



# COMMUNIQUE

**SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM AND OXFAM JOINT  
CLIMATE JUSTICE AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION  
LEARNING EVENT**

**COMMUNIQUE: SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM AND  
OXFAM JOINT CLIMATE JUSTICE AND  
JUST ENERGY TRANSITION**



**OXFAM**

Oxfam in Southern Africa and Oxfam South Africa (OZA) in collaboration with the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) and partner organisations, namely Access Coalition, Climate Action Network-South Africa and Institute for Economic Justice convened a learning event targeting the SADC PF Standing Committee on Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) on 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Windhoek, Namibia.

Given the different contextual social and economic narratives that underpin transitioning to low carbon economies and energy systems, the purpose of the learning event was to facilitate learning on climate justice and the just energy transition stemming from Oxfam's scoping research report launched in December 2022 titled: "Towards a Just Energy Transition and the Implications for Communities in lower-and-middle income countries".

The learning objectives were to facilitate knowledge and learning amongst Southern African member states' Parliamentarians on the opportunities and challenges posed by the just energy transition for the region; to strengthen the representative, legislative and oversight roles of SADC Parliamentarians in the development of pro-people just energy transition development frameworks.

The learning event was officially opened by the SADC PF Secretary General, Her Excellency Ms. Boemo Sekgoma. In her keynote address the Secretary General commended the opportune convening of the learning event at a critical time when the climate crisis has perniciously hit the SADC region. Between 2021 and 2023, the SADC region was devastated by 11 cyclones, affecting over 2 million citizens in Madagascar, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, as well as the island states of Madagascar and Mauritius. She highlighted how the SADC PF as a regional parliamentary organisation is committed to the call for progressive climate action anchored on promoting green legislation, environmentally responsible budgets, and oversight



Her Excellency Ms. Boemo Sekgoma, SADC Parliamentary Forum Secretary General

Photo: Veronica Zano/Oxfam

In his keynote address, Mr Romao Xavier the Oxfam in Southern Africa Cluster Just Economies Lead reiterated how the climate change crisis is affecting all parts of the world and to that extent it unites all towards a common imperative. He emphasised the need for strong leadership, collaboration, and investment by SADC member states, in partnership with multiple stakeholders towards the creation of enabling policy environments that incentivises renewable energy investments, promotes access to affordable and reliable energy systems, changes in the modes of production particularly moving towards the industrialisation of mineral raw materials and regional integration to create economies of scale.

In his presentation on the dynamics of the energy transition and implications on SADC, Mr. Gerald Byarugaba, Oxfam in Africa Extractives Advisor, pointed out how climate-induced disasters which have hit the region have worsened poverty and inequality due to energy deficits, overwhelming public debt and economic shocks from COVID-19 pandemic, making the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) difficult. As such SADC, like the rest of Africa, is at crossroads in terms of striking a viable balance between development and climate goals. He emphasised the importance of ensuring a just and equitable approach in policy and law formulation which ensures a clean energy transition; that reduces poverty and inequalities rather than entrenching them; improves energy access and affordability and contributes to other vital economic development goals in the development of clean energy technologies.

Ms. Florence Gichoya, Access Coalition Communications and Membership Manager made a presentation on the progress by SADC member states towards the implementation of SDG 7 of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. She explained how, despite the existence of various regional instruments and initiatives towards SDG 7 such as the SADC Energy Protocol, Southern Africa Power Pool Plan (SAPP) Energy Efficiency Framework and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REEESAP), the region still faces limited access and supply of energy. As a result, this has slowed the pace of regional economic growth, integration and industrialisation. Ms. Gichoya encouraged member states to seize the opportunities offered by investing in renewable energy as a cost-effective mechanism, to improve energy access given the region's strongest comparative advantage in the area.

Mr. Readlay Makaliki, SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREE) Lead Technical, presented on progress towards the implementation of the Regional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REEESAP, 2017-2030) on its five objectives namely energy security; access to modern energy services; offsetting the risk associated with energy imports; mobilising financial resources for investment and low carbon development paths and climate resilient energy systems. His presentation showcased how member states still have a long way to go towards attaining the renewable energy mix and energy access targets of the REESAP.

Presentations on The Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP) were made by Mr.



Thandolwethu Lukuko, Climate Action Network-South Africa and Mr. Kamal Ramburuth, Institute for Economic Justice. It was highlighted how often the public and parliament have limited access to loan agreements, which are typically embedded in national budgets and tend to hide the specific details of the loans. To promote transparency and accountability within the JETP agreement and advance gender equality and social justice, it is crucial to ensure equitable access to opportunities to participate in clean energy technology jobs and supply chains.

In her presentation on clean cooking, Ms Patricia Mbogo from Access Coalition, expressed concern on how clean cooking has received little attention as compared to energy access on the continent. Yet women constitute the bulk of the population in the region who are still using dirty fuels for cooking which are environmentally harmful and toxic to their health. She called for policy interventions that address air quality and the affordability of such clean cooking technologies to ensure sustained operations by end-users.

A presentation on The Africa Green Minerals Strategy (AMGS) and responsible mining for a just and socially inclusive transition was made by Mr. Mkhululi Ncube, African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) and Ms. Veronica Zano, Extractive Industries Advisor, Oxfam SAF Cluster. They highlighted that The AGMS is grounded on the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), which was adopted by African Heads of States in 2009 and is anchored on using mineral endowments to underpin broad based growth, development, industrialisation and job creation by fully developing inter-sectoral linkages. Parliamentarians were implored to enact laws that leverage on the region's transition minerals needed in the production of clean energy supply chain technologies for diversifying the economy and boosting intra-Africa trade.

In her closing remarks, Hon. Hawa Mwaifunga, Vice Chairperson of the SADC PF Standing Committee on Food Agriculture and Natural Resources, commended the learning event for providing invaluable insights into Parliament's pivotal role in the transition towards low-carbon economies and energy systems within the contextual political, economic, and social narratives of SADC as a region and the individual member states. She expressed optimism, drawing insights from the learning event, that participating Parliamentarians and others in the region would effectively play their representative, legislative and oversight roles in the development of inclusive, sustainable people-based energy systems, particularly investments in clean, sustainable diversified energy mixes which enhances economies and improve the livelihoods of the impoverished population.

During the subsequent sessions and deliberations of the learning event, key legislative and related actions were proposed.

- **Aligning the national and regional energy transition policies and laws with climate goals and international commitments** particularly the Paris Agreement to promote sustainable practices and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Ensure Inclusivity and Social Equity in National Policy and law Formulation.**

In the context of the just energy transition, it is essential to consider how the process affects women and men differently. Historically, women have been disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of the fossil fuel industry, such as air and water pollution, displacement, and health issues. Therefore, the transition towards a more sustainable energy future, it's crucial to ensure gender equality and social justice are integral components of the approach.

This entails more than just creating opportunities for women to participate in and benefit from the emerging clean energy sectors. It also involves addressing potential challenges such as job displacement in traditional energy sectors and ensuring that women have equitable access to the benefits of clean energy technologies and services. Additionally, it is important to ensure that women's voices and perspectives are actively included in decision-making processes related to energy policy and planning.

**Investing in research and development of renewable energy technologies and support innovation in the clean energy sector.** There is need to formulate a regional integrated



A cross section of the participants

Photo: Veronica Zano/Oxfam

energy plan that will harmonise energy access approaches by governments, the private sector, and international development partners in SADC countries, that leaves no one behind. In addition, the scale-up of public and private financing of off-grid energy systems backed by parliamentary oversight is key to meet the energy needs of the population.

**Advocate for Just Energy Transition Financing premised on fairness and equity by international climate financing systems.** Countries responsible for the crisis should be held accountable for financing of alternatives to economies such as those in SADC as they transit to clean energy systems. Just financial mechanisms, such as subsidies, grants, or tax incentives, should be established to promote investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in manner that ensure justice and equity, rather than perpetuating inequality in already vulnerable economies. Parliament should strengthen its oversight role in monitoring financing agreements to ensure transparency and accountability.

**Enactment of laws leveraging on the region's critical minerals key in the production of climate smart technology for SADC 's Industrialisation.** The development of national sustainable industrialisation action plans, anchored on greater regional integration through economies of scale to maximise on competitiveness is essential. It is, therefore, important for member states to focus on domesticating the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) and its implementing tools, including the African Minerals Governance Framework (AMFG), African Green Minerals Strategy, SADC Regional Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Development, and the African Free Continental Trade Area (AfCTA).

**Implementation of SADC Regional Cooperation Frameworks.** Regional cooperation and collaboration in energy transition efforts to share best practices, resources, and knowledge should be a central focus. SADC should work on developing joint projects and initiatives that promote renewable energy generation and cross-border energy trade and leverage on critical minerals to create economies of scale for enhanced market competitiveness, building on existing frameworks such as the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REEESAP) and SADC Industrial Development Policy Framework.

### **Ensure Energy for Clean Cooking is part of the Just Energy Transition Discourse**

It is estimated that 25% of global black carbon emissions comes from cooking. Transforming how families cook should be an integral part of Energy Transition narrative, aiming to save lives, improve livelihoods, save the environment and climate change mitigation. The integration of clean cooking into national and regional energy policy plans, as well as allocating sufficient resources in national



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DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN  
SADC COUNTRIES



budgets, is crucial to support the transition to modern, energy-efficient cooking technologies.

### **Recognise the nexus between energy access and climate smart agriculture**

Agriculture is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions globally and is highly vulnerable to climate impacts. Energy access affects the ability of smallholder farmers in SADC to adopt Climate Smart Agriculture practices. A just energy transition for SADC should recognise the potential role of energy access in ensuring the achievement of the triple objectives of increasing productivity, adaptation, and mitigation in the agriculture sector. Additionally, it is essential to continuously assess whether the concept of Climate Smart Agriculture is the appropriate narrative for our context.

**A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION  
FOR SADC SHOULD RECOGNISE  
THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF  
ENERGY ACCESS IN ENSURING  
THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE  
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IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR**



Smallholder farmers are hit hardest by climate change. A damaged maize field in Phalombe district Malawi following flooding caused by Cyclone Freddy  
Photo: Veronica Mwale/Oxfam