

## SATUCC

- Coordinate and network affiliate activities on regional policy issues (solidarity building, actions and campaigns)
- Provide information on SADC protocols, activities and events to affiliates (Establish data bank and interactive website)
- Create awareness and provide timely advise to affiliates on regional policy issues
- Present affiliates views to relevant structures of SADC (Link between affiliates and SADC)
- Expose errant government not implementing and maintaining a functioning SADC National Committee involving civil society and trade unions in SADC meetings (i.e. the ICM)
- Build Capacity in affiliates to understand and engage effectively in regional policy issues
- Bring affiliates together to share experiences to facilitate and promote the process of regional integration

## SATUCC Engaging SADC

Since the restructuring of SADC, the spaces for trade union participation have narrowed down. Most noticeable is the abandonment of the tripartite structures. Even though SATUCC and its affiliates do have opportunities to engage in the new structures such as the ICM and SADC National Committees respectively, they are often exposed to new players (government officials from Finance, Commerce and Foreign Affairs) who have little or no experience with social dialogue.

The trade unions need also to explore other spaces of participation such as the SADC NGO Forum with the aim of providing leadership and direction in advancing people driven regional agenda.

## Influencing Regional agenda

The trade unions can effectively participate and influence the regional agenda by doing the following;

- Creating awareness and building capacity in trade unions at all levels to understand and appreciate political and socio-economic policy issues from both national and regional perspectives;
- Developing alternative trade union policies and mechanisms for increasing acceptability of the same;
- Building and creating the necessary capacity in trade unions to engage effectively at national and regional levels;
- Encourage all SATUCC affiliates to seek and open spaces for dialogue and consultations on national and regional policy issues where forums to do not exist;

- Mobilizing and organizing to build strong trade union movements in the sub-region;
- Encouraging increased solidarity and collective action among SATUCC affiliates on regional policy issues;
- Establishing strategic alliances with like minded civil society organizations, NGO's to increase the voice and influence the regional policy agenda.

## Role of SATUCC and Affiliates

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### AFFILIATES

- Inform SATUCC on country practices in respective countries on social dialogue i.e. functioning of SADC National Committee and other national policy process including violation of trade union and humanrights
- Network with other SATUCC affiliates and promote collective actions and campaigns (solidarity building)
- Build capacity to understand and engage effectively in national and regional policy issues
- Demand, create, and seek spaces for social dialogue on national and regional policy issues where such forums do not exist.

## SATUCC Contacts

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# Southern African Trade Union Coordination Council



## Engaging the New SADC

### Background

One of the goals behind the formation of SATUCC was to establish a regional trade union movement that would influence SADC policies at both regional and national levels. Since its formation, SATUCC has assumed a high political profile, reporting on economic, political and labour conditions in the quest to influence the policies of SADC. Initially SATUCC engaged SADC through the Southern African Labour Commission (SALC) until 1995 when the SADC Council of Minister established the SADC Employment and Labour Sector (ELS). The ELS was based on a tripartite structure with representatives from government, business and trade unions in the region.

SADC has since undergone further changes particularly with the Republic of South Africa joining in 1994. To SADC's original aim of investment in the development of infrastructural projects was added the promotion of greater economic integration of the region. The SADC Extraordinary Summit in 2001 approved major restructuring of SADC institutions under which the twenty-one sectors have been grouped into clusters under four Directorates at the SADC Secretariat. Under the new set up SADC National Committees will coordinate the respective Member State interests relating to SADC. At regional level, an Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM) will coordinate the work of different clusters under the new four Directorates. The New SADC includes the Troika system and the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.





### The New SADC Structure

The new SADC structure poses new challenges for SATUCC and its affiliates. The governing structure adopted for the New SADC is such that the Summit is the policy-making institution. It is led by a Troika system made up of the Chairperson, the Incoming Chairperson and the Outgoing Chairperson. As set out in the new Treaty, it will meet at least twice a year, as opposed to only once a year under the old system. Decisions are based on consensus.

The Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation also operates on the basis of a Troika system chosen by the Summit. In this case, the chairperson of the Organ should not be the chairperson of the Summit. Within the Organ is a Ministerial Committee comprising of the Ministers responsible for foreign affairs, defence, public / state security.

The Council of Ministers oversees the functioning of SADC and meets at least four times a year. It is made up of one Minister from each member state, preferably the Minister responsible for the SADC National Contact Point who is either the Minister of Finance/Development Planning or, in most cases, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM) oversees the implementation of the main areas of integration, including the four clusters below and provides guidance to the Secretariat. It has decision-making powers to ensure the speedy implementation of programmes. The ICM meets at least twice a year and consists of at least two ministers from each country. No guidelines exist in terms of which Ministers should attend. This therefore marginalizes Social Sector Ministers (e.g. Labour). Ministries of Finance and Trade may dominate this structure, marginalizing the Ministers dealing with the human aspects.

A standing committee of officials consisting of one permanent secretary or an official of equivalent rank from each member state provides the technical backstopping services. The amended SADC Treaty provides that stakeholders (e.g. trade unions, NGOs, civil society, employer organisations) should participate in the sub-committees of the ICM. Workers' and employers' organisations are mandated to participate in ICM and Ministerial meetings of the cluster of Social and Human Development and Special Programmes.

It is important to note that the SADC Treaty is legally binding on its members, and has provisions for sanctions against member states that fail to fulfil their obligations or implement policies that undermine its principles and objectives. To ensure adherence to the provisions of the Treaty, Tribunals shall be constituted to adjudicate over disputes.

Four directorates replaced the 21 sector co-ordinating units and commissions. The new four Directorates are:



- Directorate 1:** Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment
- Directorate 2:** Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Directorate 3:** Infrastructure and Services
- Directorate 4:** Social and Human Development and Special Programmes

Each directorate is under a director and all the 4 directorates in turn are under the new Department of Strategic Planning, Gender and Policy Harmonisation, which was set up to strengthen the Secretariat in executing its new functions. A Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) has been prepared and adopted to assist in operationalizing SADC's objectives, emphasising the shift from project implementation to policy formulation and harmonisation.

### SADC National Committees

The provisions of the amended SADC Treaty provide for the establishment of SADC National Committees comprising of the private sector, civil society, NGOs, worker and employer organisations. The Treaty also directs that it is the obligation of member countries to create such committees. The committees are expected to;

- Provide input in the formulation of SADC policies, strategies and programme of action;
- Co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of SADC programme of action; iii) promote and broaden stakeholder participation in SADC affairs in member states;
- Facilitate information flows and communication between member states and the SADC Secretariat; and
- Co-ordinate the provision of inputs for the development of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and monitor its implementation.

According to the SADC Treaty, each national committee is expected to have a steering committee and a secretariat, sub-committees and technical committees.

### Policies of SADC

The policies of SADC, which underpin the common agenda, are contained in Article 5 of the SADC Treaty. The policies of SADC are to;

- To promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development that will ensure poverty alleviation with ultimate objective of its eradication, enhance the standard and quality of life of the people of Southern Africa and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration;



- Promote common political value, systems and other shared values which are transmitted through institutions which are democratic, legitimate and effective;
- Consolidate, defend and maintain democracy, peace, security and stability;
- Promote self-sustaining development on the basis of collective self-reliance, and interdependence of Member States;
- Achieve complementarity between national and regional strategies Promote and maximize productive employment and utilization of resources of the region;
- Achieve sustainable utilization of natural resources and effective protection of the environment;
- Strengthen and consolidate the long-standing historical, social and cultural affinities and links among the people of the region;
- Combat HIV and AIDS and other deadly or communicable diseases;
- Ensure that poverty eradication is addressed in the SADC activities and programmes; and
- Mainstream gender in the process of community building

### SADC Protocols Signed and Ratified

PROTOCOL	DATE	RATIFIED
Immunities & privileges	1992	X
Shared watercourse systems	1995	X
Transport, communication & meteorology	1996	X
Energy	1996	X
Combating illicit drug trafficking	1996	X
Trade	1996	X
Education & training	1997	X
Mining	1997	X
Tourism	1998	X
Wildlife conservation & law enforcement	1999	
Health	1999	
Tribunal rules of procedure	2000	
Legal affairs	2000	
Revised protocol on shared watercourses	2000	
Amendment protocol on trade	2000	
Politics, defence & security co-operation	2001	
Control of firearms, ammunition & others	2001	
Fisheries	2001	
Corruption	2001	
Culture, information & sport	2001	
Extradition		
Forestry		
Mutual legal assistance in criminal matters		
Facilitation of movement of persons		

