



Republic of Zambia

**OPENING REMARKS  
BY  
HON. MULAMBO HAIMBE, SC, MP, MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION,  
DURING THE 26<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE ORGAN ON POLITICS DEFENCE AND SECURITY  
COOPERATION,  
TO BE HELD FROM 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2024,  
AT THE MULUNGUSHI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, IN  
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA.**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
**LUSAKA**

July, 2024

- **Hon. January Yusuph Makamba, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Incoming Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;**
- **Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, and Outgoing Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;**
- **Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers;**
- **Your Excellency Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi, SADC Executive Secretary;**
- **Distinguished Senior Officials;**
- **Chiefs of Defence and Security Institutions;**
- **Delegates from SADC Member States;**
- **SADC Secretariat;**
- **Distinguished Colleagues.**

From the onset, I wish to extend sincere condolences to; the Government and people of the Republic of Malawi on the untimely demise of His Excellency Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima, Vice-President of the Republic of Malawi; Lady Shanil Dzimbiri, former First Lady of the Republic of Malawi; and the other passengers who perished in a plane crash on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 as well as other Member States who lost personnel during the course of duty in the Democratic Republic of Congo under SAMIDRC.

In honour and remembrance of the late Vice-President Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima, and our gallant soldiers, may I invite you, Honourable Ministers, and distinguished delegates, to rise for a moment of silence.

**Your Excellencies,**

It is a great honour and privilege for the Government and the people of the Republic of Zambia to warmly welcome you all to Lusaka, for this statutory meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. We are indeed delighted to have you in our midst, and I urge you all to feel at home and enjoy our modest hospitality, in line with our true African spirit.

**Your Excellencies,**

The agenda before us is all-encompassing, as it reflects the wide scope of work that is covered by the Organ. As you may well know, this meeting has to review the work done by the Interstate Defence and Security Committee, as well as the Interstate Politics and Diplomacy Committee which, I am pleased to note, has been well done and is aimed at implementing decisions of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, held on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2023, in Luanda, Republic of Angola.

**Your Excellencies,**

Peace and security have always been vital to our regional organization due to the pivotal role they play in regional cooperation and integration, as well as in the creation of a safe environment for our peoples to thrive. You will, therefore, agree with me that the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation is an important platform of our organization which affords SADC Member States a

platform to collectively develop common policies and strategies aimed at fostering economic and social development in our respective countries, and the region as a whole.

**Your Excellencies,**

Since Zambia's assumption as Chair, the region has held successful elections in the following countries; the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republics of Madagascar, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Where there were electoral disputes, legal processes were followed in handling such complaints. I am confident that the remaining SADC Member States scheduled to hold elections later in the year, will do so in an equally peaceful manner, to ensure political stability in the region.

We are encouraged by the progress made in the political and security situation in the Eastern DRC, the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of Mozambique. However, we remain aware that peacebuilding is an ongoing process, and should therefore, continue to be engaged in assisting our fellow brothers and sisters in finding lasting solution to these challenges.

We commend the SADC Mission in DRC (SAMIDRC) which was deployed in December 2023, for its commitment to addressing the insecurity in the eastern part of DRC. We also acknowledge the challenges that our troops from Malawi, United Republic of Tanzania, and South Africa face.

**Your Excellencies,**

Regarding the security situation in Cabo Delgado Province of Mozambique, I am pleased to highlight that the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) has made great strides in restoring peace and security there. Even with the withdrawal of SAMIM, the region remains committed to the resolve to fight terrorism and protect all Member States from this scourge. We are confident that the exit of SAMIM does not lead to a security vacuum that may lead to the reversal of the gains made by the deployment of SAMIM.

In this respect, I wish to commend Member States for their continued and unconditional support of the regional efforts in the fight against terrorism in Mozambique. I further wish to encourage Member States to continue supporting concerted efforts in fighting terrorism, not only in Mozambique, but the region as a whole.

While the SADC region continues to enjoy relative peace and tranquillity, terrorism and other transnational organised crimes continue to be of great concern. It is, therefore, imperative that SADC Member States continue to cooperate, and undertake joint initiatives to address these threats.

**Your Excellencies,**

As we begin this Ministerial segment, I am confident that our deliberations will be fruitful and yield tangible outcomes that will be of great benefit to the region.

With these few remarks, it is now my singular honour to officially declare the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security officially open.

**Merci beaucoup!**

**Muito Obrigado!**

**Asante Sana!**

**Zikomo Kwambili!**

**I thank you!**