



## THE WEEKEND READER

"Your Weekly Read on Debt, Development & Socio-Economic Justice"

# 2022 SADC PEOPLE'S SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS

The Annual Southern African Development Committee (SADC) People's Summit 2022 was concluded on the 18th of August. The summit ran parallel to the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Civil society organizations from the SADC region converged in solidarity to discuss challenges faced by citizens, particularly the poor and marginalised. Some of the major challenges that SADC and indeed Africa are faced with are around extractivism, giving credence to the theme 'Challenging extractivism and reclaiming our resources for people-centered development in SADC'. The African people have remained poor despite being blessed with natural resources which if well managed can meaningfully improve livelihoods. The SADC People's Summit is anchored on the need to provide solidarity which is key in holding SADC leaders accountable. The broader message emerging from the Summit was that it is high time for the extraction of mineral resources in Africa to benefit the African people and reduce poverty and inequality and respect human rights.

Thematic cluster meetings were conducted to discuss challenges faced within their constituencies. These included Women's Rights and Gender Justice; Youth and Students movements; Economic Justice and Inequality; Democracy, Human Rights and Governance. After deliberations the following recommendations were put forward for submission to the SADC Heads of State:

### Emerging Key Discussion points

- Effective Public Service Delivery for Women- Heads of state should take care of the social and environmental issues in the region and assume the responsibility of catering for the needs of women through providing basic services like hospitals, housing and water.
- Mining Companies & Corporate Social Responsibility- Mining enterprises must give back to communities affected by mining activities. The vulnerable must be assisted and prioritized.
- Social Safety nets for women and children- Heads of state should ensure that there are mechanisms to protect women and children from economic shocks such as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Minerals Value addition- Countries should ensure they have mechanisms of industrializing the minerals through value addition.

- Women challenged to setup dialogue platforms and recommendations. There should be a culture of following up after submission of recommendations. Creation of women platforms to table issues that affect women.
- Encourage the young people to participate in decision making platforms.
- People with disabilities must have a board within the SADC which protects their interests and assist them.
- The heads of states should prioritize the fight against corruption to curb the loss of resources and help solve the social inequalities.
- Put in place an army that can fight against terror taking place in the region.
- There is need for a SADC bank to reduce the need to borrow from others. This will help us develop our own infrastructure. We also need free visas for all Southern Africans across the bloc.

### **Demands to Heads of State**

1. SADC Heads are urged to consider urgent national and regional measures for dismantling the undue influence of Transnational Corporations (TNCs), private bilateral and multilateral creditors in the region.
2. Call on SADC countries to maintain and intensify efforts towards a strong and binding treaty to hold TNCs to account.
3. SADC leaders urged to include the right of communities and workers to say no to extractivism and other developments that undermine the power of the people.
4. To deter the region from debt fuelled economic growth at the expense of the masses.
5. The South African government as a member of G20 is urged to compel private creditors to participate in the already limited and inadequate debt measures such as the G20 common framework for debt treatment.
6. SADC leaders are implored to strengthen national level accountability monitoring and oversight in debt contraction and repayment.
7. SADC leaders urged to adopt a resolution which compels them to deploy an observer mission to monitor elections continuously. Additionally, we demand for them to monitor the elections throughout the electoral process.
8. Call for SADC leaders to adopt conflict resolution mechanisms that solve electoral disputes. We demand the reestablishment of the SADC tribunal to address the ongoing human rights violations.



9. We demand for the civic space to open up and the promotion of self-regulating civil society. The promotion of inclusivity and protection of traditionally marginalized and vulnerable groups. These include women, youths, people with disability, LGBTQIA's and the communities that continue to be affected by extractivism.
10. Demilitarization of government institutions.
11. Establishment of a regional treaty that regulates military intervention to respond to conflicts.
12. We demand for freedom of movement within the SADC region and respect the dignity of immigrants within the region.
13. Call for SADC to have an all-inclusive dialogue that is facilitated by a neutral mediator with a special envoy and civil society to ensure a long-lasting solution in Eswatini. We demand the immediate release of all political prisoners and return of political exiles and facilitation of a democratic constitution.
14. We call for the lifting of restrictions on media and society in the DRC.
15. Call for a peace process guided by communities and ensure fair distribution of resources.
16. The SADC peace mission must be non-governmental and neutral and managed in a way that it benefits the security of the people.
17. Mistreatment of people of DRC in other countries must end.
18. We demand a resolution on shrinking civic and democratic space that addresses the current political situation. SADC must immediately send an observer mission that is inclusive of CSOs to monitor and observe the situation in Zimbabwe.
19. Encourage the government of Zimbabwe to engage the stakeholders on the amendment bill which threatens the existence of non-governmental organizations. We urge SADC leaders to condemn the criminalization and victimization of human rights defenders in Zimbabwe.