



MAPUTO DIASPORA DECLARATION

WE, the representatives of ministries with mandates on migration and related issues from the SADC member states including; Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as the SADC Secretariat, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Partners met in Maputo, the Republic of Mozambique from the 25 – 28 October 2021; for the Sixth Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) Ministerial Meeting;

RECALLING the African Union definition of the Diaspora adopted in 2006 as "people of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and building of the African Union (AU");

MINDFUL of the AU Constitutive Act that declared that it shall "invite and encourage the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of our continent, in the building of the African Union";

RECOGNIZING the inherent benefits and the role played by the Diaspora in contributing to economies of countries of origin and destination, including; social and financial remittances, promotion of trade, business creation, and entrepreneurial growth as well as facilitating the transfer of skills and knowledge;

RECALLING the Global, Continental and Regional Frameworks on Migration and Diaspora including the potential contribution of migration to socio-economic development (SDGs) and the Objectives of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) that calls on governments to; Enhance consular protection, assistance, and cooperation throughout the migration cycle (Obj.14); Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries (Obj. 19) and to Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants (Obj. 20);

COGNISANT of the first Global African Diaspora Summit, held in 2012 in Sandton, South Africa, which adopted, among other recommendations; the production of a Skills Database of African Professionals in the Diaspora; the African Diaspora Investment Fund; a programme on the Development Marketplace for the Diaspora as a framework for facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship among African and Diaspora; and the African Institute for Remittances;

MINDFUL that the African Union acknowledges the significant role of the Diaspora in the development of the continent and has declared the Diaspora the 'continent's Sixth region;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has increasingly recognized the developmental potential of a well-managed migration and being among the few Africa Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to have drafted a regional migration policy with an implementation plan to regulate migration and engage the Diaspora;



FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the solidarity and shared vision of SADC and its Member States continue to be the driving force towards regional integration and overall socio-economic development at the national and regional level;

UNDERSCORING the recommendation of the 2017 MIDSA Ministerial Meeting in Ezulwini, Eswatini "to develop programmes and innovative activities for the active engagement of Youth and the Diaspora to make a meaningful contribution to the social and economic development of their home countries as well as the SADC Community";

MINDFUL that almost all the SADC Member States are desirous of engaging their Diaspora and have made specific requests to IOM to support and assist with Diaspora mapping for the active engagement of their Diaspora towards national development agenda;

Therefore, hereby agree to establish a Southern Africa Regional Diaspora Engagement Programme, with the aim to:

- I) Effectively ENGAGE Diaspora;**
- II) *ENABLE Diasporas* to reach their full development potential;**
- III) EMPOWER them to make a difference in the countries of Origin and Host countries (Destination) as agents of development;**
- IV) *PROMOTE cross-regional skills, experience, and knowledge transfer* to foster regional integration and South-South cooperation between and amongst the SADC Member States.**

Request the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with relevant UN Agencies and partners, in coordination with the SADC member states and the Secretariat to develop a regional programme and a regional diaspora policy to facilitate the engagement of the Diaspora and transnational communities as agents of development among SADC member states;

Encourage SADC Member States that have not yet done so to approach IOM for support in the development of appropriate national diaspora policies and diaspora programmes and further request IOM to assist in that regard.