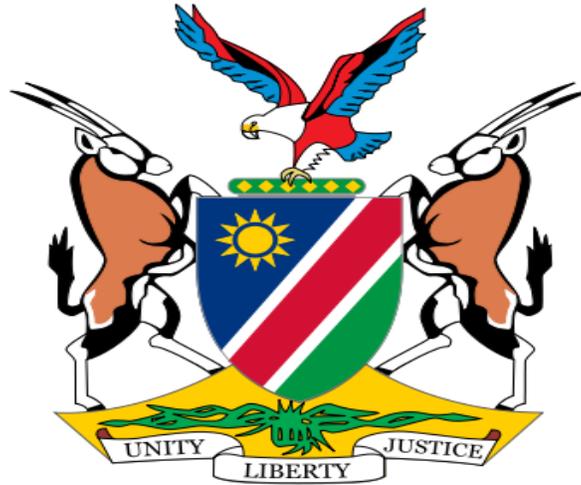


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



CLOSING REMARKS

BY

**HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, MP,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
AT THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE
SADC ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND
SECURITY COOPERATION**

25 JULY 2014

Honourable Ministers,
Heads of delegation,
Executive Secretary of SADC,
Chiefs of Defence Forces and other Senior Officials,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Delegates,

We have come to the end of our deliberations. These two days have seen us debating in a candid and lively manner, with fruitful discussions on those issues relevant to the SADC Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

You will certainly have experienced true Swakopmund weather and I hope that this evening as we dine at the outskirts of the desert dunes, you will further appreciate a little more of the Namibian environment. Particularly for those of you who have travelled from Windhoek, you will have been exposed to the contrasting beauty of the savannah plateau and the desert at sea level.

Dear Colleagues,

For these two days we have discussed issues critical to the political and security situation of our region.

I am pleased that before considering our agenda, we reflected on the critical global security situation, particularly that prevails in the occupied territories of Palestine. We issued a statement on the situation in Palestine, in which we condemned the indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on innocent civilians, and, expressed our solidarity with the people of Palestine.

With regard to our agenda, we considered and took decisions relating to the political and security situation in the region. The first part of our agenda concerned the Interstate Politics and Diplomacy.

We considered the situation in Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of Congo. With regard to Madagascar, we welcome progress made and recognised that much remained to be done in their recovery from five years of economic and political crisis, particularly in the full implementation of the SADC Roadmap. In considering the situation in the DRC, we were pleased that over the past year there has been remarkable progress in achieving peace and stability, especially following the defeat of M23 rebels and the voluntarily surrender of FDLR. We commended both Madagascar and the DRC for their improved stability and security situations, and

assured them of our continued support in their efforts towards unity and reconciliation.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

We were briefed on and look forward to the launch of the Hashim Mbita Research Publication in August at the SADC Summit to be held at the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. We strongly believe that this important historical document will serve as a reminder to our youth and future generations of the struggle of our region for self-determination and liberation from apartheid and colonialism.

In consolidating democracy in our region, we noted the successful elections, which took place in Swaziland, Madagascar, South Africa and Malawi, as well as the upcoming elections in Mozambique, Botswana and Namibia. We recognised areas of concern and made recommendations for future SADC Election Observation Missions. We also took note of the ongoing review of the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. I call upon member states, as we have always done in the past, to work in unison in ensuring that the forthcoming elections are also a success.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

In the second part of our agenda, we considered issues related to interstate defence and security. Among others, we discussed the proliferation of small arms and light weapons; progress report on the Amani Africa II Exercise to be held in the Kingdom of Lesotho in 2015; progress report on the SADC Standby Force; contribution of SADC member states to peace support operations; the SADC Early Warning Centres. We also discussed issues pertaining to the implementation of the Univisa, and we welcomed the Kingdom of Lesotho's decision to join the pilot group project. Other immigration issues as well as combatting illegal migration, smuggling of persons and trafficking of drugs and human beings were also discussed.

We discussed the financial situation of the MCO and its programmes, and expressed our concern in this regard. We further recommended that MCO meets in the margins of the Summit in August 2014 to review the funding of the Organ activities.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

Of particular importance as we work towards the principle of gender equality through our organisation, we discussed the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and its implementation. In this regard, the SADC Secretariat was directed to monitor the implementation of the Resolution and report on an annual basis. Moreover, the SADC Gender Desk and member states were directed to actively participate in the global study which reviews implementation of the Resolution.

Member states agreed to take part in the side event on Resolution 1325, being organized by Namibia on the margin of the UN General Assembly in September 2014.

Since this is my final meeting of the whole MCO that I will chair, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to you all for your kind support since August 2013. I sincerely hope that you extend the same cooperation to my successor.

I would further like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared the documentation for our meeting. More especially, I would also like to wholeheartedly thank the Secretariat for the immense support rendered to us during our chairmanship of the Organ. We really do appreciate the support.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe journey back to your respective homes and hope to see you later this evening in the desert for dinner.

Kwahereni,
Bonne voyage,
Viagens seguras,
Safe travels.

I thank you.