAT BUILDING UPON THE COMMITMENT OF MEMBER STATES TO CONTRIBUTE US\$**10** MILLION TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REGIONAL LOGISTICS DEPOT FOR THE SADC STANDBY FORCE, EFFORTS CONTINUED DURING THE YEAR TO MOBILISE THE BALANCE OF US\$**35** MILLION.

IN LINE WITH THE MANDATE BESTOWED UPON ME BY SUMMIT, AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE ORGAN, I SUBMITTED THE SADC'S REQUEST FOR SUPPORT TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DEPOT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA DURING MY MEETING WITH HIS EXCELLENCY MR. XI JINPING, PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ON THE MARGINS OF THE SUMMIT OF THE FORUM ON CHINA AFRICA COOPERATION (FOCAC) IN OCTOBER **2018**.

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE REQUEST WAS RECEIVED POSITIVELY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND I SUBSEQUENTLY, DIRECTED THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SADC TO FOLLOW UP WITH THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES IN CHINA.

I AM AWARE THAT THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RECEIVED ADVICE THAT THE SUPPORT WOULD BE CONSIDERED THROUGH THE EXISTING CHINESE GRANT PROVIDED TO THE AFRICAN UNION UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF PEACE AND SECURITY SUPPORT TO AFRICA, AND SUBSEQUENT ENGAGEMENTS TOOK PLACE WITH THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION.

MAY I EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, AND HER TEAM FOR THEIR DEDICATION ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER, AND EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THAT THE IN-COMING CHAIRPERSON OF THE ORGAN WILL PRIORITISE THIS ACTIVITY TOWARDS THE FULL OPERATIONALISATION OF THE SADC STANDBY FORCE.

I AM, THEREFORE, PLEASED TO INFORM **YOUR EXCELLENCIES** THAT THE SADC STANDBY FORCE HAS BEEN ON THE AFRICA STANDBY FORCE ROSTER FROM **1ST** JANUARY TO **30TH** JUNE, 2019. IN PREPARATION FOR THIS ROLE, THE COMMAND POST EXERCISE (CPX) WAS CONDUCTED AT THE MALAWI ARMED FORCES COLLEGE (MAFCO), SALIMA, REPUBLIC OF MALAWI, FROM **1ST** TO **16TH** OCTOBER, 2018.

TWELVE (12) MEMBER STATES PARTICIPATED THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING PHASES AND CONDUCT OF THE COMMAND POST EXERCISE, NAMELY; ANGOLA, BOTSWANA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, ESWATINI, LESOTHO, MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE.

ALLOW ME, ON YOUR BEHALF, TO COMMEND THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI FOR SUCCESSFULLY HOSTING THE COMMAND POST EXERCISE IN OCTOBER **2018**.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SOME SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE OUR APPROVAL OF THE SADC REGIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY, AND ITS ACTION PLAN DURING THE AUGUST **2015** SUMMIT IN GABORONE. TO EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH EMERGING SECURITY THREATS, THE REGION NOW HAS THE ROADMAP OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SADC COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY, AND ITS ACTION PLAN; AND MEMBER STATES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION TO THE SECRETARIAT BY **15TH** MARCH EVERY YEAR.

ALLOW ME TO NOW HIGHLIGHT CERTAIN TRENDS FROM THE REGIONAL SECURITY ASSESSMENT THAT ARE OF GREAT CONCERN. THESE INCLUDE AMONGST OTHERS EXTREMIST MOVEMENTS THAT ARE RECRUITING, AND INDOCTRINATING POPULATIONS IN SOME MEMBER STATES.

THERE ARE EQUALLY SOME INDIVIDUALS REPORTEDLY HAVING LINKS TO AL-SHABAAB AND AL-QAEDA NETWORKS IN EAST AFRICA; WHILE THERE ARE FUNDAMENTALISTS THAT ARE, NOT ONLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, BUT ALSO OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS TO SPREAD THEIR RADICAL VALUES.

WE ARE AWARE OF SOME ISLAMIC INSTITUTIONS PROPAGATING THE SPREAD OF RADICAL FORMS OF ISLAM THROUGH THE ABUSE OR EXPLOITATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED TO YOUTHS FROM IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITIES.

TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME SUCH AS CYBERCRIME, MONEY LAUNDERING, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS, POACHING CAN ALSO BE EXPLOITED TO AID TERRORISM IN THE REGION.

IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT A MULTI- AGENCY APPROACH AS WELL AS INVESTMENT IN ROBUST CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES ARE PRIORITISED TO COUNTER TERRORISM IN THE REGION.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

MOVING FORWARD, I WISH TO HIGHLIGHT SOME AREAS ON WHICH THE ORGAN SHOULD KEEP A FIRM FOCUS, AND THESE INCLUDE:

- (i) CONSOLIDATION AND STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE PRACTICES IN THE REGION;
- (ii) ASSISTING THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE REFORMS PROCESS;

- (iii) THE STRATEGIC REVIEW AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE CAPABILITY OF THE **MONUSCO-FIB**, IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN PEACE AND SECURITY, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEED TO VOLUNTEER TROOPS ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS, AND AN EVENTUAL **MONUSCO-FIB** EXIT STRATEGY;
- (iv) MOBILISING RESOURCES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REGIONAL LOGISTICAL DEPOT;
- (v) CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE THROUGH SADC ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION IN COUNTRIES WHICH WILL BE HOLDING ELECTIONS; AND
- (vi) CREATING AN EFFECTIVE MULTI- AGENCY FORUM TO FIGHT TERRORISM IN THE REGION.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

BEFORE I CONCLUDE MY REPORT, ALLOW ME, TO CONGRATULATE HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT FILIPE JACINTO NYUSI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE AND HONOURABLE OSSUFO MOMADE, THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY, RENAMO, FOR SIGNING THE PEACE AND RECONCILIATION AGREEMENT ON THE 6TH AUGUST 2019, OF WHICH I HAD THE HONOUR TO WITNESS.

THIS AGREEMENT WILL SEE AMONGST OTHERS, THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION AND REINTEGRATION OF RENAMO FIGHTERS. THE PEACE AND RECONCILIATION AGREEMENT PAVES THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND REVAMPING OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. IT FURTHER CREATES A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR PEACEFUL ELECTIONS THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER 2019.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

AS I CONCLUDE, I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TREMENDOUS SUPPORT AND COOPERATION THAT I ENJOYED FROM MY COLLEAGUES IN THE ORGAN TROIKA DURING THE YEAR.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE ORGAN, HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JOÃO LOURENÇO, PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, AND THE INCOMING CHAIRPERSON, HIS EXCELLENCY MR. EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE. IT WAS SUCH A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH BOTH OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES. THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA WILL DILIGENTLY CONTINUE PLAYING HER ROLE AS THE OUTGOING CHAIR IN THE COMING YEAR.

MAY I ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ORGAN (MCO), UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF HONOURABLE JOSEPH MALANJI, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA FOR THE EXCELLENT JOB DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW.

MY ROLE AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGAN WAS MADE SIMPLER BY THE HARD WORK AND DILIGENCE OF THE MCO AS THEY CARRIED OUT MANY ASSIGNMENTS ON BEHALF OF, AND AS DIRECTED BY, THE ORGAN CHAIR.

LAST BUT CERTAINLY, NOT THE LEAST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK, MOST SINCERELY, THE SADC SECRETARIAT UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, DR. STERGOMENA L. TAX, FOR PROFESSIONALLY AND EFFECTIVELY COORDINATING THE ORGAN ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. YOUR HARD WORK AND UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT HAS BEEN INVALUABLE.

IT IS NOW MY HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO SUBMIT THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST **2018** TO AUGUST **2019** TO THE SUMMIT FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION. AT THIS JUNCTURE, MAY I CALL UPON THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO PRESENT THE PROPOSED DECISIONS UNDER EACH SECTION.

**MERCI BEAUCOUP!
MUITO OBRIGADO!
ZIKOMO KWAMBILI!
ASANTENI SANA
I THANK YOU!**