'ACHIEVING EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION-CHALLENGES AND MAJOR AREAS OF POLICY AND ACTION'.

Discussant paper:

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Southern Africa is going through Food crisis and emergency situation. The humanitarian crisis has highlighted that AIDS and hunger has placed the region in a state of severe vulnerability and a reduced threshold for crises turning into major disasters.

The recent food crisis in Southern Africa has been far more widespread and impacted much more severely than predictions based upon rainfall patterns had anticipated - illustrates the destructive effect AIDS is having in the community.

During the SADC HIV & AIDS Summit held on 1-2 July 2003, in Maseru Lesotho; the Heads of State and Governments declared Food Security as one of the areas requiring urgent attention and action; and that a joint Ministerial meeting on food security should be held for effective implementation of food security programmes in the region. This meeting was held in Tanzania April 2004 highlighting important strategies and regional commitments in addressing food shortage in the region.

With reference to President Mkapa speech when he launched the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) in Arusha at the SADC Council of Ministers meeting on 12 March 2004, Mkapa said, "I would urge South Africa to accept a larger proportion of the responsibility in the process of creating a social and human development environment free from poverty, diseases and hunger and to push this prospect forward through evaluating the commitments made by each member state in addressing the crises throughout the SADC region."

Im pleased to share with you the UN High level Committee on Programmmes (HLCP) which were indorsed by the United Nations Chief Executive Board (CEB) in November 2003. The Paper seeks to refocus the UN's attention to the triple threat of Food Insecurity; Weakened Capacity

for Governance and AIDS in South and Eastern Africa. The Paper raised issues of shared concern such as:

1. Deepening household and community vulnerability to food and livelihood

2. Strengthening simultaneously Humanitarian and developmental relief and emergency development ensuring traditional assistance to the displaced persons and refugees

3. Accelerated capacity development – building of institutional capacity at Government and civil society levels.

4. Scaling up women's programming for effective prevention, universal access to sexual and reproductive health

5. A livelihood Approach- Addressing AIDS within a context which is most defined by poverty and chronic food insecurity. Actions designed to address the long –term causes and consequences of poverty and food insecurity as major influence on household decision making particularly in the rural area where the poverty prevails.

6.A need for systematized and financial evaluation of existing national activities and programmes, and intensified focus for the UN Funds.

AIDS, Food security and poverty, the humanitarian emergency—each fueling the severity of the other, demand a far greater and more unified multisectoral and holistic programming response from the community as a whole than seen to date in Eastern and Southern Africa, in general and in SADC countries, in particular.

Despite a widespread recognition of the integral relationship between AIDS and poverty and under-development, little systematic investigation has been done into the impact of AIDS on underdevelopment, particularly studies on HIV/AIDS, food security, famine, and nutrition.

Given the unprecedented AIDS crisis that threatens the very survival of some states in the region, SADC should strengthen the mechanisms for Authentic Accountability, identifying Indigenous leadership Models on Local Best Practices Combined with the Best Theory and Mentoring for Youth and women. Identifying Contextual Influences and Cultural Factors associated with the **Triple Threat: POVERTY- HUNGER AND AIDS**.

The issue of "functional systemic service delivery" is embedded within a larger context. The designed and developed Afro-Centric Models for Systemic Interventions and Service Delivery Models of systems thinking and critical thinking typically are derived from an industrialized and scientific context such as:

- Leadership and programming reviews of national strategies which are country – led , broad-based participatory, that keeps the Fight Against AIDS at the top of the World Agenda and attaches real value to African lives. Decentralized Partnership Forums of public and private actors and effective coordination of the responses.

- Clear commitments with a timetable to the action required, including funding, to seriously scale-up the Fight Against AIDS.

- A willingness to review the architecture of donor funding, including funding for core budgets and making medium term commitments.

- Show greater decisiveness in monitoring, evaluation of the impact of programmes and tracking resource flows and utilization of larger commitments such as Global Funds.

- Ensure agreements are made to enable AIDS drugs become affordable to all .

- Create the enabling environment that would harness the capacity of the multi-national and other institutions to accelerate research on the triple crisis on Food Security, AIDS and Poverty in SADC
- Support the development of Centers of Excellence particularly for enhancing mulisectoral approach in the area of care and support for affected, infected and the population in the region

We have to develop Community Safety nets to provide and institutionalise social programmes for extremely poor households including impoverished by AIDS.

Additionally, sharing more strategic information among countries is crucial for effective partnership building in financing and advocacy, as well as for more effective programme planning, implementation and sustainability.

Concurrent with the implementation of such programmes, and in the context of the Triple crisis in SADC, increased research must be undertaken to improve the understanding of the vulnerability of communities as a whole for

- -The long term heavily impacted farming communities
- The quantification of household made vulnerable by AIDS such as Child headed, elderly headed, specific caring groups
- Impact of gender imbalance
- Impact on loss of human resources
- Linkages between HIV& AIDS and nutrition

SADC also collaborates with its expanding network of local, national and regional partners to identify more regionally focused strategies and programming opportunities to fill the existing gaps, as well as confront the undiminished challenge of HIV/AIDS and availability of Food Security in the Region.