



**Remarks presented at the
6th SADC Multi-stakeholder Water Dialogue**

Watering Development in SADC: Exploring the Water, Energy and Food Nexus

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- Master of Ceremonies;
- Honourable Minister for Mines, Energy & Water Development
- Permanent Secretaries here present;
- Executive Secretary for African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), Mr. Bai-Mass Taal
- Members of the Water Resources Technical Committee (WRTC);
- Executive Secretaries of our various River Basin Organisation here present;
- Representatives of SADC Member States from the sectors Water, Energy, Agriculture and other sectors;
- Representatives of the ICPs;
- My colleagues from the SADC Secretariat delegation;
- Colleagues from the Media here present;
- Our Collaborating Implementing Agency for this Forum, the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP-SA);
- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;
- All protocols observed;

It is my singular honour and privilege to stand before you Hon Minister, Distinguished Colleagues, to deliver these remarks on behalf of the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena L. Tax and on my own behalf.

Allow me at the outset, to recognize and appreciate your presence here today, Honourable Minister, as you have taken time out of your hectic schedule and grace this occasion. This no doubt, attests to the importance the Government of the Republic of Zambia attaches to the ideals of SADC, its developmental agenda and the quest to uplift the quality of lives and dignity of its people, particularly through the collaboration between these very critical sectors of Water, Energy and food security.

Allow me also to pay tribute to Mr. Bai-Mass Taal the Executive Secretary for African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) for finding time from his busy schedule to come and support our efforts in the Sub-region to deal with these critical issues and to share with us his insights into this topical issue in the world development agenda through his key note address.

I wish to pay tribute, to the Government and people of the Republic of Zambia, for the warm and legendary hospitality and, for the excellent facilities placed at the disposal of the delegates here at the Inter-continental Hotel, which will for sure facilitate the success of our deliberations in the next two days.

Honourable Minister,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

The SADC Multi-stakeholder Water Dialogue is an annual activity which originated through the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Awareness Creation Component of the SADC–DANIDA Regional Water Sector Programme in the SADC Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP).

Since 2007 SADC has conducted the Multi-stakeholder Water Dialogue as a platform for regional stakeholders to discuss and share experiences on different aspects of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). This has also offered the region a platform to contribute to the international debates on very topical issues such as the Climate Change negotiations and culminated in the development and launch of the Water Climate Adaptation Strategy in 2011.

As SADC Secretariat, we consider the theme for the 6th SADC Multi-stakeholder Water Dialogue, which is: *Watering Development in SADC: Exploring the Water, Energy and Food nexus*, as an appropriate intervention towards enhancing realization of the overall goals enshrined in the SADC Treaty.

The nexus perspective provides an opportunity to help the SADC region to apply the Integrated Water Resources Management concept as well as integration and cooperation in the management of water resources for its various uses and demands particularly for energy and food security.

The SADC region needs to increase better resource use, efficiency and greater policy coherence to support the growing economies through infrastructure

development while considering the trade-offs between social equity, environment and economic development. Therefore, conventional policy and decision-making in ‘silos’ needs to give way to an approach that reduces trade-offs and builds synergies across sectors.

Honourable Minister,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Water, Energy and Food sectors are connected in important ways, and each sector has the potential to help or harm the other. Yet the current scenario is that despite the strong linkages between Water, Energy and Food, practitioners and policy makers continue to overlook the interconnections in their approach to developing programmes and policies.

Strategies, policies and investment need to consider all three sectors in order to achieve Water, Energy and Food Security. It is our hope, that this Dialogue will serve as a mechanism for raising awareness of the Water, Energy and Food nexus on the policy making level. It is also our hope that this Dialogue will contribute to the promotion for greater collaboration across ministries and policy design implementation.

The main *objectives* of the dialogue are therefore to:

- Expose the “Water, Energy and Food Nexus” by deepening the understanding through practical examples from the region

- Interrogate its relevance and applicability in the SADC region by increasing the understanding of the practical and institutional challenges of implementing an integrated approach to the management of water, energy and food resources
- Share knowledge and propose approaches and solutions on how the nexus can help the region achieve water, energy and food security at all levels.
- Increase the understanding of how an integrated approach to nexus challenges can benefit the poor.

A lot of momentum has been built around this issue internationally as demonstrated by the Bonn Conference on Water, Energy and Food Security nexus of 2011, which has laid down some of the important policy recommendations on this issue. At the just ended Stockholm World Water Week which was organized around the theme of International Water Cooperation, a number of sessions were organized around the nexus issue. So I am sure we will also learn and share our experience from these fora to enrich our SADC approach to this important debates.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

As I seek to conclude my remarks, let me take this opportunity to thank those that have made this event possible, starting with the Global Water Partnership – Southern Africa, who is our implementing partner in the Water Dialogue. I would also like to thank our International Cooperating Partners who have given the financial assistance needed to carry out such an initiative. These are DANIDA

through the Royal Danish Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia, and the governments of Germany, United Kingdom, and Australia through GiZ.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you,

Muito Obrigado,

Merci Boucoup

And more importantly God Bless You All.